

H 10658

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

October 16, 1974

definition of integrity: voluntary and total compliance with a rigorous moral code.

It goes without saying that in fulfilling our police role integrity must be our watchword. It is our sworn duty to be honest and incorruptible. Right action—ethical conduct—is the very substance of a police officer's job. And integrity is more than just not taking graft, or not committing any other kind of malfeasance. Integrity is also doing an honest day's work for a day's pay—not shirking, not cutting corners on performance. Integrity is also not misusing physical force.

But our responsibility does not begin and end with our own behavior alone. In the matter of integrity we are our brother's keeper. We must refuse to countenance any form of corruption, from any quarter, any time it rears its ugly head. We must all stand ready to clean our own house. Painful as it may be, we must be willing to act against any officer who would befoul it, recognizing that he who would do so can no longer be deemed a colleague. He has become instead a criminal in a uniform. Therefore, the "code of silence" must be repudiated and to speak out against the wrongdoers in our midst must be considered an ethical imperative. This is a matter of integrity and, like all matters of integrity, it is in the immediate and ultimate best interests of the public and the police profession.

Everything I have been saying boils down to this: knowledge, courage and integrity are inseparable from the proper delivery of police service and the proper delivery of police service is essential for gaining, regaining, or maintaining public confidence and support. Good intentions and sincerity and exhortations are not enough. Consistently right actions are needed.

I think there is every reason to be optimistic. In police agencies throughout the country, much progress is being made toward increasing efficiency and improving the climate of integrity. Better educated than ever before, today's police leaders are becoming more expert managers of their departments' resources. An ever growing number of them—inspired and trained at institutions such as this one—are making the words of the FBI Academy motto a reality in the day-to-day work of their departments.

In closing let me say, I am confident that every graduate here today will take his rightful place among these leaders and carry on in what I earnestly believe will become a new tradition of professional police service. My congratulations to all of you.

SAXBE ASSESSES CRIME CONTROL

(Mr. PEPPER asked and was given permission to extend his remarks at this point in the Record and to include extraneous matter.)

Mr. PEPPER. Mr. Speaker, you will permit me to call to the attention of our colleagues and the readers of this Record a recent editorial in the Washington Post which deals with Attorney General William Saxbe's recent assessment of where we stand in America on crime control.

As chairman of the former House Select Committee of Crime I was deeply concerned with the problem of crime and the possibilities for bringing this social cancer under control. I regret that the Attorney General has not been able to give a more favorable reading on where we stand in our fight against crime, but I think it is vitally important that we face the fact that the crime problem is still a very serious challenge to our society.

I request permission therefore to include the Post editorial of September 1, 1974, in the Record at this point:

MR. SAXBE AND CRIME CONTROL

Before a group of police chiefs in Chicago the other day, Attorney General William Saxbe unburdened himself of some thoughts on the subject of crime, its causes and its potential consequences. On the whole, it was a more balanced and thoughtful presentation than you might have supposed from the passages of the speech that gained the greatest national attention. Mr. Saxbe said that crime was increasing at a frightening rate and that some dark—but unnamed—forces within our society might one day use the fact of increasing crime to push for the creation of a national police force, a force Mr. Saxbe warned would jeopardize our liberty.

Unfortunately, the Attorney General's theorizing on the possible need for a national police force made the biggest splash. This, together with his dire view of the crime statistics, was almost all the nation learned about his speech, and perhaps for understandable reasons; the notion of a national police force does tend to concentrate the mind. But a careful reading of his full text reveals much more that is useful as a measure of what the nation's chief law enforcement official really has on his mind. Indeed, the implications for national policy in what Mr. Saxbe said are far too important to ignore, especially in a new administration.

Mr. Saxbe spoke of a reported increase in serious crime of 5 per cent for this year over last year. He was speaking of such offenses as murder, rape and assault with a deadly weapon, and he said such an increase in these crimes was alarming to him. Now we all know that the manner in which local police forces tabulate those figures is far from uniformly accurate. Moreover, we have seen in the past how crime statistics can be manipulated, depending on the political exigencies of the moment. The Nixon administration, for example, would have had us believe the problem was under control many months ago—at the time of the last election.

So, even though the statistics are disturbing, they are probably less interesting, in terms of coming to grips with the crime problem, than some of the things Mr. Saxbe had to say about the causes of crime. He began and ended by confessing to a certain mystification with which we can all commiserate. He did, however, draw a direct connection between serious crime among young people and unemployment among the same age group, especially those in the central cities. He pointed out that three of every four persons arrested for serious crimes were under 25 years of age. Using the data of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Mr. Saxbe told the police chiefs that unemployment among minority youths was "awesomely high" and that in some age groups in the inner city it was 33 per cent. It is important to note that if BLS says one in every three young blacks is out of a job, the figure is probably closer to half of the young black population. The reason is that BLS bases its figures for unemployment on those "actively seeking" work, and after a certain period large numbers of unemployed persons of all ages who have not acquired jobs are somewhat arbitrarily held to be no longer "actively" seeking work and therefore technically no longer unemployed.

"One lesson," Mr. Saxbe said, "is that we are not going to solve the crime problem among the young—especially in the cities—until they are brought into society's mainstream." And he added:

To do that, a basic step is to impart real education and employment skills and couple it with actual jobs. This is not only needed

to help control crime. It is also the decent, the humanitarian, thing to do. This approach alone will not solve all crime problems related to poverty and discrimination. But unless we succeed in this, other efforts have little potential for lasting success.

Mr. Saxbe's observations on crime's relationship to unemployment are important because the Ford administration is in the midst of an internal debate about public works employment and its impact on the economy. Crime control would hardly be reason in itself to take such a step. And there are economic reasons for seriously considering it irrespective of its connection with crime control. But it logically follows that those with something to do have less reason to commit crimes and that those with a sense of a stake in their society are less likely to act in defiance of its rules.

Mr. Saxbe went on to take note of increasing white collar crime and crime among government officials at the state and local level, to say nothing of the federal level. He asked what sort of example the successful of the society were setting for the young: "The young learn from us and what they see and what they must be learning are sources of growing dismay."

He was constrained as well to mention the outpouring of violence on television and in films: "... the average 8-year-old has seen more violence on television than the average soldier encounters during a hitch in the army." He castigated the television industry for wrapping itself in the First Amendment when called to account for its practices, and he criticized parents for permitting their children to be exposed to "the unending deluge of such garbage."

From the Attorney General's viewpoint, then crime is a problem with many causes and few solutions. He described a pattern of national frustration about crime, and it was in this context that he expressed his fears that if "we go on as we are, there is every possibility that crime will inundate us. The nation would then be faced with the prospect of falling apart or devising a national police in one final effort to restore domestic order. We should never doubt for a moment that there are men and forces at work in this country eagerly awaiting an opportunity to devise such a program as a first step toward total control over our lives."

Mr. Saxbe distinctly warned against that notion: "Any nation can stop crime if it is willing to have an internal army of occupation," he said, "but there has never been a government which stopped crime by oppression that eventually did not live to regret it." He argued instead that those "that have survived and flourished have done so by developing an inner strength in their people and in their institutions."

It goes almost without saying that most persons would agree. We certainly do. And we also think Mr. Saxbe's speech, in its entirety, should be given serious attention by those within the Ford administration who will be dealing with such matters as public works employment, the control of handguns and the problem of television and motion picture violence. The control of crime has to be looked at in a larger context. President Ford has expressed himself as having the goal of trying to make us more of a nation of one people. We think that the manner in which he goes about that task may well assist in shedding light on the problem of what we do about rising crime.

INDUSTRIA TURISTICA

(Mr. PEPPER asked and was given permission to extend his remarks at this point in the Record and to include extraneous matter.)

Mr. PEPPER. Mr. Speaker, you know the vital importance of tourism to the

H 10656

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

October 16, 1974

Whichever way the initiatives and working relationships turn, officials at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue agree that privacy will remain a live issue in the post-Watergate climate and that bureaucrats in every part of the government will have to adjust their practices on the handling of citizen records.

They also indicate that the results of the federal privacy regulation program will help dictate future regulation of privately operated data banks. OMB associate director Marik said "the privacy concerns on federal data systems are certainly applicable in the private sector," but added that the federal government should first "put its own house in order and determine the impact of the regulations so that the private sector is not impaired by costly or cumbersome proposals."

SUPPORTERS FIND DRAFTING OF CRIMINAL FILES PROPOSAL A PATH FILLED WITH BOTTLENECKS AND COMPLEX ISSUES

Securing agreement on a bill to regulate the use of FBI criminal history records has consumed thousands of hours of attention from congressional, White House and Justice Department officials and staff. But most participants agree that they are no closer to passage of a meaningful bill than they were a year ago when they began the agonizing effort. They may even be farther apart as a result of the greater understanding of the issues which they have gained.

The drafting process also has been a victim of the Watergate scandal which brought a new Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General who did not feel themselves bound to the earlier Justice Department position on the key issues, consumed the time and attention of the Senator with the most ardent interest in the bill, and made it impossible for the House Judiciary Committee and its staff to consider the proposal during the past six months.

The legislation (S. 2963, S. 2964, H.R. 9783) is designed to set the first national rules on the use and dissemination of criminal justice information and impose restrictions on the exchange of criminal records between the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and thousands of police departments across the country. Interest in the bill was aroused by the absence of specific laws on the subject, leading many critics to cite a serious threat to personal privacy. (*For background on the controversy and details of the proposals, see Vol. 5, No. 43, p. 1599, and Vol. 6, No. 7, p. 246.*)

Negotiations: The effort to move ahead on the legislation has been marked by a continual series of meetings between congressional and Justice Department staff, attempts to put on paper what tentatively was agreed to orally, and renegotiations of supposedly final provisions.

"When the crunch comes, the Justice Department is not making decisions, and the White House is not there to push it along. Either the Administration's concern for privacy is a 'paper tiger' or there is a calculated effort to stymie action. In either case, there would be the same result of Congress's inability to act," said Lawrence M. Baskir, chief counsel and staff director of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights, chaired by Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr., D-N.C. (Baskir plans to resign soon and become general counsel of the Presidential Clemency Board.)

Deputy Attorney General Laurence H. Silberman, who has headed the Justice Department's review of the bill since his March confirmation by the Senate, disagreed with Baskir. "We have been working hard for the past month to reach an Administration position. With President Ford's accession to the presidency, the issue became of greater importance, and it became possible to get an administration position. That was difficult under President Nixon because an attempt was tried earlier and it failed."

Silberman was referring to the drafting last fall of the original Justice Department bill (S. 2964) under the direction of Associate Deputy Attorney General (1973-74) Martin B. Danziger. The bill was sent to Congress as a "Justice Department bill" because of the inability to resolve opposition of several agencies, including the Civil Service Commission and Defense and Treasury Departments. Silberman said that the recent review of the bill has resulted in a change in the Justice Department's position in S. 2964.

Staff meetings—The first extended discussions on the bill between congressional and Justice Department staff were 60 to 80 hours of meetings in May and June between Mark H. Gitenstein, counsel of the Senate subcommittee, and Mary C. Lawton, deputy assistant attorney general (Office of Legal Counsel).

They redrafted Ervin's bill, S. 2963, in order to make it more amendable to the Justice Department. However, when Ms. Lawton forwarded the proposed compromise to others at Justice, she found "parts of the department were not happy with the result." In an interview, Silberman said she was only giving the congressional aides "technical help" without indicating the Administration's position.

Several weeks later, a delegation of officials from the FBI, led by John B. Hottis, an FBI attorney who serves as its liaison for legislative issues, went to the Senate subcommittee staff with suggested changes on many of the issues that had been earlier discussed. "We were upset, as was Sen. Ervin," said Gitenstein.

Silberman meetings—In an Aug. 15 letter to Silberman, Sens. Ervin and Roman L. Hruska, ranking Republican on the Judiciary Committee, said the problems with S. 2963 "are not insurmountable" and added "it is incumbent upon the Department to come forward with proposals for changes in this markup." They suggested a task force be created to develop a compromise bill by the first week of September.

Three or four meetings were subsequently held in Silberman's office including representatives of the Senate and House Judiciary Committees, Justice Department, FBI and Douglas W. Metz, deputy executive director of the Domestic Council Committee on the Right of Privacy.

At the same time, Silberman chaired a series of meetings with representatives of federal agencies that opposed the bill. According to informed sources, some of the most vigorous opposition to the bill came from within the Justice Department, including Assistant Attorney General Henry E. Petersen of the Criminal Division.

Following those meetings, Silberman directed Lawton and Hottis to draft a bill reflecting the consensus of views exchanged at the working sessions. They finished that process Sept. 27 and their draft bill was circulated to several Justice Department officials. In the following two weeks, additional department and executive branch meetings were held to review the revised proposal.

Senate bill: At the same time that Justice Department and congressional negotiators were trying to find common ground on the many controversial issues in the legislation, staff members of the Senate Constitutional Rights Subcommittee met regularly to draft a bill acceptable to the subcommittee members.

Gitenstein and J. C. Argetsinger, subcommittee minority counsel, held a series of meetings resulting in a memorandum listing proposed changes, which was sent to Sens. Ervin and Hruska. The differences between Ervin and Hruska are reportedly narrower than those between Ervin and the Justice Department. As a result, there has been tentative staff agreement on a number of amendments to S. 2963, the original Ervin bill, and the Senators are expected to meet and

develop new plans for Senate passage this year.

Arrest records—A central issue has been whether police should be permitted to disseminate criminal records which show an arrest but no conviction. S. 2963 would have permitted this practice only in limited circumstances or if the arrest had been pending less than one year. The latest draft of the bill permits use of arrest records if the local law enforcement agency adopts federal minimum standards. One standard permits use of arrest records or criminal histories not resulting in a conviction if the facts of the case "warrant the conclusion that the individual has committed or is about to commit a crime and that the information may be relevant in that act." The test is taken from the 1968 Supreme Court opinion in *Terry v. Ohio* permitting police to "stop and frisk" on the basis of "reasonable suspicion."

Dissemination—The original Ervin bill generally permitted non-criminal justice agencies to receive only conviction records. Under the revised bill, they may receive arrest records less than one year old if there has been an indictment and the charges are still actively pending. A report prepared at Ervin's request by the General Accounting Office showed that only 7 per cent of the requests to the FBI for criminal records are made by police prior to an arrest. Ervin said the report "confirms my suspicions" that FBI records are used primarily for licensing and employment in state and local government.

Gitenstein of the Senate subcommittee staff said the report shows the FBI runs the criminal records system but it is used primarily for non-police purposes, demonstrating the need for civilian, court, and prosecutorial agencies to be a part of the system's management. However, an FBI official said "I don't think most people are upset with the way we handle our records."

Enforcement—S. 2963 proposed a federal-state administrative system to enforce the bill, while the Justice Department strongly believes the FBI should continue to run the criminal records files. The subject reportedly is one of those causing the most debate. Silberman said the issue is "one of the most complicated subjects I have ever seen in legislation." Ervin has stressed that enforcement should reflect the "federal" nature of criminal records by ensuring the states a role in determining policy on their use. The most recent draft of his bill prohibits a federal agency from control of any records other than an index of the criminal files five years after the bill's enactment.

Sealing—The provision in S. 2963 requiring that all records be "sealed" seven years after their original entry to prohibit their further use has been changed to permit the use of an index of the sealed records. The sealed files could be used by police officials where an individual is subsequently charged with a more serious offense or as the result of a court order.

Intelligence files—Another controversial issue is dissemination of intelligence and investigative information, which includes confidential reports compiled by police officers. The revised Ervin bill has relaxed its previous proposal by permitting the exchange of such information among law enforcement agencies where a "need to know" or "right to know" has been demonstrated by the requestor, or if "rational inferences . . . warrant the conclusion that the individual has committed or is about to commit a criminal act and that the information may be relevant to that act."

House: While the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Constitutional Rights held hearings on the subject last winter, its members and staff have been so preoccupied with the impeachment inquiry and the confirmation of Nelson A. Rockefeller as vice president that they have not had

October 16, 1974

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

H 10651

Mr. HANLEY. Mr. Speaker, as Members of the House of Representatives, I trust you will agree that one of the more important services we perform for our constituents is helping them resolve difficulties they may be having with agencies of the Federal Government. In this regard, I have been deeply distressed recently by the response, or shall I say the lack of response, which I have been receiving from the Social Security Administration in Baltimore. It is regrettable that individuals should be compelled to seek assistance from their elected representatives in regard to their dealings with the Social Security Administration. However, when taking into consideration the problems which I, as a Congressman, have had with the Social Security Administration in Baltimore, I can certainly appreciate the exasperation and frustration which private citizens must encounter in attempting to deal with this Agency.

During the 10 years I have served in Congress, I have had thousands of inquiries from constituents concerning disability, retirement, and survivors' benefits. For about the first 6 years I could expect prompt action from Baltimore, and my office would be immediately contacted by phone or telegram whenever a determination was made on a claim. However, about 4 years ago, the responses which I received from Baltimore began to deteriorate, and in the past year the situation has become deplorable. While determinations on disability claims were formerly made in 3 to a maximum of 6 months, the same process is now taking 6 months to a year, or even more.

For example, on October 20, 1973, I was contacted by an individual with several minor children concerning a claim which he had filed for disability benefits. Over a year later, in January 1974, his claim was allowed. This was his original claim, not a request for reconsideration. I cannot help but wonder how that individual and his family managed to buy food and pay for utilities and medical bills during that time.

It deeply concerns me that individuals with little or no income and high medical expenses, such as the disabled and retired, are suffering because of the Social Security Administration's lack of responsiveness. While my dealings at the district office level have been most satisfactory, it has gotten to the point where, if a claim cannot be handled at that level, I might as well forget about it as contact Baltimore. Practically all of my recent dealings with Commissioner Cardwell and his office in Baltimore have been unsatisfactory. However, there are several cases which I would like to cite as glaring examples of the inefficiency and ineptitude of that office.

My office contacted Baltimore on December 22, 1973, concerning a claim for a wife's benefits which was filed by a lady in her seventies. A determination establishing her eligibility for these benefits was made about 9 months later, on September 3, 1974. Fortunately, this lady had relatives who helped her out during that time, but not everyone has a family who is willing and able to help.

Another disability claim was promptly forwarded from the district office of the Social Security Administration to the State disability agency on March 1, 1974. Repeated phone inquiries from my office regarding the status of this case produced no responsive information until recently, when I received notice from Baltimore, on October 7, that the claim had been disallowed. Apparently, it is easier to get information from the CIA these days than to obtain status reports from the Social Security Administration.

On August 31, 1973, a disability claim which I had been working on was forwarded to the State disability agency. My office called Baltimore repeatedly inquiring about the status of this claim. These calls were either not acknowledged or were put off with a reply that "the case was pending further evaluation." No substantive information was received until June 19, 1974, when I was advised that the claim was approved on reconsideration. This was about 10 months after my original inquiry.

Bungling is also another Baltimore specialty. A Medicare claim which I had been actively involved with from the reconsideration level in January 1973, through the final appeal in March 1974, had many inconsistencies which were never adequately explained. I personally wrote to Commissioner Cardwell on June 4, 1974, requesting his assistance in clearing up the discrepancies. On June 19, I received a routine acknowledgment of my inquiry, and on July 22, I received a letter from the Commissioner advising that he had contacted the Director of the Bureau of Health Insurance, who advised that the claimant's records were pending in the Bureau of Hearings and Appeals. The Commissioner stated he had asked the Director of that Bureau for a report and would contact me again as soon as it was received. On August 23, after no further word was received, my office contacted the Bureau of Health Insurance and was informed that they had no knowledge of the case. They suggested that the Bureau of Hearings and Appeals be contacted. From August 23 to September 18, several calls were made to the Bureau of Hearings and Appeals. These calls were either unanswered or referred to another individual who promised to call back and never did. Finally, the Bureau of Hearings and Appeals advised that they had no knowledge of the claim.

Subsequently, on September 18, the Bal- alson office in Baltimore was called, and they replied that a final letter had been sent to me on September 9. Later that same day a call was received from another office in Baltimore apologizing for the fact that my inquiry was inadvertently filed and never responded to—a reply would be expedited to me in about a week. More time passed and nothing was received, so my office made some additional phone calls. As a result, photocopies of my original letter to Commissioner Cardwell were forwarded to the Bureau of Hearings and Appeals on September 30. This past Friday, October 11, I received a reply from the Bureau of Hearings and Appeals which completely ignores the questions posed in my original letter to the Commissioner.

Misinformation is another Baltimore specialty. A case which my office had been involved in for quite some time concerned a disability claim filed by a lady in her late fifties. This lady was single, lived alone, and had no outside source of income. On March 29, 1973, previous denials of her claim were overturned by the decision of an Administrative Law Judge. My office contacted Baltimore to ask that I be advised when an award was made on this lady's claim, and was advised that the claim would automatically be "flagged." When nothing further was heard, my office called Baltimore on May 15, and May 22. These inquiries were not responded to. Another inquiry was made on June 8, at which time Baltimore advised that they were still awaiting a determination on the award. Finally, on June 11, Baltimore called to advise that an award had been made on the claim, and a check had been mailed to the claimant at the end of May.

In one last instance, an individual whom I know personally filed a request for reconsideration on the denial of his disability claim. To me, this case appeared to be one of clear-cut disability, and I felt justified in writing a rather lengthy letter to Commissioner Cardwell on July 29, requesting his personal attention in making certain that the claim was handled as expeditiously as possible. My letter was acknowledged on August 15. When no further reports were received, a call was made to Baltimore on October 1. To date, there has been no response to that call.

Previously, complaints from my office to Commissioner Cardwell have produced no improvements in service, only rationalizations. Therefore, I urge each Member of Congress who has experienced similar difficulties to join me in personally taking the time to write or call Commissioner Cardwell to demand that immediate action be taken to correct the existing situation, and to establish the type of responsiveness and responsibility which the public deserves from the Social Security Administration.

LACK OF ACTION ON PRIVACY ACT IS REGRETTED

(Mr. MOORHEAD of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to extend his remarks at this point in the Record and to include extraneous matter.)

Mr. MOORHEAD of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I deeply regret that it has not been possible to consider H.R. 16373, the Privacy Act of 1974 before our October recess. This important and timely legislation—the product of more than 2 years of bipartisan effort by our committee—will take a giant step in preserving the privacy of individual Americans from the threat of "big brother" tendencies of the executive bureaucracy. It will provide an individual access—in most cases—to records about him being held by Federal agencies and give him the right to correct misstatements of fact in those records. It will provide him with civil remedies against Government bureaucrats who abuse his rights of privacy. H.R. 16373 is truly landmark legislation.