

# Our Nation Is Wearing Yoke of Infamy

America is a proud, majestic Nation. She stands bold and erect, inspired by a priceless heritage of freedom, liberty, and justice. She is rich, prosperous, and

generous to a fault. Her people live, defend, and even die for the rights of man and the concepts of democracy. Throughout the world, our Nation is a beacon of hope for oppressed people. She has great schools and magnificent churches. Free enterprise and industry flourish in her thriving cities; an overabundance of food is harvested from her fertile, lush farmlands. With nearly 200 million citizens live, work, and play, secure in the knowledge that their representative government based on the rule of law and a balance of power in its judicial, legislative, and executive branches, will protect and promote their well-being.

But, the scene is not altogether serene. Today our proud Nation wears a yoke of infamy—a yoke made of greed, hate, violence, apathy, and lawlessness. Collectively, it is called—CRIME.

This criminalistic burden grows heavier from disregard for the rights of peaceful citizens, sprouting youthful criminality, riots engulfing entire communities, un-founded and irresponsible

charges against police, public apathy, disrespect for law and due process, and undue concern and sympathy for the lawbreakers. What has happened to the moral fiber of our people? Recently seven leading citizens of a community testified in court to the excellent reputations of the defendants although they admitted knowing those on trial had engaged in criminal activities for many years.

Crime and law and order are natural enemies. In a sense they are inseparable. Their courses lead to an inevitable collision. At times, crime and violence erupt in the streets of our communities and all but overrun our legal barriers, which are becoming porous and weak by abuse and misuse.

We see examples every day where the supremacy of law and order is put to test. Enforcement officers are called on to handle explosive situations—riots, premeditated arson, civil disobedience, and wild rampages—that border on insurrection and anarchy. Whole areas of cities rise in smoke, pillage, and destruction. While enforcement officers strive to restore order, they are shot,

assaulted, and taunted. How is the cause of equal justice under law served by noisy, defiant mobs yelling slogans, denying the free exercise of constitutional rights of other citizens, and turning whole communities into nightmarish jungles of looting, rioting, and assault? Can we seriously consider, even for a moment, that this is the precious right our forefathers referred to as a peaceable assembly to petition the government for a redress of grievances?

No fair-minded person minimizes the significance of the right to dissent and to petition for redress of grievances. These are essential elements of a free people. On the other hand, rioting, looting, burning, and killing—deliberate crimes—are outrages spawned under the banner of civil disobedience, a dangerous philosophy based on shallow reasoning. Too many well-meaning but misguided Americans not only support the doctrine of lawbreaking for a worthy end but also oppose penalties for violators. This is a difficult theory to fit into a system of government which says the law applies to all, or it applies to

none. There is another aspect of this problem which bears watching. In some communities, police have been admonished by civic authorities not to arrest thugs, rioters, and looters who exploit trouble spots and demonstrations for fear that the show of force would provoke even more damage. There may be instances when this policy will ease the tension of the moment, but you can be assured that if continued, can only lead to greater grief and turmoil.

Recent court decisions seem to place more emphasis on the conduct of the police officer than on the conduct of the criminal. The question of guilt is obscured and lost in a maze of procrastinating technicalities and legal joustings. Many times, truth, which often exposes guilt, is only a secondary objective; the main search is for error or a technical loophole for the murderer or hoodlum.

Crime rates in the United States will drop when the criminal is convinced that his arrest will be swift, his prosecution prompt, and his sentence substantial. Is today's criminal certain that

all, or even one, of these conditions exist? Certainly not. For example, a masked criminal recently fled from a bank with several thousand dollars but was quickly arrested by local police and the money recovered. Although he admitted the crime and was indicted, all charges were dismissed on recommendations of parole officials. Consequently, today's criminal is convinced that an apathetic, uncooperative public will delay his arrest; that new court decisions will postpone or prevent his prosecution; and that through unjustified leniency, his sentence will be negligible. And all the while, apologists under various professional disguises will relieve his conscience of guilt and blame society for his actions.

Crime and chaos in our land cannot be defeated by playing with naive theories of penology, nor by feeble adherence to principle and encycloping cowardice. It is our heritage to stand erect, proud, and unafraid, not covering before any master nor bending to any threat—a Nation where freedom, equality, and justice are attainable conditions, not hol-

low phrases. The height of human dignity is reached by free men deliberately choosing their destiny, humbly mindful of their obligations to their Creator and their fellow man.

We have the facts on which to make a choice. The facts are on our streets and in our courtrooms, in front of our eyes in every metropolis and hamlet. And a right and rational choice must be made, or we shall consign to oblivion the most cherished hopes and aspirations ever conceived for freedom in the history of mankind. As Edmund Burke stated, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

I sincerely believe: That we must reawaken in every citizen a fierce devotion to supremacy of law and equal justice; That we must forever renounce the idiosyncrasy of a societas glamour and heroism with lawbreakers; That all criminals must be brought to the bar of justice for realistic handling, not merely maudlin sympathy; That means must be provided to defeat the enemies within our borders who are puppets of enemies from without;

That we must insure by every lawful means that differences are resolved in the courtroom, not in the street; That we must adamantly insist that each individual is held responsible for the natural and probable consequences of his acts.

Let the hoodlum, the racist, the demagogue, and the exponent of anarchy know that the great, quiet power of this Nation lies in her law-abiding citizens, and they will stomach no more. The choice is ours. The time is now.

## Olson Given Second Term On Committee

H. T. (Ted) Olson, Torrance City Councilman, has been reappointed to the County Citizens Advisory Committee on Community Improvement by Supervisor Burton W. Chace.

The reappointment was approved Tuesday by the Board of Supervisors.

Olson will serve on the information group.

"Mr. Olson has performed well on this important committee," Chace said. "His duties with the information group are vital to each of the 10 groups on the committee." The 10-member committee, serves as an advisory body on housing, planning, public facilities, urban renewal and other community activities. Members also assist in the development of objectives and goals for improvement.

"This group keeps us in touch with community resources and needs," Chace said. "It is authorized to make recommendations for improvements at all levels of governments."

## Display Designs

Award-winning designs by some of the Southland's top college architectural students are being featured at the Los Angeles County Museum of Science and Industry. The exhibit, sponsored by Southern California Gas Co., will be open through Sunday.

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