

GUEST EDITORIAL

New FBI Center to Open

By J. EDGAR HOOVER
Director, FBI

The FBI National Crime Information Center (NCIC) will begin operations later this month. This nationwide computer network represents a big advancement in scientific crime detection and electronic achievement in the fight against crime and lawlessness. It also serves as a symbol of the cooperative spirit prevailing among enforcement officials as they unite their efforts to modernize and improve enforcement techniques.

The FBI center is not a total information depot or repository. Rather, it is a nationwide index of data on crime and criminals which, by high-speed random-access search techniques, will provide within seconds pertinent information to a police officer on the scene. This service will bring more and more criminals to justice and prevent fast-moving violators from evading local authorities and "outrunning" the law.

The NCIC is not a separate entity. It will complement electronic information systems being set up or already in operation by metropolitan and state police agencies. When the network opens, there will be 15 local and state law enforcement agencies participating in the system. Each will be directly tied in to the FBI computers, and each will serve numerous other agencies. Eventually, the system will include a terminal agency in each state as well as in each of 25 or more larger metropolitan areas. Further, all FBI field divisions and offices of other federal agencies will be connected with the NCIC computers.

Since crime is a constant, round-the-clock problem, services of NCIC will be available on a 24-hour, 7-day-week basis. The network will provide state and local law enforcement agencies a nationwide uninterrupted flow of up-to-the minute crime data. If for any reason one of the computers or storage units fails, a second piece of equipment will take over.

One basic obstacle of the system was resolving how the many different computers could communicate with each other in a compatible language. A group of line and staff officers from departments throughout the country and FBI representatives met this challenge. They established a uniform set of record formats and codes to be used by all agencies and systems participating in the network. This same group established operating procedures to maximize accuracy and discipline in the system.

The exchange of criminal information among enforcement agencies is not new. It has existed for many years. However, in the past, time gap and the cumbersome means of transmitting such information have handicapped police. The big advantage of NCIC is its ability to provide "instant information" on a nationwide basis. Through this system the officer on the street can receive pertinent facts when he needs them—right now.

While law enforcement is often discouraged by public apathy, judicial leniency, and other factors encouraging criminality, it can be proud of its own efforts to move ahead progressively in the fight against crime. I feel the NCIC is a distinct step in the right direction. It will materially assist law enforcement in its responsibility to protect and safeguard the rights and lives of all citizens.—Reprinted from the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin, Jan. 1, 1967.

Opinions of Others

In 1918 a German mark had a par value of 4 marks to the dollar. In January, 1921, the dollar would buy 74 German marks . . . By October of 1923 one dollar would buy 240,000,000 marks. Inflation in Germany was finally stopped with the so-called Rentenmark, which was backed by gold, at which time the old mark had reached more than 4 trillion to the dollar and the savings of the well-to-do and middle class had been wiped out.—Arlington (Tex.) Citizen.

It may surprise a lot of people but every time a doctor stops at the scene of an accident and voluntarily renders emergency aid he is taking a risk. For, strange as it seems they can be sued if the victim they stop to help dies or is maimed . . . Every state without a law protecting physicians who act at the scene of an emergency in a Christian sense of their duty to their fellow man should enact one without delay.—Brookville (Pa.) American.

From the Mailbox

Criticism of Jackie Flayed

To the Editor:
I have an answer for you re Abe Mellinkoff's article about Jackie Kennedy—"Morning Report." (Dec. 28).
A person under pain, sorrow, or stress is bound to say things that are later regretted.

William Manchester should have recognized this babbling for what it was—babbling—and respected Mrs. Kennedy's confidence by keeping her babblings to himself.

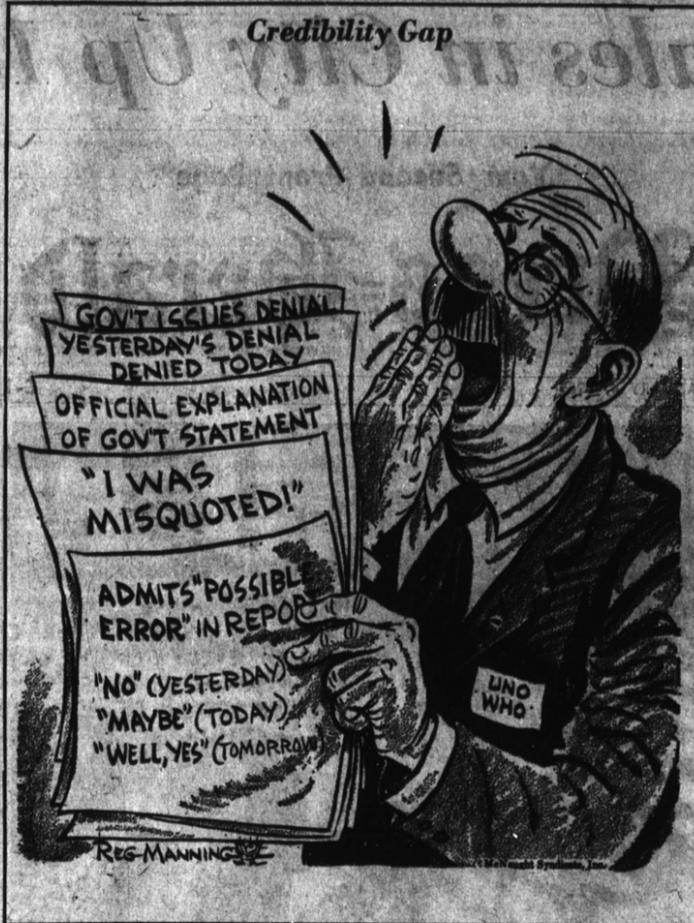
He (Manchester) is an intelligent man. I'm sure he

recognized her words for what they were. I don't believe he honestly felt what she said at that time was for world publication.

Had I been in Mr. Manchester's place at that time, and being the stranger that I am to Mrs. Kennedy, I know that in her darkest moment of distress she might have confided in me.

I believe you owe Mrs. Kennedy an apology for your thoughts, Mr. Mellinkoff.

SYLVIA FLYNN
Torrance



STAN DELAPLANE

Air Fare Is a Bargain To the Coconut Islands

HONOLULU — These are the coconut islands and the air fare bargain. (\$100 from the West Coast.) Waikiki is going to have more lower-priced rooms. The new luxury beach is going to be Kaanapali on the island of Maui. That's only 18 minutes away.

The new jets are island-hopping so fast the airlines don't have time to serve the traditional glass of pineapple juice. Seat belts all the way. You're either going up or you're on your way down.

"We would like to have a Hawaiian style party and wonder if there is any way to get authentic recipes."

The Polynesian Cultural Center, Laie, Oahu, Hawaii. Make it "attention Manager" and they'll send you two pages of recipes. Everything from Hawaii to the Maori food of New Zealand. (The Maoris were the ones who ate people. But I don't think that's included.)

"We've heard there is an off season when rates are very low in the Caribbean . . ."

That would be July and August. It's hot, but I didn't find it miserably so. The Caribbean has been doing so well with tourists that many places are spreading the season. Lowering rates a little in May and June. Lower in July-August. Up a little in September-October. Way up in the winter.

Several places make a special rate for honeymooners in July-August. Caneel Bay Plantation on St. John in the Virgin Islands is one. (Get married and get a rate.) It's kind of a buggy season. The kind that bite. But I guess love finds a way.

Morning Report:

U Thant has his hands full these days at the United Nations. We have asked him to end the war in Viet Nam and Ghana wants him to stop serving lobster tails from South Africa in the dining room for delegates on the fourth floor of the U.N. building.

Both are important issues and I have a feeling that Viet Nam may be settled before lobster tails. Because the menu in the dining room has to be solved anew every day.

If Ghanaians don't want to eat South African lobster tails on Monday, then the Arab bloc may refuse to eat Israeli cheese blintzes on Tuesday. It's all right for the Americans to sip Russian borsch now that the Cold War is thawing. But the only permanent solution might be for all delegates to have box lunches flown in from home.

"Can we buy a used car in Europe?"

You can. But it's tricky. The car was taxed when it was bought new. So that cost is included. And you might do better to buy a new car without tax—which you get as a tourist.

I do see some used cars, presumably untaxed, in the classified pages of the Paris edition of the New York Herald Tribune. I think bought by the military. And since our military is being kicked out of France, could be there'll be more on the market.

"How about shipping cars home?"

The selling agency usually provides for this. But with a used car, I'd go to

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the AAA and ask them. There are overseas offices. One in Paris.

"I'd like to go to Mexico and study arts and crafts if you know of a school . . ."

I had a letter from a new one in Patzcuaro. That's the Indian lake town, off Highway 15 near Morelia, in the state of Michoacan. But I don't know this one from personal experience. There's another that looked good at San Miguel Allende—that's north of Mexico City near Queretaro. You could write them—Instituto Allende, San Miguel Allende, Gto. Mexico.

Allende has a big American colony. Patzcuaro is more Indian and more colorful.

"We are young. Not much money. Love to travel. Willing to work. Now what?"

All countries, including the U.S., have labor laws to keep foreigners from com-

peting for jobs with the people of the country. So—England is difficult. My passport was always stamped "not permitted to work." (It can be done, but you'd have to see a British Consul for the rules.)

France looks easy. Always ads in the paper "American wants work as etc." Don't know about Spain. I think the wage scale would be low. Italy: I see Americans working there, but I don't know the rules.

Now, for travel. Icelandic Airlines is the only cut-rate line on the Atlantic. It's reliable. But its terminal ports are not handy. You have to bus onward. Portugal is the cheapest living country I've run into. France (where you have the best chance of work) is the most expensive.

Travel

"Could you suggest a restaurant in New Orleans?"

Well, everybody goes to the French Quarter. Local people say the best is Galatoire's. Antoine's is most famous. Then there's Arnaud's, Court of Two Sisters—really all good. Court of Two Sisters is most colorful. Certainly worth a dinner coffee. Make it the flaming cafe diable.

WILLIAM HOGAN

I Wish I Had Time for Another Bowl of Chili

Frank X. Tolbert, the Dallas News columnist and author, tells us that H. Allen Smith, the Mt. Kisco, N.Y., humorist, recently threatened to publicly horse-whip Tolbert, and for an interesting reason. In the Texan's new book, "A Bowl of Red: A Natural History of Chili con Carne," he recommended putting a little Masa Harini, or instant Mexican cornmeal, into the concoction to thicken it.

H. Allen, who styles himself "King of the Independent Chili Heads," is, with Tolbert, a member of the Chili Appreciation Society International, but was appalled at the idea of this instant Mexican cornmeal. Smith advised Tolbert that Texans can't make real chili; indeed that when a Texan turns his hand to chili-making "he is a bumbler and a boob."

"A Bowl of Red" is getting a big play in the Southwest, including Texas, naturally. Tolbert tells us the book emerged from an article he wrote on chili con

HERB CAEN SAYS:

If the World Blows Up, Then Blame Los Angeles

Down with Los Angeles Dept: In his recent series of articles in The New Yorker, Christopher Rand scores a few subtle points for the unstated premise that if the U.S. finally does succeed in blowing up the world, Los Angeles will be responsible.

Point one: "Unbridled technology is really beyond the control of our democratic institutions." Two: "L.A., with its frontiersmanship, its technology, its fundamentalism is a deviant from the rest of the country." Three: "Los Angeles seems fully equipped to lead us into something either very good or very bad." Four: Finally, he quotes a man talking about Aldous Huxley: "He said Los Angeles has the greatest potential of all the places he knew, but whether this was a potential for horrors or for fulfillment," he said he simply couldn't tell.

"So there is a riddle in Los Angeles," concludes Rand, "and no one can say the final word on it." A riddle in itself. Does he mean nobody will be around for the final word?

There's this joke going around about the two hippies in their pad, and one says to the other: "Hey,

man, turn on the radio." Other: "Okay, I love you, radio." (You see, in hip talk, "turn on" means—oh, You dig, You hip? Me square) . . . You think things aren't tough? A local school-teacher has been working as a janitor at Bay Meadows in his spare time, but that's not the item. On the last day of the recent meet, a guy tore up a fistful of

San Francisco

losing tickets and threw them into the air, like confetti. As they landed, the teacher moved in with his broom and dustpan, whereupon the gambler shouted: "Not so fast, buddy! I just lost \$12,000 on that race—permit me to observe a moment's silence over the remains." The poor school-teacher cried a little, too.

The book that Dr. Meyer (Mike) Zelig, the psychoanalyst, has been working on for six long years is now being published by Viking; its title: "Friendship and Fratricide—An Analysis of Whittaker Chambers and Alger Hiss," and there's still a lot of meat on the bones of that strange old story . . . Talk about nutty stories: Twenty years ago, when San Francisco's Norm

Wilner eked out a writing cartoon . . . his then baby daughter was crawling around the floor one day and knocked over an expensive lamp, destroying it. "That settles it!" snapped Mrs. Wilner. "You are going to be an only child!" Norm sold that incident to Hank Ketcham, who turned it into a cartoon for Collier's—except that he changed the little girl to a little boy. And thus was born Dennis the Menace.

I'm a little tired of trying to keep up with current slang—although, actually, I'm not trying very hard. I figure if I remember to say "hip" instead of "hep," that's good enough. Lately, I've been resorting to the slang of my youth when the teenyboppers are around, and it confuses them utterly. When I throw in things like "malarky, horsefeathers, sez you, spiffed, hotcha, and how" and so forth, the poor dears don't know whether I'm square as a bear or one step ahead. They are completely undone when I shout "Sonny TUFTS???" and all my contemporaries double up with laughter. The kids have no idea why this is a guaranteed crack-up in my age group, and I'll never tell 'em.

ROYCE BRIER

The Mixed-Up Germans Get a New Chancellor

Politically, the Germans have long been a mixed-up people. They did not unify until centuries after the English and French unified. In this century they have chased after false gods, like Adolf Hitler and a preposterous and childish Emperor.

But they are among the most energetic and competent peoples of the millennium. Technologically they have no superiors, and in our time technology begets power of one kind or another. Hence they are a key people of European history, despite their own disjointed recent history.

World Affairs

Just recently the new Chancellor, Kurt Kiesinger, told the Bundestag he would propose coordinating mutual policies under the French-West German treaty of friendship and consultation. It is an easy policy to declare, not easy to materialize. President de Gaulle of France is a very crotchety fellow, and his head is a swish with Pan-West European ideas, which would auto-

matically diminish the influence of the Americans and the British on the Continent.

We cannot in good grace deny the rationale of M. de Gaulle's ideas. We were not born 190 years ago to lead the Europeans to our way—quite the contrary. As to the British, they thought to

lead Europe in the Tudor days, but they now have neither the resources nor the heart for it.

Chancellor Kiesinger made one interesting policy point, which may startle you if you've been around the last 28 years. He said the Munich Agreement was invalid, since it resulted from a "threat of force." This was the pact (1938) in which Hitler conned everybody into consenting to the demolition of Czechoslovakia.

Otherwise the Chancellor's address was conventional. He wants Britain in

the Common Market. He wants friendship with Poland, but didn't mention the disputed Oder-Neisse border. He had a few kind words for the United States, though there is an existing dispute over offset funds to support American troops in Germany.

Geographically, the vital relation of France and Germany is obvious on a map of the European peninsula. The old Prussian, Frederick, hated England and for dynastic reasons tried to get along with France. But getting along with the Bourbons wasn't easy, either, and a little later, getting along with Napoleon was impossible.

Prudent German policy is indispensable to the peace of all Europe. The Russians fear Germans for well-founded reasons. Fundamental Soviet policy is to forestall Germany growing up into the Big Boy he was in the 1930s and after.

Herr Kiesinger will have to take this into account in talking with M. de Gaulle. He will have to show de Gaulle that France needs Germany, as Germany needs France. We know little yet of Kiesinger's diplomatic talents, but he will need some.

Meanwhile, the Americans and British might be on the outside looking in for a spell. This will please many Americans, who think the United States has been on the inside looking out, on various patches of the globe, almost long enough.

Quote

One wonders if the teachers who protested Christmas carols in a San Rafael school also protested the week off with pay in celebration of the Christmas holiday.—Diane Anderson, San Francisco.

If we are spawning students who learn that they may break the law and ignore the rights of others at the university, it is likely they will feel the same impunity to do so elsewhere.—Gene Marlowe, Beverly Hills.

Making personnel decisions on the basis of a man's appearance is a kind of fortune-telling.—Dr. W. A. Lessa, UCLA professor.