

Fall 1932

United States Bureau of Investigation in Relation to Law Enforcement

J. Edgar Hoover

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.law.northwestern.edu/jclc>

 Part of the [Criminal Law Commons](#), [Criminology Commons](#), and the [Criminology and Criminal Justice Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

J. Edgar Hoover, *United States Bureau of Investigation in Relation to Law Enforcement*, 23 *Am. Inst. Crim. L. & Criminology* 439 (1932-1933)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Northwestern University School of Law Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology* by an authorized editor of Northwestern University School of Law Scholarly Commons.

THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION IN RELATION TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

J. EDGAR HOOVER²

We meet in a time of unusual stress and strain. Possibly some would say that present day conditions are unprecedented, though I doubt very much that this statement could be considered strictly true. There is a marked and well-nigh universal tendency upon the part of each generation to magnify its own importance and the significance of the emergencies and problems with which it must contend; to believe, or at least to proclaim, that the sun shines brightest upon the brief span of existence which has been given them to live, that their own brief years of work, play and sleep are fraught with a significance that is unique in the march of endless time. This tendency is human and natural, but the cycles of time are wide and the theme of existence repeats itself through the ages. Many times, doubtless, previous generations have struggled, were defeated and were victorious in the same manner and in the face of practically the same character of problems and conditions as confront us today. The helpful and inspiring lesson of this thought may be inferred from the knowledge that they did triumph, and if we are not weakling, degenerate sons of worthy progenitors, so shall we conquer and go on to heights as yet not imagined or conceived. Pessimism in law enforcement is as unworthy, unnecessary and untrue as it is in other walks of life. Current conditions are, of course, by no means favorable. The beneficent era of prosperity is past and we are in the depths and in the clutch of conditions which test the strength of men and institutions. Those which deserve to live will survive. Those which possess some organic or structural fault or flaw must yield the gift of existence to those better able to carry on the work of the world, and society will be benefited thereby. What means this to the International Association of Chiefs of Police? Just this:—We have been told that times which may justly be termed those of industrial depression, in which the economic and industrial structure of

¹Address before the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Portland, Oregon, June, 1932.

²Director of the United States Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D. C.

society weakens and in places even breaks, necessarily bring a marked increase in the ranks of criminal elements of society, as well as a concomitant increase in crimes of violence. Attacks upon property of all forms and phases one would expect in times such as these will be greatly augmented in number and in intensity. Those in distress are not always scrupulously careful as to ways and means which they will adopt to relieve their distress. Crimes in such times should naturally be on the increase, rather than on the wane. One would greatly wonder if such were not the case. Times of depression then are those which test most searchingly the ability and efficiency of all law enforcement organizations. Society, then, is in desperate need of the support of its strongest bulwark. The police represent the last line of defense behind which the complicated economic and industrial order must recoup its resources and energies for a resumption of constructive activities and which must protect all law-abiding citizens from the onslaughts of the vicious, frenzied and misled elements of the needy, who are so often the prey of unscrupulous agitators.

What is the situation in this country at the present time? Have the law enforcement forces held their own in the face of widespread unrest and the manifest increase in poverty which depressions always bring, conditions which are manifestly favorable to the development of criminality in the ranks of those who would otherwise pursue the straight and narrow path of honesty? I believe it may be safely stated that the protectors of society have held their own. There are certainly no signs that the situation has or will pass beyond their control. Even the gloomiest pessimist, who sees conditions through the darkest glasses of despair, must admit that despite the admittedly difficult problems which have existed and still exist, and which, in some sections of the country, have resulted in individual crimes which have shocked the moral sense of the community, there is no indication that either in the near or distant future will the forces of law and order fail to function efficiently and well. There have been times in which it was necessary to augment the regular police personnel by the armed forces of the militia and even by regular troops. Fortunately there are no indications that the police of the country will fail to stem any tide of crime or violence that may be directed against person or property anywhere in this country. Of course, law enforcement officers cannot be charged with derelictions in the performance of their duties when they are not furnished with the essential available information in the possession of interested parties concerning

a crime in the initial stages of an investigation. I feel that there exists a universal feeling of confidence in the police of the country, based upon the assurance that they are amply able to cope with any conditions that may arise and that this feeling of confidence is a well deserved tribute to both the uniformed ranks of the police personnel as well as the directing heads of the country's police forces who are assembled here.

To turn to matters with which I am more intimately associated and for which I am directly responsible, I desire at this time to report to the members of the International Association on the work performed by the United States Bureau of Investigation during the past year. The administration of the Bureau of Investigation is based upon the well understood rule and policy that all Special Agents in the field must work in close cooperation with police officials in their respective jurisdictions. The extremely cordial and actively friendly relations which have existed for some years past between the representatives of this Bureau in the field and the police officials with whom they come in daily contact have continued and have even increased in cordiality and mutual aid and assistance. The work of the Bureau of Investigation during the past year has continued to show a substantial increase in effectiveness in all its branches. More and more attention has been devoted not specifically to the extensive development of investigative activity with a view to bringing marked increases in prosecutions, but to insure that no unnecessary prosecutive action may be taken against any innocent individual or individuals and that, on the other hand, cases which are initiated and in which it appears the subjects under investigation are guilty of the crimes charged shall be pursued to a successful consummation. In order to indicate the progress which we have been fortunate enough to obtain along these lines, I may state that a comparatively recent compilation of figures reflecting existing conditions shows that successful prosecutions have been secured in 97% of the cases tried. I believe that the real test of any law enforcement organization is the quality rather than the quantity of the work performed by it. I further believe that the quality of the entire work of an organization of this kind may properly and truly be judged by the percentage of convictions obtained in proportion to the number of cases in which investigative work is performed. I feel a very considerable pride in the accomplishments of the United States Bureau of Investigation, as indicated by the very simple compilation which I have just indicated, showing that innocent persons have not been put in jeopardy

by the work of our representatives in the field, but that, on the other hand, those who have been guilty of violations of such Federal Statutes as come within our jurisdiction have been convicted in the vast majority of cases in which prosecution has been instituted. It should be noted that the cases in question cover a somewhat comprehensive scale, including, as they do, violations of the National Motor Vehicle Theft Act, White Slave Traffic Act, Crimes on Government Reservations, from petty larceny to murder, Crimes on the High Seas, in similar categories, violations of the Antitrust Statutes, violations of the National Bankruptcy and National Bank Acts, Impersonation of Federal Officials, and a very large number of similar classes of cases.

Of course, no address of this kind would be complete unless a report were made to the International Association of Chiefs of Police of the progress accomplished and the current status of the work of the Identification Division of the United States Bureau of Investigation. It is needless to remind the members of the Association that the Identification Division was established under the beneficent auspices of such of its members as recognized the urgent necessity for the establishment of a central clearing house from which criminal identification data could be procured promptly, accurately and without cost to law enforcement officials of this and other countries. Since I addressed the Association last October the work of the Identification Division of this Bureau has continued to progress and expand. In fact, I believe I may state, without fear of any accusations of the slightest exaggeration, that the past year marked the most decided advance in accomplishments on the part of this Bureau's identification activities since the time when this indispensable aid to effective law enforcement was placed under its jurisdiction in 1924. The Bureau's accomplishments from a statistical standpoint are interesting and reflect accurately its achievements in the volume of work handled. I know that statistics in themselves are uninteresting and can never be made interesting except to the expert who has devoted a lifetime of study to the uninviting field of thought which they represent. However, it is well understood that no real progress can be accomplished in any walk of life without frequent references to those symbols of unerring accuracy which indicate progress or decay. Statistics may, therefore, signify the romance of successful accomplishment of victory in the face of innumerable difficulties, or, on the other hand, they may reflect the despairing failure of non-achievement.

From June 1, 1931, to May 31 of this year, 794 additional law enforcement agencies enrolled as contributors of fingerprint records

to the United States Bureau of Investigation. During the same period there were received in the Bureau 530,204 criminal fingerprint records and 41,200 miscellaneous prints. During this same period 542,343 fingerprint cards were classified and 572,274 were searched by the technical employees of the Identification Division of the United States Bureau of Investigation. The most striking figure, however, is reflected in the number of criminal identifications, which reached the surprising and gratifying total of 204,220. This figure is particularly significant when compared with the total of 161,325 identifications accomplished during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1931. The identification section of the United States Bureau of Investigation therefore now averages approximately 40% of identification based upon the total number of fingerprint records received and filed. This represents an increase of 4% over the corresponding period of the previous year. I need not remind experts in this line of endeavor that identifications made, truly represent the major value of this service to law enforcement officials who avail themselves of the resources of the Bureau's identification records. It is further most gratifying to observe that from June 1, 1931, to May 31, 1932, 2,383 fugitives were apprehended, as a result of identifications made in the Bureau. On June 1, 1932, a total of 3,034,332 fingerprint records were on file in our Identification Division and a total of 4,080,480 alphabetical index cards were filed.

These figures, which are of vital interest and which reflect strikingly the achievements of the United States Bureau of Investigation in its identification work, are, however, not entirely representative of the more substantial progress which has been made within the Bureau's identification records. It is further most gratifying that the fingerprint classification extension system, devised by experts in the Bureau's technical Division, has been applied to the fingerprint files with complete success. The policy of the Bureau formulated during the past several months to return to its contributors fingerprint cards which either, owing to circumstances beyond their control or otherwise, were found to contain improperly recorded fingerprint impressions or which were not susceptible of correct classification, has resulted in the frequently expressed approval of Chiefs of Police and other officials who have the success of this highly important identification work at heart. When these fingerprint cards are returned, the Bureau endeavors to instruct the officers who prepare them, who at times may have entered the identification field but recently, along lines which should insure the recording of accurate

prints by them on future occasions. The return of these illegible prints is felt to be a far-sighted policy, since their continued receipt would necessarily contribute to erroneous identifications if retained in the Bureau's archives. It is the purpose of this procedure to eliminate, so far as may be humanly possible, any doubt or possibility of the entrance of the element of human fallibility into the comparison of fingerprint records. Every effort is made to insure not only prompt but accurate service to the Bureau's correspondents in all parts of the world.

In addition to the successful adoption and progress of the policy to which I have just referred, I am pleased to report that the Bureau is now completing the installation of a new card index system designed to afford a more comprehensive "break-up" of the various combinations of names and, in many instances, of classifications filed under those names, which are a key to the fingerprint records on file in the identification section. Further, we are now entering the last stages of a complete scientific check and analysis of all fingerprint records in our technical files. This analysis has been made on a comprehensive, intensive basis and is designed to effect any consolidations or corrections of the records wherein errors have been observed because of the receipt and subsequent filing of fingerprint records at a time when the law enforcement officials of the country were not so well equipped to transmit accurate data, as they are today. This plan is also designed to afford the Bureau officials in charge of its identification work an opportunity to appreciate more fully and readily the peculiar problems involved in the handling of the extension or groups of fingerprint classifications presenting more than ordinary difficulties.

With the final consummation of these projects I believe the identification work of the United States Bureau of Investigation will be placed upon an even more efficient basis in order that it may continue to contribute in increasing measure accurate and valuable data to law enforcement officials everywhere. Due, in part, to the results which have attended this recently devised plan, I am pleased to report that it has been possible for this Bureau to adopt a scale designed to permit the more expeditious treatment of fingerprint cards received. It is the Bureau's policy at the present time to submit replies on all fingerprint records received not later than the next working day after receipt of said records. In all identification work speed is the essential characteristic. Prisoners are being held pending receipt of information which would indicate their identity, writs may be filed at any moment, and this condition is always apparent in work of this kind.

However there is also stressed, as an equally important essential, the necessity for absolute accuracy in deciding as to whether prints already on record are similar to those received. As a matter of fact I have always stressed the necessity for the consideration of the characteristic of accuracy as even more important than that of speed. Missed identifications are a source of considerable grief to those responsible therefor. The Bureau will not tolerate any exhibition of more than the minimum amount of essentially human fallibility along these lines. However, the administration of this phase of the Bureau's work has in mind the necessity for the speedy return to police officials in the field of the requisite information. Many times the Bureau's Inspectors have noted that in some localities identification officials fail to take into consideration the fact that the mails do require some time to function to Washington and back to the correspondent. In all replies sent out, the date of receipt of the original fingerprint inquiry is recorded so that all of the Bureau's correspondents can at all times note whether replies are within the time limit set forth.

During the past several months the United States Bureau of Investigation has been enabled to initiate a practically world-wide system for the exchange of identification data. Arrangements have been effected with the identification officials of practically every important nation to exchange, through their bureaus, fingerprint records of persons arrested within the United States who are believed to have records in the countries concerned. This extension of activity in the international exchange of identification data has been approached upon a systematic basis and the United States Bureau of Investigation is now prepared to relay to the identification officials of practically every country possessing identification bureaus copies of fingerprint cards upon any individuals arrested within the United States who may have records abroad. In return, the identification officials of the countries who have agreed to cooperate in this plan of international exchange have expressed their willingness to forward to the Bureau of Investigation, for search in its own files, fingerprint cards of natives and citizens of the United States arrested within their respective jurisdictions. I feel that this international exchange of our work will contribute materially to the suppression and prevention of crime upon an international scale and that the information gained thereby will be particularly useful in connection with the criminals operating so-called international confidence rings. While it is somewhat early to attempt to appraise the exact results which will accom-

pany our activity along these lines, I am pleased to inform the members of the International Association that since this work was initiated several months ago a number of cases of unusual interest have been noted. Among these two may be specifically indicated. In one of them the United States Bureau of Investigation received from the Chief of Police at Balboa Heights, Canal Zone, the fingerprint card of one Frank Alaimo, an American charged with committing robbery in the city of Colon, Panama. Alaimo was found to be identical with Alfonso Travali, wanted by the Chief of Police at Buffalo, New York, for robbery, and as a result of this identification, according to the most recent reports, the Buffalo police have made arrangements to remove this much wanted fugitive from the Canal Zone to Buffalo for trial. In another case the United States Bureau of Investigation received a fingerprint record from the United States Disciplinary Barracks at Alcatraz, California, in the case of one Alfred G. Bral, who was committed to that institution on December 21, 1931, to serve eighteen months for the crime of helping a prisoner to escape. As Bral was reported to be a Belgian, a copy of his fingerprint card was forwarded to the *Directeur de Service d'identification Judiciaire*, Brussels, Belgium, and a report has been received from the said *Directeur* to the effect that in June of 1920, Bral had been sentenced to serve two years by the Council of War of Western Flanders for desertion in time of war and that he had also been sentenced to serve two short terms in prison and fined for abuse of confidence. It is my earnest hope that at the next convention I will be able to report more fully upon the considerable benefits to be expected as a result of the international exchange of fingerprints. I feel that the manifest benefits that have accrued from this exchange on a national scale warrant the assumption that increased value will be afforded to the work of the Identification Division of the United States Bureau of Investigation through this extension of its present country-wide service to that having an international basis and scope. I look forward to the day when the work of the Identification Division of this Bureau at Washington will be a primary aid to police officials throughout the entire civilized world and I think that day is not far distant.

It has been my practice on previous occasions to bring to your attention identifications which have characterized the fingerprint work of the Bureau during the previous year which might be termed of an interesting character. The human interest attendant upon this work is, of course, ever present. I might refer at this time to the case involving one Joe J. Cranmer, who was received in the State

Penitentiary at Carson City, Nevada, in 1920 to serve one to fifteen years for the crime of burglary. This individual effected his escape on August 4, 1921, and a notice to this effect was forwarded to the Identification Bureau then maintained in the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas. This notice, with the records pertaining to the case, was transmitted to the United States Bureau of Investigation when we initiated our identification activities by the merging of the bureau functioning under the International Association of Chiefs of Police and that operated from Leavenworth in 1924. No information of any kind or nature whatsoever was received at the Bureau relative to Cranmer until March 9, 1932, practically eleven years subsequent to the time of his escape, when a fingerprint card was received from the Sheriff's office at Redwood City, California, reflecting the arrest of one Joe Cranmer on March 3, of that year, charged with assault. It was recorded that the disposition was pending. A comparison of Cranmer's fingerprints indicated that he was identical with Cranmer, the escaped prisoner of so long ago. Advice of his location was telegraphed to the Warden of the Nevada Prison, who subsequently stated he had placed a detainer with the authorities at Redwood City in the case of this escaped prisoner, which action he was enabled to take because of the identification established by this Bureau in the case.

Another case of particular interest is that of Homer George Edwards, an escaped criminal lunatic, the most dangerous type of person to be allowed to roam abroad, who, according to the fingerprint files of the United States Bureau of Investigation, was arrested by the Police Department at San Antonio, Texas, on October 31, 1926, charged with robbery by firearms. He was sentenced to serve two years in the Huntsville, Texas, State Penitentiary for this offense. He was again committed to the Huntsville institution on August 28, 1930, to serve a life term for the crime of murder, but upon being declared insane, subsequently was transferred to an insane asylum from which he escaped on September 16, 1931. He was re-captured on October 13, 1931, but again escaped on December 15, 1931. He was reported then to be dangerous. A "wanted notice" was placed in the fingerprint files of the United States Bureau of Investigation in this case and Edwards' whereabouts was ascertained by the Bureau on April 18, 1932, when a fingerprint card was received from the Police Department at Birmingham, Alabama, reporting the arrest of one Frank Taylor on April 6, 1932, charged with robbery. An examination of Taylor's fingerprints showed that he was identical with

Edwards and the Warden of the Huntsville institution was telegraphed of the whereabouts of the prisoner. The Texas officials have informed the United States Bureau of Investigation that arrangements have been effected with the Birmingham, Alabama, authorities to have Edwards returned to the custody of the Texas asylum.

A case involving murder was that of Sam Rosse. On May 2, 1932, the United States Bureau of Investigation received from the United States Marshal at Baltimore, Maryland, the fingerprint card on this man, reporting his arrest on April 30, 1932, charged with the violation of the National Prohibition Act. At that time Rosse's address was given as Havre de Grace, Maryland, and his place of birth as Italy. When this card was received in the United States Bureau of Investigation, it was given the usual technical classification and search in the Bureau's files. At that time it was found that Rosse's fingerprints were identical with those of one Lawrence Garrieri, *alias* Lorenzo Garrieri, *alias* Lorenzo Garrievi, who was wanted by the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Police Department on a charge of murder by stabbing of Pasquale Fratto on December 12, 1929. The Philadelphia officials were informed of the identification effected by the United States Bureau of Investigation in this case through the arrest by the United States Marshal at Baltimore of the fugitive under a different name, and the Bureau has now received a report from the Philadelphia authorities that Garrieri, *alias* Rosse, was returned to the said city on May 12, 1932, to face the homicide charge.

This case is but another illustration of the value of fingerprints as a means of identification of criminals, and demonstrates also the fact that persons who are arrested for relatively unimportant crimes, whose fingerprints may be forwarded to the United States Bureau of Investigation, may be found to be wanted for the most serious offenses.

The files of this Bureau are replete with instances of this character. In fact, to the laymen they afford a never-failing source of speculation and wonder.

It has been the experience of this Bureau that all that is necessary to extend identification work in circles unacquainted with its real benefits is to persuade a law enforcement official to transmit just a few fingerprint records of persons taken into custody. It is not necessary to attempt to apply any sales argumentation further than this. Those who have initiated any systematic plan of transmitting

fingerprints to the Identification Division of the United States Bureau of Investigation at Washington never fail to continue this practice. Its benefits are apparent to every police official who has ever initiated the practice.

As you are well aware the latest phase of this Bureau's activities, conducted with a view to contributing further aid and assistance to law enforcement, is that reflected by the work of the Statistical Division of the United States Bureau of Investigation. This comprises an attempt to afford all persons interested in the science of criminology and law enforcement in general a basic, accurate knowledge of underlying conditions as to the nature of crimes and classes of criminals, in order that upon appropriate study and scientific reflection the requisite steps may be taken for the enactment of legislation which will meet actually existent conditions, and the adoption of such police measures by law enforcement officials as may be necessary to cope with the specific problems indicated by the statistics gathered from the various localities. The excellent results achieved by the Identification Division of the Bureau, which are attributable almost solely to the whole-hearted cooperation of the members of this association, have been duplicated in no small degree in this crime statistics project. This is particularly gratifying and praiseworthy so far as the contributors to the work of the Statistical Division are concerned, because in many instances this burdensome duty has resulted in the achievement of results which, from surface indications, not only might not benefit certain individual contributors but might appear to operate to their disadvantage. It is a tribute to the far-seeing vision and sound grasp upon the underlying realities of the situation that these contributors have recognized the great ultimate benefits to be derived from a country-wide plan of accurate, scientifically recorded statistics. In many instances individual contributors have sacrificed their own interests for the good of the project as a whole, knowing well that in the final analysis all persons and organizations functioning along law enforcement lines will be benefited.

As you know, the duty of compiling national police statistics was undertaken by the United States Bureau of Investigation in 1930 after legislation had been approved by the President authorizing us to take over the work which had been initiated by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. With the publication of the first monthly bulletin in August, 1930, there were 768 police departments contributing figures for that month. In April of the present year there were approximately 1,400 cities from which the data was currently

received, or an increase of 82%. The expansion of the reporting area, as will be seen from the foregoing figures, is commendable, but the educational work in this regard is by no means completed. There are still many cities that do not participate in this modern aid to scientific law enforcement. With the publication of the first quarterly issue of the statistics for the current year, it was noted that of 982 cities having a population in excess of 10,000 there were 213 not reporting. I am pleased to note, however, that of the larger cities those not within the reporting area are, fortunately, very few. There are now only two cities in the country having a population of more than 250,000 which do not submit monthly reports, these cities being Atlanta, Georgia, and New York City. Of the cities having populations of 100,000 to 250,000, the following are not contributing: Des Moines, Iowa; Syracuse, New York; Tulsa, Oklahoma; and Reading, Pennsylvania.

The cooperation shown by the great majority of police officials in sending their reports regularly is sincerely appreciated and it is my desire to be of any assistance possible to those police officials in connection with the development of this national crime statistics project. We are realizing that such a tremendous undertaking is beset with many obstacles and handicaps, and the least of these is not the unwarranted criticism directed not only at the United States Bureau of Investigation but also at individual police departments for reflecting in the statistics submitted by them the apparent truth concerning crime conditions in their respective localities. It is obvious that any plan or development, national in scope, no matter how worthy, must endure such a period of criticism from those who possibly do not fully understand the difficulties involved in pioneer work of this type and the desirability and necessity of initiating this great work in order that this country may take its place in the ranks of those who have recognized the fundamental scientific value of accurate crime statistics on a broad scale. Criticism, however, must be met and in many instances will be found actually helpful. Whenever criticisms point out vital defects in the plan or functioning of this project you may rest assured that steps will immediately be taken to remedy any flaws along the lines indicated. It will be admitted by all fair-minded persons that the coordination into a system of uniform crime statistics of the number of varied offenses throughout the United States, influenced by different reporting systems, methods of recording and terminology, is a tremendous task.

The United States Bureau of Investigation has made every effort

within its power to rectify existing differences and inaccuracies in reports submitted by police departments to the end that comparable, complete and uniform crime statistics may be made available in accordance with the desires of the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the congressional mandate of 1930. The United States Bureau of Investigation cannot and will not provide field supervision for police officers in the preparation of these reports. I feel quite strongly, however, as I said in my address at St. Petersburg last year, that the necessity for providing a field supervisory or advisory force under the jurisdiction of this association is urgently apparent and that without such an organization thoroughly schooled in the intricacies of police reporting, it may be necessary to discontinue the development of this great project until such time as this essential field organization can be provided. I have given considerable thought to this matter and it is with great reluctance that I admit the apparent impossibility of further material progress without the assistance of the Association of Chiefs of Police along the lines indicated. Nevertheless, it is always of advantage to face the facts. It has been forcibly demonstrated to me during the past year that this educational and constructive work cannot be handled through the medium of correspondence. There exists only one method of attaining the goal which we all desire—comparable and uniform police statistics—and that is through the medium of supervision under the jurisdiction of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

As I have heretofore stated, it is my desire to be of every possible assistance to the members of the Association in any project which they may support in the interests of constructive law enforcement, but it is admitted that this question of field supervision is a problem which must be determined within the immediate future by members of the Association itself. The United States Bureau of Investigation can act only as a receiving station at Washington for the figures which are prepared by police chiefs throughout the country. It cannot, manifestly, install record systems nor can it supervise the preparation of returns. This is peculiarly and essentially a police administration function. If my personal desires were the controlling factor in solving this problem, unquestionably I should be very willing and glad to relieve the Association of this responsibility but constitutional limitations and other important obvious considerations would prevent any such solution of the problem. It is my earnest hope, therefore, that the International Association of Chiefs of Police will at once take some effective and progressive action with

a view to providing the necessary field supervision for the compilation of uniform crime statistics in this country.

I am sure that the work of all branches of the United States Bureau of Investigation will continue to receive the active, friendly and enthusiastic support of the members of the International Association of Chiefs of Police in the future as it has in the past. I know that the relations which have existed between this Bureau and the members of the Association have materially aided the Bureau in the consummation of its law enforcement work which, I am glad to say, has received the commendation not only of the members of this Association but of those interested in law enforcement throughout the country. I feel that I am deeply indebted to the Association for the assistance which it has always rendered me. I feel, also, that the country should be indebted to its members for the loyal and efficient service which they have rendered in these trying times.

There are many voices raised in these loquacious and strident days pointing to errors of omission or commission upon the part of law enforcement officials indicating that criminals would not function and that they would cease to exist were our law enforcement officials honest and efficient. These voices of disparagement and slander have always been with us. The best answer to these misguided, if not malicious, critics is the sense of confidence that the entire country feels in its police at all times despite the development of individual conditions which may indicate improper police methods in certain sections.

While on the topic of criticism of police, it may be well for me to state my very positive opinion that if anything wrong exists with police departments anywhere in this country it is due primarily not to the inability or the unwillingness of the police to function efficiently and well themselves. Let the community take such steps as may be necessary to assure a free hand to its police and the police will combat any crime wave that may arise at any time. The trouble is, in so many communities, that the honest and efficient police are subject to manifold phases of undesirable and often positively harmful influences, not only of a political character, although this is damaging enough, but influence of all kinds and types, social and economic pressure from almost innumerable sources. Let the police handle their own problems and we will have no cause to criticize them. Wherever undesirable police conditions exist my experience has indicated that these are due to the play of evil outside forces upon the police. I know of no body of men with whom I have come in con-

tact who are more loyally efficient in the performance of their burdensome and dangerous duties than are the police as exemplified in the members of the International Association.

I shall consider it an honor to cooperate with them in the future as in the past in every possible way and I shall count upon their continued friendship, counsel and aid. For my part, I shall do everything in my power to assist in every phase of law enforcement activities, be that phase of a major or minor character, that may arise. I deem it an honor to be associated with the International Association of Chiefs of Police. I deem it both an honor and a pleasure to have the friendship and support of the members of the Association.