

1944

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### Recommended Citation

Virgil W. Peterson, Chicago's Crime Problem, 35 J. Crim. L. & Criminology 3 (1944-1945)

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## CHICAGO'S CRIME PROBLEM\*

Virgil W. Peterson

(Any alliance among city fathers, police, and the lowest dregs of society constitutes a grave menace to democracy. If there was ever a doubt that such a blot upon our social system exists, this report by the Operating Director of the Chicago Crime Commission should dispel it. The facts compiled by Mr. Peterson of our Editorial Board are worthy of study by anyone interested in the problem of making democracy work in his community.—Editor.)

A former assistant to the attorney general of the United States, Joseph B. Keenan, once made the cogent observation that "so long as the problems of crime and its repression are left to those small groups that come most closely in touch with it—the social workers, policemen, prosecutors, judges, and prison wardens—and so long as the great body of citizenry remains indifferent, hostile, or ignorant, we can look for little improvement."

Much of our indifference, hostility, and ignorance are traceable to confused thinking, or to the absence of thinking at all, about problems that vitally affect our welfare as citizens of this city or of this nation. No small part of our apathy toward matters affecting, not only our crime problem, but decent government itself, is due to misdirected leadership. When, for example, public officials brush aside conditions that breed the crime and corruption that have written such black pages of Chicago history with statements completely avoiding real issues, apathy, confusion, and moral bankruptcy are natural products. For years, whenever inquiries have been made concerning the wide-spread gambling operations in Chicago and Cook County, we have been told in effect that this is of small importance, that our citizens do not want a city that is too strait-laced, that everyone likes to gamble, and that gambling cannot be effectively suppressed. Such replies completely evade the real issues and are not consistent with the true facts.

The truth is that practically every corrupt political machine has been built on its alliance with the underworld in control of the lucrative gambling racket. The first real political machine of Chicago was created by Michael Cassius McDonald who controlled gambling and was referred to as the dispenser of cheating privileges in Chicago from the time of the great fire in 1871 until the middle 1890's. In his gambling activities he was in partnership with notorious thieves and he associated with forgers, confidence men, and criminals of all sorts. McDonald was the boss of Chi-

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\*This paper, in essentially the same form, constituted the Annual Report of the Operating Director of the Chicago Crime Commission, delivered February 17, 1944.

cago. When Joseph Medill, as mayor, met with success in suppressing gambling, McDonald placed Harvey D. Colvin in the city hall as mayor. The gamblers returned and Chicago again became the swindlers' paradise. About 1885, McDonald formed a book-making syndicate which controlled gambling at the Chicago and Indiana race tracks, and in one season alone the syndicate made \$800,000. For years, McDonald's illegal gambling establishment at Clark and Monroe was, to all intents and purposes, the city hall. From his office on the second floor Mike McDonald ran the city. He named the heads of the police department. He had police officers severely disciplined who failed to take his orders. McDonald even bribed the Board of Aldermen and the Board of County Commissioners to make a contract to paint the court house with a fluid that was nothing but chalk and water. McDonald presented a bill to the county for \$128,250. When the fraud was exposed, several of the boodlers were sent to prison but McDonald was so powerful he was not even prosecuted. When his wife shot a police officer, although she was arrested, she was promptly discharged and the saloon license of Mike McDonald, although revoked, was restored within a week. It has been stated that McDonald ruled the city of Chicago with an iron hand for over two decades. This was not democracy. It was criminal despotism.

With the turn of the century came Mont Tennes who established his gambling dictatorship accompanied to the tune of sluggings and bombings. Through Big Jim Colosimo, the vice lord and ruler of the underworld, who possessed morals of the gutter but who was fawned over by politicians, judges, and the police, Chicago inherited Johnny Torrio, Al Capone, and eventually, the Capone syndicate. The Capone syndicate was originally engaged in operating houses of prostitution and gambling. Prostitution and gambling have always been the principal props of the underworld. In fact, during Capone's reign, it was estimated that his annual income from the gambling racket alone was \$25,000,000. It was during this period that Al Capone was one of the big political bosses of the city. Bombings and gang killings were commonplace in political campaigns. Vote buying and vote stealing reached amazing proportions.<sup>1</sup>

The Chicago Crime Commission has not interested itself in organized gambling from a moral or a reform standpoint. It has investigated and vigorously attacked organized gambling because it has been one of the greatest deterrents to a solution of our crime problem. It has been striking at the vital organs of true democratic government in this community. Make no mistake about this. Organized, protected gambling, as it has flourished in Chi-

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<sup>1</sup>Gem of the Prairie, by Herbert Asbury. Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., New York, 1940.

chicago and Cook County, is organized murder. It is organized extortion. It is organized racketeering. It is organized vote frauds. It means organized widespread corruption. It results in criminal despotism. These facts are well known to officials who have attempted to minimize wide-open gambling in Chicago and Cook County. These facts, when known, would not permit any decent citizen to view the protected, syndicated gambling that has flourished in Chicago with apathy and unconcern.

Attempts have been made to clothe those who have been in control of syndicated gambling in Chicago with respectability. They have been painted as "harmless business men" who are merely furnishing Chicago's working people with an opportunity to satiate their innate desire to make a harmless bet. But they are neither respectable nor innocuous. They are hoodlums of the most insidious type. They have exerted an unwarranted influence on the political set-up of the city and county. For instance, on January 14, 1944, Ben Zuckerman, gambling king, was ambushed and slain by gunmen as he was entering his home in Chicago. For many years gambling establishments operated by Zuckerman had served as hangouts and gambling headquarters for hoodlums. Some of them were formerly on Capone's board of directors, managing his various illicit enterprises. Yet, Zuckerman was practically immune from arrest and considered himself above the law. Months before Ben Zuckerman was killed in gangland fashion, investigation by the Chicago Crime Commission developed that he attributed his power to the following factors: he was a precinct captain and from this position he inherited, in his own phraseology, "the gambling concession in the ward." He boasted that about three wards located on the southwest side of Chicago, to all practical purposes, controlled the city vote, and because of the votes he controlled he was given the gambling concession. It was not mere chance that Zuckerman operated illegal gambling establishments for many years without molestation. The gambling concession was his reward for swinging the city election in his ward. One of the few raids made by the police on Zuckerman's gambling establishment took place on October 15, 1943, in the midst of the grand jury investigation which had been initiated following disclosures by the Chicago Crime Commission in September. Among those arrested in the gambling establishment were eight individuals with prior police records, one of whom was at that time on probation for robbery. One person was armed with a revolver. Another person arrested with a prior record had been in nightly attendance at the Zuckerman gambling establishment. Only a few days previously he appeared publicly with two judges and a police captain. He was allegedly a liaison man for one of two warring gangs of teen-age youths. Another man close to the management

of the Zuckerman gambling establishment and in nightly attendance there prior to the raid was a discharged police officer. He recently failed in his attempt to obtain reinstatement on the police force.

The Zuckerman rise to power through politics and crime and his sudden demise by gangland bullets is typical of the sordid gambling set-up that has existed in Chicago for decades. In recent months, John Joseph Williams was named in a confession by James Egan as the pay-off man in the gang killing of Martin "Sonny Boy" Quirk on September 18, 1943. Quirk, in turn, was allegedly implicated in the gang murder of public enemy Danny Stanton and his partner Louis Dorman, on May 5, 1943. All of these murders were committed in 1943 in connection with gang warfare for the control of gambling. Williams had been an insignificant sheet writer in gambling joints until he proved his worth as a vote-getter in the 13th Ward in the 1936 election. He then became a swaggering muscle man in the gambling racket, bragging of his political connections. He even defied police officers to arrest him after he had picked a fight with them. Associated with Williams in the gambling racket were ex-convicts and hoodlums of the most unsavory sort. In the background were three policewomen, apparently selected, not because they possessed qualifications for law enforcement work, but rather due to their influence in politics as committeewomen of their ward or precinct. They were relatives of those allegedly implicated in the Quirk killing and due to the publicity given in this case they found it expedient to be dropped from the rolls of the police force. *Williams himself was a successful applicant in 1936 for a position on the Chicago Police Department. He is now 94th on the Civil Service list of eligible applicants.*

The alliance between crime and politics has permeated the gambling picture in Chicago and Cook County. Prior to the closing down of gambling following disclosures by the Chicago Crime Commission which resulted in vigorous grand jury action, gambling in the loop district of Chicago was wide open. In many cases where wide-open gambling establishments were operated in the loop district the proprietors were precinct captains. Some of these precinct captains have in the past been partners in gambling operations with known public enemies and close associates of the Capone mobsters recently convicted in Federal court in New York of the million dollar extortion from movie magnates.

Investigation by the Crime Commission disclosed that an attache assigned to the Racket Court, in which gambling cases are heard, was himself operating a gambling establishment for which he was the outside man every day following his court duties. After he was called before the grand jury to testify, he was removed

from the Racket Court. He is still a court attache, however, assisting in the administration of justice and in the enforcement of the law.

Police officers told bookie operators when it was advisable to close down and when it was safe to reopen. Within a few blocks of the Central Police Station a brother of Jack Guzick, reputed business manager of the Capone syndicate in its heyday, has operated a bookie for the past fifteen years with a minimum of interference from the police. He is well known to numerous police officers and other officials. Police officers observed in his establishment were likewise seen visiting other gambling establishments.

In our investigation we found in some of the so-called "respectable" gambling establishments employees who were convicted murderers. In others, men closely associated in former years with nationally known gangsters in bank robbery and murder were trusted employees. We learned that even dangerous gunmen who were fugitives from justice were immune to arrest by the police because of protection they were receiving from certain big shots in the gambling underworld.

Conditions outside the city limits in Cook County have followed the same general pattern. During this past summer the Chicago Crime Commission reported to the Cook County Highway Police the presence of an elaborate gambling establishment known as The Dome. When the Cook County Highway Police failed to take proper action, we conducted an independent investigation. It was determined to be a syndicate controlled place that, notwithstanding the critical manpower shortage, required a minimum of eighty men to operate it. In the early afternoon of September 8, 1943, the first assistant State's Attorney was advised that if representatives of his office would call at the Chicago Crime Commission office we would have our representative point out a place in the county which should be of interest to the State's Attorney. About 3 p.m., on that day, the Dome was raided. Sixteen persons were originally arrested, three of whom were later released. One hundred and fifty patrons were dispersed. The State's Attorney's police seized the gambling equipment, including roulette wheels, crap tables, and black jack tables. The equipment, having a value of many thousands of dollars, was placed in the custody of a lieutenant of the Cook County Highway Police with instructions to hold it for evidence pending a court order as to its disposition. On September 14, 1943, thirteen defendants received fines and an order was entered by the court for the destruction of the gambling equipment. Upon attempting to carry out this court order it was then discovered that all of the gambling equipment had disappeared. In view of such a wanton disregard of duty and utter lack of responsibility on the part of officers of the Cook County Highway

Police, the Chicago Crime Commission requested that this matter be immediately presented to the grand jury for vigorous action. This was done and the grand jury investigation of organized gambling which produced far-reaching effects in the interests of good government was thus initiated.

The investigation by the Chicago Crime Commission concerning the Dome developed definite connections with the syndicate. It was determined that a night manager of the Dome was one of the proprietors of the Rock Garden Club in Cicero, Illinois. The Rock Garden Club, an elaborate gambling establishment, operated for many years in Cicero with virtual immunity. One of its proprietors was a brother of Charley Fischetti who aided Al Capone in manning the polls of Cicero with blazing guns only twenty years ago.

On October 7, 1943, representatives of the Crime Commission visited the Rock Garden Club in Cicero. The Cook County Highway Police Department was telephoned concerning this establishment. A few minutes later everyone was asked to leave the place temporarily. They were told the place would be going again soon. A fake raid was conducted. Within a few minutes the Rock Garden Club was in full operation again. The Chicago Crime Commission representatives observed complete gambling equipment in the Club before the fake raid and after the raid. The Cook County Highway Police reported that no gambling equipment, other than a handbook, was found in the place. Two hours later, following information furnished by the Chicago Crime Commission to the State's Attorney's office, a legitimate raid was conducted. The place was still operating illegally. Gambling equipment, including roulette wheels, crap tables, black jack tables, and other gambling paraphernalia, was seized.

The outstanding October grand jury, composed of men and women who were fully aware of their civic responsibilities and possessed of a determination to fulfill those responsibilities, was then in session. It was given the facts. The most vigorous and sweeping gambling investigation ever conducted by a Cook County grand jury was launched. As a result of action by successive grand juries, beginning in September, 1943, following the expose of the Dome, numerous officers of the law were indicted and removed from the public payroll. Scores of important figures of the gambling underworld were indicted. Charges were also filed before the Civil Service Commission of Chicago against fourteen officers of the Chicago Police Department, of whom nine were captains. Hundreds of witnesses were called before the grand jury, including the Mayor, Cook County Clerk, Commissioner of Police, the members of the Civil Service Commission, judges, and political bosses. The parade of witnesses before the grand jury resulted in startling

revelations. The immediate results of grand jury action were amazing. Overnight, practically every gambling establishment in the city of Chicago and Cook County was closed down. Places that had been operating in a brazen fashion in the loop district of Chicago for years with only occasional perfunctory arrests to mar their absolute immunity shut down. In their stead, legitimate business enterprises sprang up. Old-time gamblers reported that never in the history of Chicago had the lid been clamped on so tightly. The same condition lasted for months, and gambling operations are still at a minimum. This gave the lie to those who state organized gambling cannot be suppressed. It proved that, when our responsible officials give orders that the law shall be enforced and mean it, and when the subordinate law enforcement officers know that they mean it, suppression of gambling or any other type of organized crime is a relatively simple problem.

Unfortunately, most of the defendants indicted by the October grand jury succeeded in obtaining their discharge through legal technicalities without a hearing of the testimony in court. The Supreme Court has stated that the constitutional guaranties were intended primarily as a shield for the innocent and not as a refuge for the guilty, but in Chicago, it is primarily the gangster, hoodlum, and professional criminal who usually seeks refuge successfully behind his alleged constitutional rights. To our disgrace, criminals connected with organized crime are almost never convicted in Chicago and, to our further shame, almost never is a police officer who fails to suppress organized crime ordered discharged by the Civil Service Commission. Professional criminals continue to operate openly and brazenly with little interference from law enforcement agencies and with little fear of adverse rulings from the courts.

A few months ago, after the police had made one of their grand jury inspired raids on an important syndicate gambling establishment, a motion to suppress the evidence came up before a Municipal Court Judge who, with justification, denied the motion. Then, by trickery and subterfuge, the defendants succeeded in obtaining a hearing before another judge of the same court. Although the motion to suppress had already been heard and denied by the first judge, it was again heard by the second judge, who not only granted the motion to suppress the evidence but ordered the gambling equipment returned to the operators of the gambling establishment.

It is sometimes alleged that it is the people who want gambling. Recently, in one of the very few gambling cases decided by a jury in the Municipal Court of Chicago, the jury not only convicted the defendants but imposed jail sentences. The trial judge, however, vacated the jail sentences and granted probation.

The vigorous fight waged by the Chicago Crime Commission

against open gambling has not been based on moral or reform considerations. We are, however, vitally interested in all conditions that breed crime and corruption and that affect the integrity of our local government. We have no sympathy whatever with the viewpoint of some public officials or uninformed private citizens who engage in the wishful thinking that wide open gambling is of no concern to them and express the opinion that no efforts should be made to suppress it. Over twenty years ago, the Chief Justice of the Cook County Criminal Court, who is still an eminent member of the Cook County bench, said, "Gambling—next to poverty, the principal crime cause—has grown gigantically as a business which produces nothing but grafters, embezzlers, forgers, confidence men, pickpockets, burglars, and bandits."<sup>2</sup>

There are those who urge that the simple solution to this problem is to license gambling. It might be mentioned that in 1874 the same solution was suggested as a means of controlling the prostitution racket in Chicago, which then flourished in the heart of the city and made it one of the most sordid red light districts of the world. Without going into the merits or demerits of licensing gambling, the fact remains it is not licensed. And whether gambling is or is not ever licensed, licensing itself is not, has not, and never will be, a substitute for the proper performance of duty on the part of our responsible public officials, nor will it ever be a substitute for honest law enforcement.

Public officials and other citizens sometimes express the opinion that public attention should not be called to conditions of crime and corruption because it blackens the name of Chicago. A different opinion was expressed by a former Chief Justice of the Cook County Criminal Court, who said: "The system of spoils politics, subsidized by professional crime, could never outlive its infancy were it not for these incubators of infamy in which we have been breeding the boy bandit, the baby burglar, the youthful embezzler, hoodler, gunman, gangster, blackmailer and bawd. With it goes the damnable doctrine that the city must not be 'defamed' by crying out against the businesses that break hearts, minds and bodies and are the cradles of crimes against public health, morals and decency. . . . When we find that commercialized vice, open gambling and conditions contributing to juvenile delinquency have their public defenders as well as political protectors a public official who could keep calmly quiet is a craven."<sup>3</sup>

The conditions that prevail today in Chicago are similar to those referred to in the above statement made twenty years ago. They have been prevalent in Chicago from time immemorial. They

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<sup>2</sup>Hon. Michael L. McKinley, Judge of Superior Court of Cook County, Ill.

<sup>3</sup>Hon. Michael L. McKinley, Judge of Superior Court of Cook County, Ill.

are not due to any one man nor to any one political party. In the last analysis, the crime, corruption and gangsterism that have become identified with the name of Chicago are to be attributed in large part to the people who have tolerated those conditions that breed lawlessness. The time is short before we will be confronted with a period of unparalleled social maladjustment. The crime problems that have followed every previous war will be dwarfed in comparison with the magnitude of those that will require our immediate attention following the present world-wide conflict.

Already the problems of tomorrow are before us. Clear thinking and wise action now are essential to our future well-being. The appalling increase in juvenile delinquency presents only one of the many complex problems that must be brought to a prompt solution. There are many factors that enter into the solution of the delinquency problem. Broken homes, a feeling of uncertainty for the future, improper home supervision due to the absence of one or more parents in the armed services or war work, and improper recreational facilities are only a few of the causes to consider.

We have engaged in a considerable amount of loose thinking in connection with this entire subject matter. There has been too much shifting of responsibility. When our leaders stress the importance of the home in preventing delinquency, in molding character, and in developing future good citizens, they are entirely right but the picture is only half painted. Our youth is subjected not only to home environment but to conditions existing in the community in which he resides as well. The grave delinquency problem will never be solved as long as there are tolerated open and notorious violations of the law, operating with the sanction and protection of those whose duty it is to suppress it. This fact is well known to those who are most closely associated with the delinquency problem.

One authority upon the subject of juvenile delinquency expressed the following opinion: "After nearly fifteen years with maladjusted youth, I am convinced that the greatest single cause of juvenile delinquency may be found in the growing spirit of contempt for the apparent laxity of our law enforcement system."<sup>4</sup>

Youth naturally looks to leaders in the community for standards of conduct and integrity. Too frequently the alleged delinquency of youth is merely a reflection of his adult surroundings. He has adjusted his conduct to conform to that he has observed in his home or in public office. Sometimes men have achieved positions of wealth and political leadership by moral standards lower than those of the so-called delinquent.

In dealing with the delinquency problem it is imperative that

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<sup>4</sup>*Atlantic Monthly*, May, 1943, "Children Out of Hand—The Reform School," by Chester Lee White.

we cease our confused thinking, which constantly stresses as of first importance the adjustment of youth to society. Our first concern must be to raise the moral standards and ethics of the parents in the home and the leaders in our community to such high levels that youth can safely adjust himself to his surrounding society.

In considering our problems of delinquency and crime and in attempting to make democracy work, it is high time that we face facts honestly. We must insist that our public officials do likewise. Wide open, protected, syndicated crime of any nature is a direct attack against democracy. The organized syndicated gambling set-up in Chicago has always been synonymous with protected racketeering and murder. It is a means by which the law abiding electorate is disfranchised through control of votes by the hoodlums and mobsters who are in control of gambling. It can exist only because our responsible officials permit it to thrive through corruption. Unfortunately, one of the first agencies to feel the destructive effects of this corruption is the police. The police department is one of the most important agencies in any local government.

It is an old political maxim that he who controls the army is master of the state. Some political authorities have said that political mastery of the modern city often depends no less upon the control of the police. The power of the police force over the multifarious activities of citizens makes it an ideal device for rewarding political friends and punishing enemies.<sup>5</sup>

An authority on politics, in a recent book pointed out that the corrupt political machine of Boss Tom Pendergast in Kansas City could have survived the purging of the dishonest voting lists and even the penitentiary sentence of Pendergast, but the fatal blow was struck when the state legislature removed the political machine's control of the Kansas City Police Department.<sup>6</sup> With the reorganization of the police department, the gambling houses, so important to any corrupt political machine, were closed down. It was stated that Pendergast could not survive honest elections, a penitentiary sentence, and an honest police department. Corrupt political machines everywhere have appreciated the importance of controlling the police. The hoodlum and gangster who are engaged in gambling or other illegal enterprise understand the importance of the police because their existence depends upon police protection. Yet, the average law-abiding citizen fails to have any real understanding of the true place of the police department in his community. Through his apathy and lack of understanding he

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<sup>5</sup>American Politics—A Study in Dynamics, by Peter H. Odegard and E. Allen Helms, Harper and Bros., New York, 1938.

<sup>6</sup>The Big Bosses, by Charles W. Van Devander, Howell, Soskin, Publishers, 1944. Pages 251-252.

permits conditions to exist which make it impossible for the police department to function efficiently.

During this past year several innocent people have been unlawfully shot by various duly appointed officers of the Chicago Police Department. The public rightfully becomes indignant at such unlawful conduct on the part of officers of the law who should be protecting the public rather than placing it in peril. While it is true that every officer of the law who is guilty of such lawlessness should be held even more strictly accountable than the average citizen who commits a similar offense, indignation directed at the individual officer is wasted effort. Public indignation should be and must be directed at the system that permits such officers to be appointed to the police department in the first place. For years appointments to the police department have been based primarily on political considerations. The influence of politicians, many times affiliated with racketeers and hoodlums in gambling, vice or other illicit enterprise, has been highly important in placing men on the police department. The same ugly influence has been too important in affecting assignments, transfers, and promotions. These facts were clearly demonstrated in the recent Cook County grand jury investigation, at which the Clerk of Cook County testified that Civil Service examinations for police promotions are largely "sham." When asked about political interference with the police department, he testified to the effect that "Everybody knows how promotions are made in the police department. Most captains are appointed by the Mayor on recommendations of the ward committeemen. Every ward committeeman knows that Civil Service examinations for promotions are mostly a sham—it's all handled through the Mayor." It is a disgrace that such a system could be tolerated in the administration of a department on which the integrity of the local government and the safety of all citizens chiefly depend.

This, then, is the system under which we require our principal law enforcement agency to function. To obtain a position on the police force, the applicant must have the backing of politicians to whom he is thereafter obligated. It was disclosed this past year that new recruits in the police training school were required to furnish gratuities to the instructors of the schools. Certain police instructors were found guilty of accepting such gratuities by the Civil Service Commission. The Commission merely reprimanded them and the offending officers were restored to duty.

At frequent intervals thousands of tickets for political or other functions are delivered to the captains of each district. The police assigned to each district know full well that these tickets must be disposed of by them or they must suffer the consequences. Frequently the only possible outlet for the tickets delivered to the po-

lice by politicians are illegal gambling joints, taverns that keep open after closing time, and other places operating outside the pale of the law. The tickets may not be wanted but this type of prospect has no alternative but to pay for the number of tickets allotted to him. The mutual obligation between law violator and law enforcer is thus firmly cemented. When we permit the politicians to compel the police to engage in such "shakedown" activities, is it any wonder that there is sometimes corruption in the department that, above all others, should be free from suspicion? It would be a miracle if corruption were not common-place under such a vicious system. This is particularly true when we consider these conditions have existed from time immemorial. Over twenty years ago it was said by an eminent observer that "The trenches of protected privilege have been dug throughout a department in which the personnel is the most 'political' of any branch of public service."<sup>7</sup> Since that time Civil Service has meant less and less in the police department; politics have meant more and more. To the disgrace of Chicago, rarely is any officer discharged from the department for failure to suppress organized, protected crime. Instead there have been occasions when officers who should have been discharged were rewarded with promotions.

There are defeatists who view these sad conditions hopelessly. They say that the evils have been present too long. The roots of politics and corruption are too deeply imbedded to make it possible to hold forth hope for the future. To concede the truth of such defeatists' attitudes is to admit that our citizens cannot make democracy work.

The present system can be changed. The first requirement is for the citizenry to realize the true place of our principal law enforcement agency in a democratic society. In a democracy, laws passed by the people for the protection of their lives and property must be applied to all alike, the rich and the poor, the strong and the weak, the man holding office and the man on the street. This fundamental principle of democracy cannot exist where the principal law enforcement agency is within the clamped fist of political control and where the system of protected privilege is deeply entrenched. Political control of the police department has been removed elsewhere. In those communities crime problems are non-existent. Lives and property are secure and clean government prevails.

The energy and ingenuity of our citizens that have made possible the leadership of Chicago in so many lines of endeavor can certainly bring us to the fore in that all-important field of good de-

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<sup>7</sup>Hon. Michael L. McKinley, Judge of Superior Court of Cook County, Ill.

cent government. When the people are sufficiently interested to insist that political control be removed from our principal law enforcement agency; when we demand that qualified personnel of unimpeachable integrity be selected without regard to political consideration or influence; when we demand that such personnel be properly trained; when honesty, merit and ability are the sole considerations for promotions; and when any breach of trust by the guardians of law and order results in vigorous disciplinary action without political interference; then Chicago will rise to its proper place as a leader in clean government.

There is a common tendency to lay all the blame on our public officials for widespread crime and corruption. But, blaming them, without holding them strictly accountable, is futile. That is the people's responsibility. There is always a direct relationship between official conduct and the attitudes of the people toward their moral, social and civic responsibilities.

Those interested in the present and future welfare of this city and nation must insist on a full measure of responsibility from all officials and public servants of our local government. We sometimes forget that it is the law of nature that for every right and privilege we enjoy there are attending responsibilities. The right to be free carries with it the responsibility to defend ourselves when that freedom is threatened. The right to be secure in our homes, the right to earn a livelihood without paying tribute to racketeers and hoodlums, the right to have a decent place in which to rear our children, all carry with them the responsibility of all citizens to insist forcefully that all public officials serve the best interests of the community and provide clean, decent government.

We cannot overlook the fact that while the Capones, Nittis, Stantons, and Zuckermans are definitely the products of their alliances with corrupt officials they are also by-products of the public apathy and indifference existing in the community in which they have risen to power. The vast majority of citizens are law abiding and want good government. But lip service to the principles of democracy is not enough. There must be an awakening from the prevalent indifference or hostility toward the problem of crime and its repression. The public must fully realize that open and notorious lawlessness exists only because of the vicious system of protected privilege through political corruption. This realization must be supplemented with a determination to do something about it. When it becomes more important for any person seeking public office or position to secure and maintain the support of the citizens who want decent government than it is to curry the backing of the now strongly organized minority representing criminal elements, then and then only will democracy truly work.