

FOR THE SENATE:

*Everett M. Dirksen
of Illinois*

*Thomas H. Kuchel
of California*

*Bourke B. Hickenlooper
of Iowa*

*Margaret Chase Smith
of Maine*

*George Murphy
of California*

*Milton R. Young
of North Dakota*

*Hugh Scott
of Pennsylvania*

PRESIDING:

*The National Chairman
Ray C. Bliss*

**THE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP
OF THE CONGRESS**

Press Release

Issued following a
Leadership Meeting

June 13, 1968

**FOR THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES:**

*Gerald R. Ford
of Michigan*

*Leslie C. Arends
of Illinois*

*Melvin R. Laird
of Wisconsin*

*John J. Rhodes
of Arizona*

*H. Allen Smith
of California*

*Bob Wilson
of California*

*Charles E. Goodell
of New York*

*Richard H. Poff
of Virginia*

*William C. Cramer
of Florida*

STATEMENT BY SENATOR DIRKSEN:

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

In 1976, it will be 200 years that this good land became a new nation. It began with but three million people. Today it exceeds 200 million. The basic law under which it was launched as a Republic not only created a structure of government but also recited the purposes for which the Constitution was ordained. Among those purposes was the establishment of justice and the insurance of domestic tranquillity.

Save for the long civil strife more than a century ago, the refinement and expansion of justice has gone forward and domestic tranquillity has been preserved.

During most of those two centuries authority has been respected, the laws have been generally obeyed and enforced, human life has been protected and safeguarded, a feeling of security has prevailed, and the right of private property has been upheld. Ours has been a good history.

But, in our time, something has happened.

Authority is challenged. The burning of draft cards, the seizure of school administration offices, the riotous rupture of peace in the cities -- all are challenges to authority.

The law has been flouted. Riots in cities large and small, the ghastly increase in serious crime, all these attest to disobedience to law and the inadequacy of enforcement.

The sanctity of human life is so callously disdained. A young President is shot down. A young Senator is shot down. A non-violent Christian crusader is shot down. Each year there are thousands of murders and homicides.

Private property rights are ignored by the robber, the looter and the arsonist.

(con't)

Too much of the language of today is uncouth and un-American. "Burn baby, burn!" becomes a slogan. "Get guns!" becomes an arrogant war cry.

A brooding insecurity arouses the fears of the citizenry.

The flag is deliberately desecrated at home and abroad. There is doubt that we really are "One nation, under God, indivisible."

The nation has paid a terrible price in lives, in peace of mind, in haunting fear and insecurity, in property damage, in prestige and a tarnished image abroad.

Whatever the cause -- be it in the homes, the schools, the courts, in public stewardship or some other field -- both the problem and the remedy are reasonable clear.

What does it take?

The law must be obeyed and enforced. No disorderly society can long survive. "There is no grievance," said Abraham Lincoln, "that is a fit object of redress by mob law."

A sacred regard for human life must be restored. Fear seems to be the only universal passion. Even the hardened criminal fears swift, certain, speedy punishment. Mandatory sentences written in the law might help to stem the crime tide.

Respect for authority must be restored. Without it, we may find ourselves on the road to disaster.

The hateful language of destruction which comes so readily to the tongue should be discouraged at every turn.

The flag is the embodiment of the principles of this Republic. The very Republic suffers by its desecration.

Finally, the time has come to rethink our history. It should have emphasis in every school, church and forum in the land. The legacy which is ours came from those who were here before us. Into this land they built their skills and talents, their hopes and dreams, their tears and sacrifices. Today, we are the trustees of America. Upon us is a two-fold duty. The one is to those who came before us and gave us this land for our inheritance. The other is to those who shall come after us.

Perhaps three words can state the whole case: dedication, discipline, duty.

June 13, 1968

One full week ago, meeting in the shadow of violence and tragedy, the House passed and sent to the President the Law Enforcement Assistance and Criminal Justice Act of 1968.

The House vote was 368 to 17.

The Senate vote was 72 to 4.

These overwhelming majorities reflected the massive demand of an aroused America that crime must be stopped. People must feel safe to walk in their own neighborhoods, sleep in their own homes, work in their own stores. The law must be upheld and lawbreakers must be punished.

But a week has passed and President Johnson has not signed this comprehensive crime bill into law. What is he waiting for?

Immediately, the President clouded this life-and-death legislation by attacking its gun control provisions, incidentally authored by Senate Democrats, and utterly ignoring the nine other urgently-needed sections of the omnibus bill, many of which bear a Republican stamp.

The major gun control provisions Congress already has approved still await the President's signature, along with other long-overdue, anti-crime provisions.

What is the President waiting for?

Instead of taking prompt and constructive action, he appointed another study commission. Even if he intends to veto the crime bill, he should do so without delay so we can re-enact it over his veto.

A whole week has been lost. Projecting the FBI Crime Index statistics over an average week, more than 70,000 major crimes occur in this country; some 246 murders, 530 rapes, 3400 robberies and over 5000 aggravated assaults have ticked off the crime clock since Congress did its duty a week ago today.

What is the President waiting for?

Besides the gun control sections, the Crime Bill on the President's desk contains these important provisions:

1 -- Block grants of Federal funds to assist State governments in the war on crime -- sponsored by Sen. Dirksen in the Senate and Rep. Cahill in the House -- urged by virtually all State Governors of both parties over the opposition of the President and the Attorney General.

(con't)

Rep. Ford

2. -- Federal prohibition of all private electronic eavesdropping and wire-tapping, along with carefully defined permission for such surveillance by enforcement officers under court authorization and supervision. This was introduced in the House by Rep. McCulloch, Rep. Poff, and other minority members of the Judiciary Committee and the Republican Task Force on Crime. The President's own Crime Commission made these recommendations. He has opposed them. These are major weapons in the fight against organized crime, espionage and subversion.

3.-- Authorization for a National Institute of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, first proposed in the January 1967 Republican State of the Union message by Senator Dirksen and me, and incorporated in the bill by Rep. McClory.

4.-- Amendments authored by Sen. Scott, Sen. Allott and Rep. Railsback to modify and clarify recent Supreme Court decisions on the admissibility of confessions and other evidence.

5.-- Provisions for "community service officers" proposed by Sen. Percy and Rep. Goodell to improve relations between police and citizens. An overall application of Rep. Broyhill's amendment to recent appropriation bills concerning Federal civil servants who are convicted of crimes related to riots. Sen. Murphy's amendment requiring future Directors of the FBI to be confirmed by the Senate. An amendment by Sen. Hruska to help states fight organized crime.

All these matters are awaiting final approval at the White House.

What is the President waiting for?