

This recognition is reflected in the "Safe Streets Bill," H.R. 5037, now before your committee for consideration. I support this legislation as a start toward a more vigorous attack on crime throughout the United States, but in endorsing the bill I would also like to bring to your attention several reservations I have about its limited scope and effect.

It is unfortunate, in my opinion, that H.R. 5037 provides for only \$50 million in its first year to fight crime in America, when the President's own commission in its report recognizes crime as a billion dollar problem. The State of Maryland alone this year, without including any Federal grants, will spend over \$91 million to combat crime in our State. We have already begun on our own to uplift the educational standards and minimum training requirements of law enforcement officers through the new Maryland Police Training Commission. The Commission was established last year and the new standards will take effect June 1. We also have embarked on a reorganization of our State correctional system. We hope by a rigid investigation to rid the system of misfits and obtain better overall quality in our personnel. We also hope to establish better planning, research and training for our parole and probation personnel to more realistically and more economically screen and rehabilitate those who have violated our laws.

While we welcome the Federal assistance that will become available through H.R. 5037, I think we should take a more realistic approach to our attack on crime. I believe that too much emphasis has been placed on the "innovative functions" and not enough on the practical day-to-day problems of our law enforcement and correctional officers.

I do not disparage the value of or the philosophy behind the requirement of "innovative function." In fact, I have already encouraged in Maryland the use of the tools available to us in this electronic age by sponsoring budgetary legislation that will provide our State and the metropolitan Baltimore area with computerized record keeping of criminal data.

But even with such steps, how can we expect professional production from our law enforcement officers, our correctional officers, and our parole and probation personnel when we pay them salaries in some areas of our country equivalent to those of common laborers? Thus, while I favor the provisions of H.R. 5037 for planning and program grants to state and local governments, and its encouragement of innovative efforts against street crimes, I cannot help but feel that we are