

overlooking the "nuts and bolts" of this problem. We should be putting more and better qualified law enforcement officers on the street, more and better qualified correctional officers in our penal institutions, and finally, more and better qualified officers in a position to supervise our parole and probation subjects.

We have attempted in our State to do something about this aspect of the problem this year by specific State grants to local governments for public safety. Included in a new fiscal reform package enacted by the Legislature is \$15,846,000 in State aid for this purpose.

But increasing the budgets of police departments is only a fragment of the job to be done. Prosecutors, judges, the prison administration and the parole board all must cooperate in a coordinated effort to improve law enforcement. All are indispensable links in the chain.

Necessary to all of these efforts, if we are to successfully combat crime, is a larger effort to rehabilitate the environment which breeds and sustains crime. The struggle against poverty, slums, ignorance and prejudice is overwhelming in scope and by its very nature slow and gradual. But unless we prevail in this effort, all others will be for naught. It encompasses the whole spectrum of our community life—education, family organization, employment opportunities, and housing.

H.R. 5037 should serve as a catalyst to encourage our states and cities, with the assistance of the Federal government, to begin remedial action in a concerted effort to fight crime. It is a beginning only. The challenge is not solely a law enforcement problem but summons all the resources of the community. While we may dispute the priorities that must be established, and the mechanics to be employed through legislation such as this, there is certainly no dispute as to the enormity of the problem and the absolute necessity for cooperative and concerted action at every level of government. I therefore endorse wholeheartedly H.R. 5037 as a first step in our nationwide effort to fight crime and strongly urge its passage by the Congress.

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