

and revitalization of Maryland's police, correctional and criminal justice procedures. Intergovernmental cooperation — both regional and national — is imperative, for crime neither knows nor respects *political boundaries*.

The prison riots of last July, November and January, symptoms of a sick system, were assigned causes by the Attorney General's investigation. Statistical evidence alone indicates formidable flaws — seven out of every ten convicts released from Maryland's prisons return to serve another term. Under the new Commissioner of Correction, major reforms, dynamic vocational rehabilitation programs and psychological training for prison guards are already in planning.

Thus far, I have outlined the State's strategy in its war against crime. I have set forth major battle plans designed to assure victory. Yet we may lose this war if we fail to excite and enlist the citizen-soldier. The State has provided funds to improve police pay. The State has provided programs to upgrade police performance. The State has financed equipment to expedite efficiency. However, the State *cannot* provide the policeman with the respect, the cooperation and the prestige which he deserves. Only the public can do that.

The public must learn that the cop on the beat, the patrolman in blue, is on our side in this war. His uniform is the uniform of our troops. A policeman's badge should command the same respect granted a soldier's green beret, a sailor's dolphin, a pilot's wings.

Insufficient recruitment and a lack of respect for law and order are the major problems confronting law enforcement agencies today. Both problems can be traced directly to the public's disinterest.

You, the State leaders of the American Legion — whose interest and ability have brought you to this convention today — can enlist in this war at home. You can serve your State with the same valor that you served your nation. You can sponsor Maryland's Crusade against crime in your community by enlisting all the energy and resources of your organization.

What is your duty as a citizen-soldier?

*One:* To conduct your personal life so that no aid or comfort is inadvertently given to the enemy. To assure that no nickel, dime or dollar earned in your home is invested in the so-called innocent, illegal vices.

*Two:* To develop a reverence for law and a respect for those that enforce it within your home.