

American home. There had to be protection for the man who earned his daily bread by the honest sweat of his brow. The sanctity of the Law had to be upheld for the good of the civilization which had made that Law.

Fantastic things have happened since those early days. Skyscrapers of steel and concrete have grown many times higher than the forest trees. The traveler from coast to coast is carried at unbelievable speed whether over the earth or high above it. But the lawbreakers and the highwaymen are with us still. The modern outlaw has many times the urge to steal and he is many times the more clever at his work.

Fortunately, the methods of law enforcement have matched him step for step. The lawbreaker of today has to contend against a professional posse out to hunt him down. The new law-protectors are selected for their high qualities of manhood—physical bravery, intelligence, endurance, perseverance and moral honesty. They are trained, as you men know, with all the care and science at the disposal of State and Federal Governments. Our Nation's police have become our Nation's soldiers who are engaged in a constant, never-lagging warfare. Into your hands is given the responsibility for our domestic security. And your officers and trainers are charged to see to it that you are such men as will deserve this kind of responsibility.

Law enforcement is one of the most vital activities of any organized society. When that service is incompetently performed, the person and property of the average citizen is in danger. In a word, the officers and members of the various law enforcement agencies throughout the Country stand as a constant guard between the citizen, his property, and the forces of depredation and crime. Yet, although these are statements of fact which will not be disputed by anyone, it was only in recent years that attention was given to the high advisability of a special course of intensive training to those so vitally engaged.

Experience in recent decades has demonstrated over and over again that the competent law enforcement officer must be possessed of qualifications not limited merely to honesty and energy. In the earlier years of our Country's history, when our population was widely scattered, for the most part; when the towns and cities were relatively small; when the means of travel were limited; the test of honesty and energy as the sole qualification for the law enforcement officer seemed largely to be all that was needed.

The fact is that, in thousands upon thousands of instances, officers possessed of no greater qualification, did accomplish almost remarkable results. But with the coming of our vast growth, concentrated centers, the automobile as a means of transportation—and now the airplane, there has been introduced a vastly increased complexity of life, which in turn confronts the officers of law enforcement with vastly increased complexities of detection and identification.

So much did this come to be so in the late twenties, that even the agencies of the Federal Government, engaged in this sort of work, were confronted with such frequent failure that public opinion demanded a drastic change. Then it was that the genius of J. Edgar Hoover was given free rein in this field. The result was that the abbreviated name, FBI, has since become a synonym for well-nigh perfect law enforcement. This result did not come about through the operation of honesty and energy alone. It was produced by an organization