

time has the leak finally undone the object of the work. Many a criminal has left the trial court after a miscarriage of justice as a result of too much talk on the part of those who otherwise sincerely worked to accomplish justice.

The rule of cooperation and silence may at times be discouraging to the individual. In the long run, however, it will prove to be the right rule, even from the standpoint of personal pride and credit. An occasional "beat" may produce encouraging headlines in the local press for the individual officer who directly or indirectly furnishes the information which produces the "beat," but such efforts will so interfere with justice and disorganize the Department in charge, that the final result will ordinarily be failure so far as even personal credit is concerned.

If however, by cooperation, skilled work and silence, the Department of which the individual as a member builds up a credit which is a source of universal pride, then the member will find reasonably ample compensation in being able to say or have it known that he is a part of such Department. So it will follow that, in the particular branch of public service in which you gentlemen are engaged in your various communities, the individual who as an individual deserves praise, will not always get public credit; except as a member of the Department—the credit of which he has helped to build.

I said before, and it is worth repeating, that a nation's place in civilization can best be judged by the laws it makes and enforces. By that token the attitude of the public is a direct reflection of the way in which a police force carries out its duty.

I think it is highly significant, and the greatest of compliments, that the American public has made heroes of its national police. Nowhere in this land but the G-Man is a name of pride and a byword for bravery and efficiency.

This is no accident. This sort of reputation only belongs to those who have earned it. In assuming your new duties you will undertake a large obligation. You have inherited a reputation that is yours to maintain and to glorify. And all the more so when you consider the happy contrast between the police in this Country and in certain others. You will not be asked to snatch honest men from their beds at night and fling them into confinement where they languish without hope of rescue or trial. You are not spies but keepers-of-the-peace; you are not feared and hated by your own people, but you bask in the admiration and approval of all honorable Americans.

Accordingly, men, I congratulate you on your attainment. But with this added power goes additional responsibility which devolves upon you. It would seem quite unnecessary to charge you with your abstract responsibilities. As heroes, you will behave like heroes; as holders of the People's faith, you will deserve that faith. You are soldiers of justice and watchmen of freedom. Into your keeping goes the opportunity for honest men to live the American way. Your performance is constantly on view—not only before your Countrymen, but before the whole civilized world.

May you continue to represent all that is worthwhile in American life. May you continue to demonstrate that the American system of government is capable of meeting any challenge from within as well as from without. In striving to uphold democratic institutions and well-ordered government, you will be repay-