

Call a Cop

By Charles Francis Coe
Eminent Criminologist and Author of
"Mr. X's Gangster," "Swag," "Votey"
... and other startling crime stories.

THE REMEDY FOR IT ALL

ARTICLE No. 3

IN A recent notorious case three grand juries were conducting separate investigations of the same crime. Three prosecutors were seeking solution of the crime and conviction of the same criminal. Three state governments were trying to find what they ought to do about it.

During this time the criminal was living a riotous life on the proceeds of his endeavors. That is not unusual, but it is ridiculous. The cost is beyond all sense and reason. It is as criminal as the crime under investigation.

A man shot a man in New York. He dragged the body to New Jersey and dumped it there. Then he dashed to Delaware to hide out. They found him there. Three investigations were begun to determine what to do with him and where to do it. Two extraditions were necessary to bring the killer to trial. Mounting taxes and infinite delay for offended society!

That is a simple case. Take any three states and counties, and the same would be true. All this abets the criminal. He runs to another state solely to accomplish the very delay that accrues.

While juries meditate what to do shyter lawyers produce a habeas corpus and the criminal has flown the coop before there is any legal instrument to hold him. This was all too frequently true when the killing was a gang one and the habeas financed by millions in bootleg money. It is equally all too true that the prosperity and safety of the criminal have been predicated upon his money and its corruptive power. Legal technicalities have served to liberate many a killer, and those technicalities have been discovered and allowed only because of influence.

The connection between the police and the criminal is the most disastrous faced by society. Perfect it and society is utterly defenseless. It has come to its greatest fruition under prohibition because of lack of sympathy for the law and the ease with which millions have trickled into unworthy palms. The criminal always has it on the police who have taken bribes. They have it on prosecutors seeking re-election and judges dependent upon the same thing. It has made a vicious circle.

Well-planned murder is almost impossible to detect and convict. This is due to the planning and the apparent lack of motive in people who had opportunity to kill. We may know the cause and the source of murder but we cannot prove them in court. So murder becomes easy. It was easy because of this connection between the law and the law-breaker. Such connections are inevitable in great cities with laws like prohibition battering at the foundations of honest enforcement.

Now how break up that connection? With bootleggers turned racketeers and kidnapers, how handle them? The kidnaping will die away because no one can protect it long. The racketeering will continue because business finds it cheaper to pay tribute than to risk life and property fighting. Yet we must break up the racket.

It is my judgment that federal action is the only solution. Uncle Sam with his long arm can reach over extraditions. He can batter down alliance between law and crime. He can step into a city and demand the facts. He can do that because he will not long remain in any one city. Not long enough for his officers to get tangled in the web of dirty money that flows in the urban streets of America. The federal officer may not be more honest inherently than the local one. But he has an esprit de corps which only passing contact with local conditions never can shatter.

I favor a national police force for criminal investigation and prosecution. I feel that the people of the country soon will be forced to demand it. America's great cities have doubled police forces in the last 30 years, and the crime rates have increased twice as much as the police!

I see no need of county governments. They are an expensive, a cumbersome method of maintaining political patronage, and generally a hindrance to direct and economical government. Why the city or village should arrest a man for crime, only to have him tried by the county and imprisoned by the state, I shall never understand. If I rely upon political surveys by purveyors of political patronage, of course I might see a good reason for such round-about methods. But I do not rely upon those. That is a political chicanery which long since has perished in the minds of a tax-burdened, crime-ridden people.

If every city in the United States did away with its criminal investigation police and turned that function over to the federal government, I believe crime would be reduced to its minimum in very brief time. If cities handled traffic, protected life and property and policed as the uniformed force generally does, there would be no important corruption. If, when major criminal offenses were recorded in any city, the federal government gave that city three days to apprehend the criminal, then, that failing, took over the investigation itself, there could be no corruption that would revert to destruction of honest investigation and expeditious solution of crime. What is more, I believe that day will come.

The detectives of the United States will be like its soldiers. They will never know their next point of call. They will operate under centralized orders from Washington. They will have at their fingertips a complete international identification bureau. They will use radio, telegraph, telephone, photography, fingerprints, Bertillon measurements. Use, in fact, every science known to criminal detection. And they will succeed in their job only as they succeed in the individual tasks of solution laid upon their shoulders. And more than that, they will walk through absurd extradition folderol as a freeman goes through a wisp of smoke.

Crime will be against society, not against a county or a city or a state. Prosecution will be by society, not by a politically-controlled organization dependent for a living upon the votes of a few communities. Crime will be a high menace to the decency of life, the administration of business and the sanctity of the home. It will be treated as such. Then solution will be sure in the vast majority of cases. Then prosecution will be genuine and speedy and efficacious. Then a change of venue will temper justice with mercy and "mercenary" with justice.

Until then the country will stagger along under ever-increasing police and prosecution costs. It will carry the endless burden of county bonds and county taxes. And by every indication, crime will constantly increase. How many of America's great cities are solvent today? Why? America, with the most outrageous murder rate ever known to a civilized land, is in my judgment, the most law-abiding nation on earth. This is true because America stands for more ridiculous and politician-made laws than any other country. Technical legal expressions are the fruit of legalized law-makers justifying their own existence. They have specialized to such an extent that their complete success is the root of common equity and average comprehension. Strictly speaking, not a single American is free from the taint of criminal activity.

He may speed in his motor car. A crime! He may not sound his horn. A crime! He may run a wire to light his chicken coop and forget that he should apply for a permit. A crime! I could go on forever.

Millions of laws govern Americans and the greatest of the legal minds have not the slightest idea of most of them, nor their import. A favorite court procedure is to face a situation requiring adjudication, then cast back as far as necessary for a precedent by which to judge it. In this age, when the machine and science and invention have altered the whole course of human life, legal lights frequently cast back for precedent to the judgment of men who never dreamed of a horseless carriage, who read by the light of a tallow candle, bathed in an iron tub, let their teeth decay as the years passed, and because it traveled 25 miles an hour damned the railroad train as a device of the devil for the destruction of man.

This must pass. America will throw off this yoke of archaic habit. The people, fed up with Main street murders, idiotic legal subtleties and outright corruption, will assert themselves. They will put a direct question. They will want and they will get a direct answer.

You will be entirely safe in the prognostication that when they do get it it will come from one no less than Uncle Sam himself. When the beard of that gentleman bristles with indignation and his mighty bleeps write for a whack at the desperado who is the national problem and the international disgrace, things will happen. Not until then!

Scotland Yard offers a lot America can learn. Half as efficient as the New York police, it is twice as effective. Mussolini offers a ponderable thought to Americans. Undertaking government when his country was crime-ridden and virtually hopeless of deliverance, he has cleaned it up, polished it, renewed its public pride. He offers it as a sample of what centralized power can do when it comes to decapitating a monster spawned in ignorance, nurtured on the milk of murder, trained to the brass knuckle and the blackjack, and fattened upon the lethargic and somewhat hopeless incomprehension of a great people with too much faith in those who have usurped the powers of their local governing functions.

Call a cop! Call a cop by all means. But may God grant that he will, figuratively, wear striped trousers, a spangled coat, a flaring plug hat and a flowing beard. Then he will be the cop who will spell deliverance for American business and home life. He will be Uncle Sam.

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Short-Term Senator
The membership of the senate is divided into thirds so that one-third expires every two years. When a senator dies or resigns leaving an unexpired term, his successor is appointed or elected only for the remainder of the term. This is referred to as a short term. Sometimes it may happen that at the November election a candidate is running for election for the short term which would have lasted until inauguration day, and either he or some other candidate would be running for the long term which would last for six years beginning with the following term.

Made Jefferson President

Matthew Lyon, Irish Boy Who Was Sold for a Yoke of Oxen and Was Congressman From Two States, Kept Burr From White House.

Nearly two centuries ago, July 14, 1750, there was born in Ireland a boy destined to become a big business man, to represent two of our states in congress and to cast the deciding vote for a President of the then unthought-of United States of America, Mary Gilbert Smith writes, in the Boston Globe.

His father, a member of a prominent family, was executed for his part in the White Boys' insurrection. His mother married again. Young Matthew Lyon, studious and enterprising, was well treated by his stepfather, who was proud and fond of the boy.

But he had heard of the strange new land beyond the seas and longed to try his fortunes there. One morning when he was fourteen he bargained with a sea captain to carry him to the province of Connecticut in return for his services as cabin boy. He had a guinea which he had saved from his pocket money, and he gave this to the captain for safe-keeping.

The captain hid him in the hold, so that no one would find him before the vessel sailed, and took the precaution to lock him in. Had he not done so, young Matthew's adventure would have ended that same morning. When his stepfather came seeking him, and called to him affectionately, the lad would have responded at once had he not been restrained by the locked door.

When they reached Connecticut, the captain betrayed the boy's trust by selling him into service as a "redeemable"—one of those impecunious emigrants who paid for their passage to the New world by serving as bond-servants for a number of years.

Fortunately for young Matthew, his services were secured by Jabez Ba-

con, one of the wealthiest merchants in Connecticut; he was worth half a million when he died—a vast sum for those early days. His example and precepts did much to set the ambitious boy on his way. Trade at that time was largely by barter. Bacon gave a yoke of oxen for Lyon's services until he was twenty-one.

In after years when the young Irishman was a candidate for office this incident was distorted by his political opponents to show that he was of low origin and unfit to be a representative in congress. Lyon never apologized for the manner of his entry into Connecticut nor told of the deception that had been practiced upon him. Rather, he acted as if it were something he was proud of. He swore "by the bulls that redeemed me" to beat his opponents—and he did.

Of his work here, J. A. Graham, in a book published in London in 1797, says in part:

"Fair Haven joins on Skeneborough (now Whitehall, N. Y.) and is the most flourishing manufacturing town in the state. It owes its consequence to its founder, Colonel Lyon, whose enterprise and perseverance in promoting and carrying on manufactories has been of infinite utility to the public. He has erected a furnace for casting all kinds of hollow iron ware and two forges, a slitting mill for the making of nail rods, a paper mill, a printing press and corn and sawmills.

"It is a curious fact that Colonel Lyon has executed a good deal of printing at his office, on paper manufactured by himself of the bark of the basswood tree, and which is found to answer every purpose for common printing.

"He has held some of the first of-

nces of the state and no man in it can be more qualified to do so, as his knowledge of the finances and situation of the country is scarcely to be equaled, nor does his integrity ever suffer him to lose sight of the real good of the people. His friendship and generosity are as great as his ambition. His passions and all his pursuits are exerted for the benefit of mankind."

Zenas H. Ellis of Fair Haven, who lives in the old Matthew Lyon home, has gathered a notable collection of Colonial relics, including a copy of the above-mentioned book and one of Franklin's autobiographies. "Together with Essays Humorous, Moral and Literary, chiefly in the manner of the Spectator. Printed and sold by J. Lyon, Fair Haven, Vt., 1798."

James Lyon was the eldest son of Col. Matthew Lyon. The book is printed on paper made in Colonel Lyon's mill and bound in leather tanned in his tannery.

It was James Lyon who published at Fair Haven the paper in which was printed Matthew Lyon's article attacking President John Adams, which caused Colonel Lyons' arrest under the alien and sedition law. He was fined \$100 and sentenced to four months' imprisonment at Vergennes.

He was in jail at the time of the congressional election, but his constituents rolled up so large a majority for him that he was released to return to congress. The largest crowd assembled in Vermont in early days sped him on his way. He arrived in time to cast the decisive vote that made Thomas Jefferson President over Aaron Burr.

The restless spirit of the pioneer now urged Matthew Lyon to turn from things accomplished to a new country where everything was yet to be done. In Fair Haven he was at the head of a household of 16. Leaving his sons in charge of his many enterprises, he went to Arkansas and later to Kentucky, the next state after the original 13 to be admitted to the Union. Here he made his home for the rest of his life, and from here he was again returned to congress.

Radio May Be Weapon in Pest Extermination

Several years ago the writer made some preliminary tests on small quantities of infested wheat with a view to determining if radio methods could be effectively used to exterminate the eggs and larval forms which may be concealed within the material, as well as the adult insects.

Thirty and six-meter waves were used, the former of low capacity and the latter of high capacity. The 30-meter low-capacity waves were effective in exterminating adult insects in small quantities of wheat within a period of about 90 seconds, but the eggs later hatched out. With the 20-kilowatt, 6-meter waves, an exposure of six seconds was sufficient to exterminate eggs, larvae and adults.

The testing plant has been in operation for a year and many kinds of infested materials have been successfully treated, including wheat, corn, flower and garden seeds, tobacco, spices, nuts, beans, peas, cocoa beans, packaged and bulk milled cereals, and so on.

Results of the writer's research work indicate definitely that weevils in all stages of their development, from eggs to adults, can be exterminated without injury to the germinating properties of grain, or appreciably affecting the moisture content, and without adversely affecting the food value. There are indications that the germinating properties of wheat and other seeds treated may be enhanced.

Worms, mites and other infestations of cocoa beans, spices, tobacco, nuts, packaged cereals, and so on, can be exterminated without injury to the products treated. Where the equipment is properly installed there are no adverse effects upon persons working or stationed in the vicinity of the apparatus.—J. H. Davis in the Scientific American.

Atlas Handicapped

Atlas may have carried the world on his shoulders, but he never could see what was going on there.

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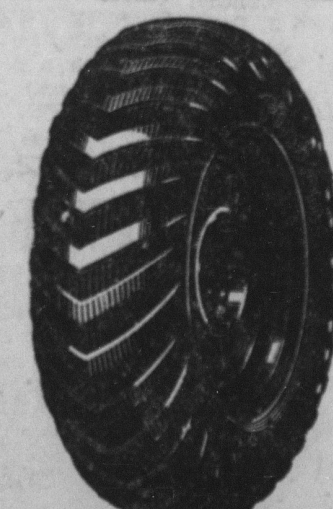
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