

Editorial Department

A Call for Action

Just as we go to press comes the astonishing and heart-stirring flash of news over the radio that America's outstanding hero and his equally remarkable wife have been forced to leave their native land in order to assure protection to their little son, lest he meet the same fate that overtook their first-born child. What has become of law, justice and honor in this America of ours! It is indeed time for every father and mother; every group of individuals who are interested in the welfare of children; every person who has any relationship to law making and enforcement to rise en masse and demand such strenuous restrictions and actions by federal authorities, by state legislatures, by civic governing councils that criminals of the type so low as to prey upon the sanctity of parenthood will be forced, by fear of rapid and extreme penalties, to desist.

Political dishonor, misplaced sympathy of fanatical reformers, bribe-taking officials have brought us to a condition where the criminal is so certain that he will escape the full penalty of his crime that he is bold, relentless and cruelty personified.

Why is England chosen as a place of refuge? Because their laws mean something. Wrongdoers are punished quickly and decisively. Kidnapping of children, the most despicable of all crimes, is unknown. America can learn a great deal in law enforcement from this country across the sea. There they are more concerned with the welfare of the innocent victims than with the reformation of the hard-hearted, mentally warped aggressor. Hence the latter has a wholesome respect for the courts of justice. He knows that he must pay the price of his misdemeanor. Until American courts have, by rigid and rapid actions, regained a similar respect from those who now laugh at the methods of meting out punishment, no child, either in our own family or in the homes of our clientele, is safe from depredation by this inhuman type of being.

Orthodontists, who confine their professional tasks almost exclusively to children, certainly should feel a responsibility in promoting and aiding all efforts devoted to a reformation in law enforcement. New federal laws may be required, but most of our states have laws of sufficient force and penalty to cover the problem well. Therefore, we should work earnestly for the creation of such widespread sentiment for dealing with crime to the

limit of these laws that judge and jurors will cease to be lenient and public officials will fear to dishonor their trusts. America's dishonor must be accepted as the personal dishonor of each individual citizen and it will remain personal to all who sit quietly by and permit conditions to remain as they now are. We need citizens of the Lindbergh type. There are far too few of them to spare any. Forced to another land for the protection of their beloved child, who can censure them if they remain there until conditions have changed sufficiently in the country of their birth to assure equal safety to that which seems certain in the country of their adoption.

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