

CRIME AND THE ELDERLY, 1975

HEARING
BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGING
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON
LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE
UNITED STATES SENATE

NINETY-FOURTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

EXAMINATION OF THE CRIMINAL THREAT CONFRONTING
SENIOR CITIZENS IN OUR SOCIETY

HYATTSVILLE, MD

AUGUST 13, 1975

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CRIME AND THE ELDERLY, 1975

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 1975

U.S. SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGING,
COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE,
Hyattsville, Md.

The subcommittee convened in the library of the Rollingcrest Junior High School, 6100 Sargent Road, West Hyattsville, Md., at 9:30 a.m., Hon. J. Glenn Beall, Jr., presiding pro tempore.

Present: Senator Beall.

Staff present: James Murphy, subcommittee counsel; and David A. Rust, legislative assistant (Aging) to Senator Beall.

Senator BEALL. Ladies and gentleman, with your indulgence, we will get the hearing underway. Rather than use this hand microphone, can everybody hear?

[Shouts of "No."]

All right, I will use the hand microphone. I am happy that we are able to be here today to participate in this hearing on crime and the elderly, and I am especially pleased that the subcommittee has agreed to convene in Prince Georges County. These field hearings give the Subcommittee on Aging an opportunity to see how programs and problems are being handled on the State and local level.

With me at the table is Mr. David Rust, who represents the minority side on the Subcommittee on Aging staff, and joining me on my right in a few minutes will be Mr. James Murphy, who is the chief counsel to the Subcommittee on Aging of the U.S. Senate.

The National Crime Panel survey report, which was issued in November 1974, stated that:

During the first 6 months of 1973, crimes of violence and common theft, including attempts, accounted for approximately 18 million victimizations of persons age 12 and over, households, and businesses.

And on July 22, the Department of Justice reported that: "Serious crime in the United States rose 18 percent during the first 3 months of 1975." Attorney General Levi called this epidemic of crime "one of the terrifying facts of life, which we have come to accept as normal, and which we must not accept as normal."

In his June 19, 1975, message to Congress on crime, President Ford stated that:

Law makes human society possible. It pledges safety to every member so that the company of fellow human beings can be a blessing instead of a threat. It is the instrument through which we seek to fulfill the promise of our Constitution: to insure domestic tranquility.

But America has been far from successful in dealing with the sort of crime that obsesses America day and night—I mean street crime, crime that invades our

neighborhoods and our homes—murders, robberies, rapes, muggings, holdups, break-ins—the kind of brutal violence that makes us fearful of strangers and afraid to go out at night.

I sense, and I think the American people sense, that we are facing a basic and very serious problem of disregard for the law. Because of crime in our streets and in our homes, we do not have domestic tranquility.

The President went on to note that:

For too long, law has centered its attention more on the rights of the criminal defendant than on the victim of crime. It is time for law to concern itself more with the rights of the people it exists to protect.

Recent crime statistics are startling to every individual in this country, and indeed they may reveal inadequacies in our present criminal justice system. But these statistics are particularly disconcerting to senior citizens who are less able to resist becoming victims of crime.

In addition, elderly persons, recognizing their vulnerability to personal attack, are more cautious and security conscious than other groups, and therefore expose themselves less frequently to risk situations. Certainly, commonsense seems to tell us that since elderly people are less able to resist a criminal assault, they would be more attractive victims to a criminal.

The current data does not reveal how many senior citizens are actually exposed to a high crime-risk situation in a given period of time. As stated by the LEAA Administrator in a presentation to the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging's Subcommittee on Housing for the Elderly, on August 2, 1972:

A senior citizen who either locks himself in his apartment in fear of even venturing out into a once familiar and safe neighborhood or one who must take elaborate and unpleasant precautions whenever taking a short trip through an urban area does, in fact, reduce the chances of being victimized by crime.

A survey of various American cities shows a clearer picture of the crime threat confronting older persons. For example, a survey by LEAA of victimization rates in Baltimore, Maryland, indicated that persons 50 years old and older had twice the victimization rate for robbery with injury than persons aged 20 to 24 years old.

Moreover, elderly persons were found to be victims of personal larceny at a rate of 19 per 1,000 as compared to a rate of 6 per 1,000 for 20-year-olds.

Many elderly people have the feeling that they must always remain at home in order to combat crime, or if they must go out, never to venture onto the city streets alone. The picture is a bleak one. Because they travel mostly by bus or subway, older people must wait for public transportation at designated points—and these points are well known to would-be assailants. Mail boxes in unguarded vestibules are the province of thieves who know when social security checks arrive.

In addition, let me note that no segment of our population is more directly affected by crime or the fear of crime. Senior citizens are all too often the victims of crimes while millions of others change their lifestyles in an effort to avoid being victimized by street criminals. It is time for us to attack this problem by developing, on the State and local level, comprehensive plans for effectively combating crimes against the elderly.

In developing the 1973 amendments to the Older Americans Act, Congress directed the State and local agencies on aging to coordinate their activities with other governmental units to maximize services to the elderly. "Toward a New Attitude on Aging," the final report of the 1971 White House Conference on Aging, recommended the establishment of "formal liaison between social service agencies and police departments so that the elderly victims of crime can obtain all necessary assistance."

During today's hearing, the subcommittee will receive testimony from a series of panels comprised of a mixture of police and aging officials. I would hope that these witnesses will give us some insight into how well this objective is being achieved.

There is no legislation currently pending before this subcommittee that addresses itself to the issue of crime and its impact on senior citizens. I would note, however, that I did introduce legislation on June 4, 1975, that would amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to add a requirement that the comprehensive State plan include provisions for the prevention of crimes against the elderly. Senate bill 1875 was referred to the Judiciary Committee, which has jurisdiction over such legislation. In addition, I am a cosponsor of S-985 which would expedite the replacement of lost or stolen social security checks. This legislation is pending before the Finance Committee.

Before Congress can adequately legislate in the area of crime and the elderly, we must obtain data on all aspects of the problem. That is the purpose of today's hearing.

Hopefully, as a result of the testimony we hear today, we will be able to come up with some meaningful legislation that will ease this problem of crime against the elderly.

Our first witness this morning is the Honorable Charles R. Work, who is Deputy Administrator of the law enforcement assistance administration.

Mr. Work, we would be happy to have you come to the table and present your testimony, as you see fit.

STATEMENT OF HON. CHARLES R. WORK, DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION

Mr. WORK. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the opportunity to testify before you today about the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration's efforts to alleviate the problem of crime against the elderly.

Mr. Chairman, your interest in the welfare of the aged is well-known, and I am sure I need not go into detail to describe the unhappy circumstances in which many of the elderly live out their lives. In the constellation of problems facing this age group, crime and fear obviously loom large.

From one perspective, the entire Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) program benefits older citizens at least indirectly. For its goal is to enhance the safety of all citizens.

Because of the special needs of senior citizens, however, LEAA is supporting a number of different projects which we hope will help to diminish the impact of crime and fear on older people.

At the outset, however, a word of caution. A preliminary examination shows that the statistics with respect to elderly victimization need to be very closely scrutinized indeed.

One interpretation of LEAA's victimization study shows that the highest rate of victimization occurs in the younger age groups. And in general, with respect to overall crime rates, persons 65 and over have the lowest rates of all.

Despite what our commonsense and newspaper headlines seem to indicate, however, statistics show that the elderly are not more likely to be victimized by crime. LEAA's victimization studies show that the highest rate of victimization occurs in the younger age groups, with each older group having progressively lower rates. Persons 65 and over had the lowest rates of all.

We believe, however, that these preliminary statistics do not tell the whole story. We know that the elderly are least able to defend themselves. Beneath the statistical surface may well lie an important and serious victimization problem. We do not know, for example, to what extent the statistics reflect a fear of crime that keeps many of the elderly in our cities virtual prisoners in their homes and apartments. Add to this the diminished activity and the increased infirmity that often accompany aging, and you have a group of people who are not as often in high-risk crime situations.

In the usual sense of the word, they may not be victimized, but such fragile safety exacts a high price by reducing their freedom to move about and, in particular, their peace of mind.

An important preliminary step in devising effective crime prevention programs for older people is to develop more meaningful statistics on victimization. As part of our continuing National Crime Panel, LEAA will attempt to develop instruments that will uncover factors impinging upon victimization of the elderly, and use the data as a foundation for future planning efforts. At the same time, of course, this data will be made available to other Federal, State and local agencies which are working to aid the elderly.

While there may be some uncertainty about the statistics regarding crime victimization among older citizens, there is, I believe, little question about the vulnerability of older citizens—physical, psychological and financial. The theft of a television set to a younger person with a relatively good income is certainly a misfortune, but to the social security recipient person on a fixed income, living alone, it can be a tragedy.

Similarly, the fear of physical violence is particularly debilitating to the elderly, and the loss of, say, a social security check may deal a devastating blow to meager financial resources.

We at LEAA are aware that for this group of people the needs are immediate and the response must be prompt. Under the block grant structure of our program, many of the problems are being confronted at the State and local level. Particular emphasis is being given to the problems of the elderly poor in public housing.

In Syracuse, New York, for example, LEAA block grant funds are being used for special security patrols and safety measures for elderly public housing residents. Plainfield, New Jersey, is equipping its senior citizens in a housing complex with closed-circuit television equipment and resident security aides. In your own State, Mont-

gomery County has just launched a project which will create a specially trained criminal justice response team consisting of a police officer, and a social worker to assist elderly victims of crime.

LEAA has also joined with HEW's Administration on the Aging in supporting a \$211,000 program to aid elderly crime victims in Kansas City. Kansas City found that their elderly citizens were being particularly victimized by burglaries. This project includes public education programs on ways to reduce crimes against the elderly, what we call target-hardening efforts—better locks, stronger windows and so forth—and the involvement of social service agencies with the criminal justice system to provide better service to older citizens. This project is emphasizing citizen and community involvement to help reduce the circumstances of crime against the elderly. Citizens are participating in the planning of priorities and activities, as well as being a part of the final decisionmaking process.

As part of a major LEAA program designed to promote better treatment for crime victims, witnesses and jurors, the Eastern Oklahoma Development District, which includes 49 incorporated communities, has begun a program which will compile statistics on crimes against the elderly and their special needs, create crime prevention programs designed to assist this age group, train law enforcement officers in special techniques for responding to elderly crime victims, devise a coordinated mechanism for delivering services to the aged, and identify and ease the problems which confront senior citizens when they are called upon to be witnesses or jurors. In the latter case, this would include transportation to and from police agencies and courts, and scheduling which minimizes waiting time and other inconveniences for senior citizens. Again, the hope is that the statistics and methods that flow from this particular effort can be replicated in other communities.

LEAA also is discussing with other Federal agencies and private organizations representing the elderly, having an interest in elderly programs, the feasibility of establishing a consortium to formulate national strategy for crime prevention programs for the aged. While the plans are still tentative, this approach would have the advantage of pooling limited Federal funds and tapping the enormous potential of elderly citizens to spearhead efforts to enhance their own safety. The reservoir of talent and experience that exists among senior citizens could benefit not only the elderly but their entire communities as well.

In LEAA's discretionary guidelines for grants in fiscal year 1976, we have set aside \$200,000 for special police programs to improve protection of the elderly. The two-phased program will produce a guide for police departments on how to provide better service and will create a training team to present a program in service for the elderly at police academies throughout the Nation.

Another important LEAA program which has direct implications for the senior citizen is the National District Attorney's Association economic crime project. The targets of this \$2 million effort are fraudulent schemes—auto repair, home improvements, land swindles—that bilk millions of dollars from unsuspecting citizens, many of them in the older age brackets. This is one of LEAA's programs that has actually repaid its cost in terms of recompensation, in returning

funds to victims of crime that have been defrauded. Fifteen district attorneys' offices throughout the country are participating in this project.

LEAA's research center, the National Institute of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, is moving ahead on several fronts in a creative fashion to bring some measure of relief to senior citizens. Several devices developed under the institute's auspices could mean new freedom and security for older people.

For example, an inconspicuous and low-cost personal alarm has been developed, small enough to be worn as a belt buckle or as a pendant. When triggered, this device emits a silent alarm which identifies the wearer and pinpoints his location. Use of this alarm is not limited to crimes, but to other emergencies as well—health, fires, and other dangerous situations. An example of how this might be used is that a person who would go to a laundry room of an apartment house or of a public housing development would be able to take with him this small pendant or this small belt buckle—and if he or she confronts a dangerous situation, he or she could press this alarm and it would signal the guard at the desk that most apartment buildings have and most public housing buildings have, and it would tell that guard at the desk that there was a particular problem in the laundry room, and it would also identify who it was that was having that problem. It is a low-cost device that has as its range an area like a parking lot, so that if there were a problem in the parking lot, that problem could be identified.

Researchers anticipate that for a relatively low cost the range can be extended substantially. At the present time it would include just an area like a parking lot or a laundry room or a dark hallway. Field tests of this new system will begin later this year in public housing, including a senior citizen complex in Elizabeth, N.J.

LEAA's research arm has also developed a reliable, low-cost burglar alarm for homes and apartments. Current estimates indicate that the new alarm device could be marketed at substantially lower cost than current systems, thus putting it within the financial reach of people on fixed incomes.

Many crimes are crimes of opportunity, encouraged by the ready accessibility of doors and windows that can be opened fairly easily. Through LEAA-sponsored tests, standards have now been developed for doors and windows which, if incorporated into State building codes, could make them far more resistant to illegal entry.

Some measures which can be undertaken by individuals are important. But community action is even more important. LEAA research has shown that the way our communities, neighborhoods and buildings are designed affects both the fact and the fear of crime.

In many communities, the environment is custom-made for crime. Streets are poorly lit and deserted, and bus and subway stops offer natural lurking places for the criminal. People are afraid to venture out, especially the elderly, or they move about in fear and suspicion of other citizens. Little by little, the sense of community that once existed in our cities and neighborhoods crumbles.

Several years ago, LEAA sponsored a landmark research study of public housing units in New York City, by the noted planner-

architect, Oscar Newman. Dr. Newman tested the effects of changes in the physical environment on crime and fear. The results were dramatic.

Comparisons were made in two housing projects identical in population density and social characteristics. The only difference was in physical design—one was principally a high-rise complex, the other a group of small, walkup buildings. The difference in crime rates was dramatic: the high-rise building had 65 percent more crime than the other project.

The research found that the high-rise buildings were unwatched and unwatchable. Hallways, elevators and lobbies were accessible to everyone, watched by no one and feared by all. In the walkup building, however, where a few families shared a common hallway or entry, the residents knew each other and more actively observed what was going on in and around their building.

Other housing units were redesigned and the results were the same. Altering the physical design of buildings encouraged residents to look out for their families and neighbors. For the elderly, this protective attitude can help to restore confidence and peace of mind.

LEAA calls this approach "Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design," and now is expanding the concept to other urban settings—residential neighborhoods, business districts, schools and transportation systems.

In one project, Portland, Oregon, will apply these concepts to a commercial area of the city. Part of their plan encourages residents to carry a minimum of cash and have payroll and social security checks mailed to the bank rather than to homes where they might be stolen from a mailbox. Low-cost transportation to and from the commercial area is also contemplated, and improved bus shelters will be equipped with toll-free telephones for summoning emergency assistance.

In all of the institute's environmental design projects the emphasis is not restricted to the physical aspects but extends to personal attitudes and behavior. Residents are urged to participate actively in making their streets and neighborhoods safer. This approach offers older citizens the opportunity to make use of a lifetime's experience and knowledge. By joining in such efforts, the senior citizen helps not only himself, but also the entire community. I can think of no more enduring legacy.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Senator BEALL. Thank you, Mr. Work, we appreciate your testimony here this morning.

What attempts, if any, have been made to coordinate the activities of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration with the Administration on Aging in HEW so that there can be an exchange of information on ways to solve these problems?

Mr. WORK. Well, as you know, Senator, the coordination among Government agencies, both at the Federal level and at the State and local level, is always a challenge. But, as I indicated in my testimony, we have embarked on one particular program that I think would be quite exciting. And we joined hands in that program with HEW's Administration on the Aging in a special grant to aid elderly crime victims in Kansas City.

So I think that we are beginning to make some progress in that direction. It strikes me that we have a great deal more, however, to do, both at the Federal level and at the State and local level. We are particularly cognizant of the fact that State and local authorities also have responsibility in this area—and our coordination must be vertical as well as horizontal.

Senator BEALL. Under the 1968 act, you are required to develop State plans. Do you suggest or ask State and local law enforcement agencies to consult with State and/or area agencies on aging in the formulation of their State plans?

Mr. WORK. We do not at the present time, Senator, require such a consultation. However, we encourage consultation with all levels of Government and with all concerns in State and local government in the formulation of those State plans. I must say to you that in the relatively short period of time that this program has been in existence—approximately 7 years—the planning effort has been substantially improved in most States, but there are still many topics—and I think that the topic of crime against the aging is one of these—that have not been as well-covered as they should have been at the State level.

The program, though, is developing an awareness to the problems of the aging that is a relatively new awareness. And I think that you will see, and it will be a source of satisfaction to you, I am sure, that a growing number of States will take up this cause on their own and will begin to make progress on it in the relatively near future.

Senator BEALL. Well, I think we will all be glad to see that. I could suggest that a lot of the emphasis for this comes from the bottom up rather than the top down—

Mr. WORK. There is no question about that.

Senator BEALL. I gather that the senior citizen organizations themselves are the motivating force behind a lot of the work that is taking place out in the field—and that is perfectly proper and as it should be.

I also think, however, that there is a responsibility on all of us who are associated with the Government to make sure that there is the proper coordination, so that we can get the maximum effectiveness out of the programs we develop—and, second, to get the maximum effectiveness in utilizing the taxpayers' money. We want to avoid the waste which often develops in the multiplicity of programs and agencies we create within the bureaucratic establishment.

Have you done any studies of how police, in their work, treat elderly victims of crime or what different techniques should be used in protection and/or treatment of these victims and the court processes used in handling their cases?

Mr. WORK. Well, we have embarked on a major study that considers the treatment by police and by courts, by prosecutors' offices, even public defenders' offices, on how victims and witnesses in general are serviced.

As I said in my testimony, we have a number of grants that focus specifically on the service to the aged and the senior citizens. But it is a problem that is shared by everyone who has to be a witness, who has to be confronted with a situation in which you have to go to a courthouse or down to a police station.

And one of the interesting studies that we have just completed is a

study in the District of Columbia in which the witnesses who were labeled by the prosecutors' office as uncooperative—some 900 of them—were sought out and interviewed. And it was found that in their minds they were not, for the most part, uncooperative at all, that they had just not gotten the word, that they had not even been told that they ought to come down to the courthouse where they were due to testify or that they ought to come down to the police department where they were due to look at some mug shots or attend a line-up. The word had just not gotten to them. The witness notification systems, the methods in this mass assembly line system that we call our criminal justice system had just not been sufficient to give them adequate notification.

Many of those that had received adequate notification stated that they were afraid to come down to the courthouse—they were afraid to testify against the defendant in a particular case.

Well, the results of that study were dramatic enough and convincing enough that the prosecutor in the District of Columbia, the U.S. Attorney, is taking some important steps to try to improve the service that he provides to witnesses and victims.

Now, the aged present special problems in that regard. Very frequently transportation is a much more difficult proposition for the aged. And, as I said in my testimony, a number of our grants that are focusing on the victim/witness problem are focusing on things like providing special transportation, special kinds of services to the aged, so that they take into account the circumstances that are unique among that particular population group.

Senator BEALL. You mentioned some statistics at the opening of your statement that indicated that statistically you have not been able to show that senior citizens as a group have a higher rate of victimization than the rest of our society.

Later in your statement you indicated that this is misleading, because many of our senior citizens stay home out of fear of becoming a victim of crime.

Mr. WORK. That is right.

Senator BEALL. So they are no less a victim. They are either a direct victim of crime when they are out in the street, but they are also victims of crime because they aren't able to go outside of their house. They sit home and cower in fear of venturing outside where they might become victims of crime.

Mr. WORK. Senator, there is no question about that. What I want to leave you within that statistical area is just the thought that we have to be cautious in our interpretation of crime statistics at this stage in their development, particularly when it comes down to looking at the problems of crime statistics by age group. And that just in gathering the raw statistics as respects any particular age group, we may not be telling the whole story.

And in addition to that, there may be particular crimes, like economic crimes or crimes of fraud in which there are higher victimization rates among the elderly. Those of us who live in this community and have lived in this community for a period of time don't need to be reminded of the home improvement fraud schemes that occurred here several years back and how much they preyed upon the senior citizen.

So the statistical picture does not give a complete view of that, and

we are trying to refine and improve our statistical figures. Our main statistical tool is the household survey. And there is no reason, in years to come, that our techniques can't be improved so that we can ask householders whether or not they actually spend extra time in their house, time when they might be out on the street—whether or not they venture out at night at all, for instance—which would help to measure, at least to a degree, the effects of fear on the individual citizen.

Senator BEALL. Thank you very much, Mr. Work, for coming here today, we appreciate your testimony.

Mr. WORK. Thank you, Senator.

Senator BEALL. Our next witness is Mr. Dale Bormuth, who is vice chairman of the Maryland Association of Retired People/National Retired Teachers Association Joint Legislative Committee.

Mr. Bormuth will you come up and present your testimony as you see fit.

I might ask all our witnesses, in the interest of time, if they would care to summarize their statements, we will place the entire statement in the record.

STATEMENT OF DALE BORMUTH, VICE CHAIRMAN, MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED PERSONS/NATIONAL RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION, JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE, ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED PERSONS/NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED TEACHERS

Mr. BORMUTH. Thank you very much, Senator Beall. We want to commend you for your extreme interest in the problems of the elderly. And I want to say that while George Sunderland was also listed on the program, I want to express his regrets that he is in Texas and his plane schedule was such that he could not be back here this morning. But he will be available for any questions that you people want to pose to him and discuss.

Now, as to the testimony here—Senator Beall, senior citizens, ladies and gentlemen, my name is Dale Bormuth. I am from College Park, Md. I am here to present the following statement on behalf of the National Retired Teachers Association/American Association of Retired Persons, the largest nonprofit organization for older Americans. We greatly appreciate this opportunity to appear before this committee.

The underlying philosophy of our organization, which has a combined membership of more than 8 million persons, is to meet the needs and concerns of all older Americans and to help them lead lives of dignity, independence and purpose. In the pursuit of these objectives, one of the major responsibilities of our organization is to be alert to the needs of older persons and even to anticipate those needs which have not yet clearly emerged. Thus, in 1972 we began to note from our own internal surveys as well as from other sources that crime or the fear of crime was pervading the lives of older Americans to such a degree that it was becoming a primary concern. A profile study of our members, done for the associations by the University of Michigan in 1962, confirmed our findings and they

were further reinforced that same year by a Gallup poll, reported in Time magazine. The largest survey of its kind, commissioned by the associations in 1973 and conducted by the University of Southern California on our membership, disclosed that other than problems related to income—adequate food, a place to live, the costs of health care—crime was their chief concern. The need was clearly evident, and the associations acquired staff in 1972 to research and prepare a program to assist our members, and all older Americans, in coping with crime.

Our efforts to establish an effective program posed several difficult questions. Where should we begin? In which direction should we bend our efforts? What course would lead us to the most effective immediate action? While we recognized the serious problems existing in both the courts and the correctional elements of the criminal justice system, and although we encourage research and improvement in both, we also felt that we should concentrate our efforts on immediate assistance to the older victim and potential victim.

For older persons, the present is more important than the hopes of the next generation. Therefore, we developed an educational crime prevention program, to provide our members and other elderly persons with practical, realistic ways of reducing their chances of criminal victimization.

Our initial efforts concentrated on those criminal activities of the most serious concern to older persons—street crime, residential burglary, and criminal fraud. In addition, in order to encourage community action in crime prevention and to foster increased interaction between law enforcement and the older population, we added a fourth segment on community-police relations. We are submitting for the record copies of material relating to this basic program.

In discussing crime against the elderly, we are faced with confusing and in some cases conflicting data. Whether older people are more or less frequent victims of crime than other age groups depends, we believe, upon the kinds of crime involved and the geographic locations. For example, we were told by one director of a metropolitan agency on aging that a survey of that area's elderly residents who had come into his office to receive their special transportation benefits, revealed that 100 percent of them had been mugged at least once during the previous year. On the other hand, from our own studies and other professional sources we find that in many parts of the country, the older person's fears are very often exaggerated.

We have found that in many localities the statistical probability of the older person's being victimized by stranger-to-stranger homicide, rape, or aggravated assault is quite low. For example, in one city of about 90,000 population there had not been a single case of stranger-to-stranger homicide in which the victim was 65 years of age or older in a period of 14 years. In another city of about 300,000, in the last reporting period of 1 year, there were two cases of homicide against persons 65 years of age or older, but in both cases the crimes occurred during family fights.

In considering the second most serious crime, that of rape, we again note that the statistical probability is very small where the victim is 65 years of age or older. Sometimes this low victimization rate is simply due to the fact that elderly persons have imposed self-imprison-

ment upon themselves during high-risk times. Of course, the older person is not likely to be hitch-hiking, picking up strange acquaintances in taverns, wandering the streets late at night, or engaging in other conduct which so often brings younger age groups into contact with criminal activity.

Such a comprehensive crime analysis would enable us to talk about specific crimes in specific localities at specific times in order to get an accurate picture of the crime problem rather than, as is done so often, approaching the problem of crime in one generalized mass as it affects the entire Nation. There is, of course, legitimate cause for fear on the part of many older persons with respect to certain crimes. In cases of purse-snatching, strong-arm robbery, and residential burglary, older persons are very often the victims. And in the matter of criminal fraud, they are victimized far out of proportion to their population numbers. In one survey we reviewed, we noted that more than 90 percent of the victims of one commonly practiced swindle were 70 years or older.

We do not agree with those who say that nothing can be done. Statements by national figures that law enforcement agencies can do very little in crime reduction are given wide publicity, but there are many things which can be done to help older persons cope with crime.

Technology has enabled us to substantially reduce some types of crime through the development and improvement of safes, vaults, locking devices, and alarms. Other examples, such as the exact-fare rule in public transportation, have brought about a substantial reduction in robberies and assaults on bus drivers. Through education, we can alert the older person to the kinds of swindles that are prevalent and can press for the institution of procedures such as having banks monitor large cash withdrawals. We address a number of these things in our structured crime prevention program which has been submitted to you.

By determining the patterns of criminal behavior, the individual can institute changes in his personal practices that will greatly reduce criminal opportunities. This requires commitment on the part of the individual. After a crime analysis has been completed and the problems are better understood, the individual can be made aware of the real dangers and alerted to precautionary measures. If indicated, exaggerated fears can also be reduced to rational levels.

The older person today, notwithstanding his socioeconomic or racial background, is not committing crimes against society to any significant degree. He is generally supportive of our institutions, believes in his country, and upholds his law enforcement agencies. The older person deserves protection and security.

If the older person does fall victim to criminal activity, we should provide victim assistance programs to help the older victim or the disadvantaged through the criminal justice system. He is quite often unfamiliar with the procedures for filing complaints, or testifying in courts, and he must be assisted. This is one of the legislative objectives of our national organizations. We are including for the record copies of these objectives for your information.

Speaking of legislation, a trend is developing which disturbs us. We have just reviewed 11 cases in which monetary damages have been awarded by civil courts in compensation for injuries sustained

in the course of criminal activity. Specifically, two cases are mentioned to illustrate the point more clearly:

(a) In New Jersey a homeowner shot and injured a burglar who was confronted during the burglary. The offender was convicted in criminal court of the crime of burglary, but was awarded \$6,000 in damages in civil court for the injuries inflicted upon him by the homeowner.

(b) In New York City, an individual was mugged by two criminals, and is now facing civil suit for injuries inflicted upon the muggers in the course of the crime. Only one State, to our knowledge, has enacted legislation to preclude recovery of damages in civil court for injuries sustained in the course of criminal activity. We commend this to your attention.

We urge that any effort to help older persons cope with crime not be lost in the maze of searching for the causes or roots of crime. We have gone through long periods blaming poverty and disadvantage for crime, yet more poor people do not commit serious crime, and recent surveys show affluent families are contributing more delinquents per capita than poor families. We have gone through long periods during which the criminal was considered to be sick, but this belief has now been abandoned by most psychiatrists. One psychiatrist is suggesting that society needs crime, wants crime, and revels in crime. Another suggests that crime is a product of boredom. A lengthy study recently completed by another researcher blames permissiveness and lack of religion. The true causes of crime are most likely combinations of all of these, but this is of little consolation to the older victim of criminal activity. We must take action now while others continue to seek the causes of crime.

We close this by quoting from the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice:

... The most natural and frequent question people ask about crime is: Why? They ask it about individual crimes and about crime as a whole. In either case, it is an almost impossible question to answer. Each single crime is a response to a specific situation by a person with an infinitely complicated psychological and emotional makeup who is subject to infinitely complicated external pressures. Crime as a whole is millions of such responses. To seek the "causes" of crime in human motivation alone is to risk losing one's way in the impenetrable thickets of the human psyche . . .

A simple but often overlooked fact is that crime is easy, profitable, exciting, and exposes the perpetrator to little risk. When a young man considers the alternatives, the criminal occupation is more rewarding than many other occupational opportunities. There must be a concerted effort to change this. There must be individual action to reduce criminal opportunities. There must be increased efforts to involve communities in crime-reduction programs. There are many examples of effective community programs that require little time from the participants and not much money from the community.

We are making our best efforts through our educational crime prevention program, for our members and for society. We are also engaged in conducting a series of seminars for law enforcement officers in various areas of the country to help them deal more effectively with older persons. As an educational, public service organization, we want to help make our streets and homes safe so that older persons may live out their lives in dignity, independence, and purpose.

I want to thank you and I will offer into the testimony here a book showing our program and how it has been set up. We have a department that works on this thing and they have film and many other devices.

Senator BEALL. Thank you, Mr. Bormuth, for your testimony.

AARP/NRTA has obviously done a great deal of work in providing adequate crime prevention education for senior citizens. Are you getting the kind of cooperation that you would hope to have from both the local, State, and Federal law enforcement officials as well as the various aging agencies on all levels so that you get wide distribution of the kind of material you think will be helpful?

Mr. BORMUTH. Well, it would be rather difficult for me to answer that. As I said, Mr. Sunderland would be more able to answer those questions, because he is working directly with this thing every day.

This is not my specialization at all, being in other phases of this thing.

Senator BEALL. Thank you very much, Mr. Bormuth, for your testimony.

[Additional material submitted by A.A.R.P., and N.R.T.A. and referred to in testimony by Mr. Bormuth follows:]

[Excerpt from HUD Challenge, September 1974, pp. 28-29]

Crime prevention for the elderly

George Sunderland

In 1972, the National Retired Teachers Association and American Association of Retired Persons (NRTA-AARP) initiated a crime prevention program conducted as a community service project for their six million members. The conceptual principle of the program is that effective crime prevention involves the anticipation, the recognition and the appraisal of a crime risk, and action to reduce or remove the risk.

Program responsive to elderly

The NRTA-AARP crime prevention program consists of four two-hour sessions on the subjects of street crime, residential burglary, criminal fraud and community police relations. A script is provided for each program coordinator to use in conducting the four sessions, and an informative film is included in each presentation.

During the developmental phase of this program, our associations undertook extensive research into the aspects of crime which most affect older persons and an examination of existing crime prevention activities. Using the data that were collected, we were able to design a program especially suited to the needs of the older population.

Our primary concern in structuring the program was to provide information about those crimes that are likely to be committed against the older person or which he fears most.

Although many older persons have long expressed fear of murder or rape, national statistics indicate that the elderly have a very low probability of becoming a

victim of these crimes. An examination of crime statistics from several major cities demonstrated further that the vulnerability of persons over sixty to murders or rapes committed on a stranger-to-stranger basis is even lower. We found that most of the crimes in these categories could have been avoided through use of simple crime prevention techniques which are incorporated in the NRTA-AARP program.

In another instance — burglary — despite statistical evidence that this is the most frequently committed crime, an analysis conducted in one major city disclosed that more than 35 percent of the residential burglaries were committed by persons entering through unsecured exterior openings. Here again a discussion of simple locks and other devices for protecting residences can be a positive deterrent to crime and at the same time allay unnecessary concerns of older persons.

Criminal fraud, we found, is a crime about which older persons seem to be largely unaware, but it should be one of their major concerns. It is the one crime which affects the older population out of proportion to its numbers.

Armed robbery is considered by the elderly as a great threat, but most often it deprives the victim of a very small amount of money. Swindles, however, can be much more devastating if the victim loses a "nest egg" which provides both tangible financial support and significant psychological satisfaction in later years.

But how can we effectively educate the older persons in methods to deter these "white collar" crimes?

Mr. Sunderland is coordinator of the crime prevention program of the American Association of Retired Persons/National Retired Teachers Association. This article is excerpted from HUD Challenge, September 1974, pp. 28-29.

COMMUNITY SCALE													
CRIMINAL ACTS	TYPE OF CRIME	TYPE OF CRIME											
		THEFT	ROBBERY	BURGLARY	CRIMINAL DAMAGE	DRUG VIOLATIONS	ALCOHOL VIOLATIONS	SEXUAL OFFENSES	ASSAULT	STREET CRIME	CRIMINAL FRAUD	CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE	CRIMINAL MISFEASANCE
C	THEFT												
	ROBBERY												
	BURGLARY												
	CRIMINAL DAMAGE												
S	DRUG VIOLATIONS												
	ALCOHOL VIOLATIONS												
	SEXUAL OFFENSES												
	ASSAULT												
E	STREET CRIME												
	CRIMINAL FRAUD												
	CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE												
	CRIMINAL MISFEASANCE												
SYNOPSIS													
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS													



Fig. 1: A typical crime prevention talk given to a group of senior citizens by Sgt. Dick Blankenship of the Crime Prevention Section of the Maricopa (Phoenix) County Sheriff's Office

Preventive measures taught

In the NRTA-AARP crime prevention program, we try first to convince the participant that anyone — at any age — of any intelligence — can be swindled. A recounting of case histories of swindles involving highly intelligent and knowledgeable persons is a significant educational tool in this respect.

As a second step, the program identifies the variety of bunco games which prey upon the uninformed and provides a list of key words or phrases to warn potential victims that a proposition is not entirely on the up-and-up.

Many times in speaking to this subject, I have been asked to describe the new bunco schemes, and indeed they are many. My reply, however, must be that our primary concern should be about the old ones since they are still working so well in updated versions. The old "snakeoil salesman" may appear as the peddler of quack food supplements or treatments for cancer, but the scheme remains the same.

The final segment of the NRTA-AARP program on community police relations was added to encourage individuals to work with existing law enforcement agencies to reduce the incidence of crime in their communities. Through the use of resource persons from law enforcement agencies at our crime prevention meetings, many persons have been informed of ways to support law enforcement efforts and to utilize more effectively the services of their local police or sheriff's department.

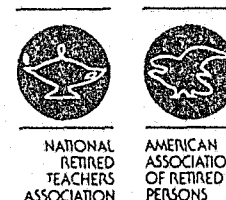
There have been significant spinoffs from this portion of the NRTA-AARP program. Once people began thinking in terms of preventing crime rather than resigning themselves to a feeling that nothing could be done, many innovative programs have been developed.

In one high-rise public housing project in a major city tenants were subjected to criminal attacks on their way to the bus stop — often while returning from the bank with Social Security money. Working in cooperation with the local transit authorities, the tenants and the project director were successful in having the bus stop moved to within view of the director's office door. A tenant-manned volunteer watch program was initiated so that the police department could be informed instantly if a crime situation developed. As a result of these actions, the crime problem for these tenants was to a great extent solved — without a great expenditure of funds.

In another instance, the burglary problem which had plagued tenants in an elderly housing unit was relieved by a change to inexpensive but more effective locks on apartment doors.

These crime prevention activities have demonstrated that there are many possibilities for reducing criminal victimization through immediate and often simple actions. Unfortunately the solutions to social and economic problems in our society which contribute to or actually cause criminal activity have not yet been found. But too often a concentration on these major issues leads us to overlook the immediate crime prevention measures which can help those most affected by crime.

[Excerpt from EKISTICS, Vol. 39, No. 231, February 1975]



April 1, 1975

CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAM

Our Associations, whose members now number more than 8 million, have a deep commitment to the alleviation of the problems of the older population, and the improvement of the quality of their lives.

It is well established that older persons have varying degrees of concern about crime. For some, the anxiety is so great as to make them virtual prisoners in their own homes, seriously changing and depriving their lives. In others, the worry may be needless, since the criminal act they most fear could be of a statistically low probability. The largest survey of its kind, made on our members in 1973 by the University of Southern California, disclosed that next only to inflation, crime was their greatest concern. This reinforced a Gallup Poll of 1972 which had found that concern about crime was uppermost in the minds of older persons.

The Associations' Crime Prevention Section implements a number of programs and activities designed to help older persons understand and cope with crime.

The material incorporated in this binder includes information about the first phase (Mode I) which was initiated to quickly bring to members of individual chapters/units of our Associations practical, realistic ways to initiate action to avoid victimization, to reduce criminal opportunities, and to alert themselves to real dangers, at the same time dispelling imagined fears.

The second phase (Mode II) presents virtually the same subject matter, but to a wider range of recipients. It can involve multi-chapter/unit participation, or entire communities, including elected officials, prominent local community leaders, law enforcement agencies, service organizations, and others reaching far beyond the membership of the Associations. Widespread use of radio, TV, newspaper and other communications media also convey information in this mode.

In the course of our efforts to meet the crime-related needs of this age group, it has become increasingly apparent that the law enforcement officer exhibits compassionate interest in the elderly, but he has received very little specialized training to deal more effectively with them. In late 1973 and early 1974 we made extensive inquiries of Criminal Justice

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Planners, Directors of Law Enforcement Training, police academies, universities, community colleges, and other teaching institutions, but found no courses on this subject.

This led to the initiation of a new addition (MODE IV) to our program -- that is, helping law enforcement officers to better understand and to deal more effectively with the needs of our older people. Through a series of seminars, with participants generally numbering about 30, persons who are police trainers, decision-makers, administrators, or other high level professionals from the law enforcement community, we are imparting specialized knowledge about the aspects of aging, how the law enforcement officer can help the elderly, and how the elderly can be important resources to law enforcement.

The ultimate objective of Mode IV is the development of course materials to be offered to agencies and institutions involved in training law enforcement officers. The need is confirmed and indications are that such agencies will welcome this assistance.

We can identify some areas that require further exploration. For example, older persons are victimized out of proportion to their numbers by swindlers, but as a group, they seem largely unaware and little concerned. How can we help the law enforcement officer perform this important educational function?

To give another example for discussion and exploration, older persons are fearful of being -- and ARE -- victims of the two most serious crimes, homicide and rape. But in our preliminary surveys, we find that the statistical probability of an older person's being a victim of a stranger-to-stranger homicide or rape is very small. What may be even more important is that, in a review of the offense reports, we note that many of these crimes can be avoided by simple, no-cost crime prevention techniques. Perhaps by educational programs emphasizing these precautionary techniques, the fear could be reduced to realistic levels -- in itself, a significant achievement.

What are the psychological after effects of various crimes upon different personalities? Can we do more to understand these and thereby do more to help the law enforcement officer deal more knowledgeably with the aging victim?

Would it be helpful to develop a comprehensive profile of the con artist so as to institute better defensive tactics?

Are there any other questions or areas of exploration which should be pursued?

The number of Americans 55 years of age or older totals 40 million. This is 20% of the total population, representing a marked increase in the percentage of older Americans. There is a net increase of 1,000 persons over age 65 each day. By the year 2,000, 28 million Americans will be 65 or over. () **



NATIONAL
RETIRED
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AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION
OF RETIRED
PERSONS

HOW TO SPOT A CON ARTIST

What does a con artist look like? Well, for sure, if he "looked like" a con artist, he would not be very successful in his trade. To spot a con artist we must turn our attention toward what he "does" and not what he looks like.

Successful con artists are experts in applied psychology. They develop considerable knowledge of human behavior and use this in executing their schemes. This leads us to the first step in our exercise to avoid being swindled.

The first thing that every person should realize is that anyone can be a victim. No matter how smart, educated, or knowledgeable you are, you can be victimized by a swindler. Some schemes are so sophisticated and so well designed that it takes serious and thoughtful inquiry to uncover them.

Another factor to consider is that some schemes are legal or are so well designed as to make successful criminal prosecution next to impossible. How about the door-to-door salesman, who sold a man a set of thirty-five-year-old encyclopedias for \$450. Examination of the sales contract revealed that the salesman did exactly what he said he would do. The victim did not scrutinize the contract.

Or how about the speculator who buys acreage in the Southwest for \$700 per acre and advertises these sunny lots in Eastern newspapers for amounts that add up to \$5,000 per acre. If he truthfully tells you what you are buying, has he violated the law? A piece of land is worth exactly what you can get someone to pay for it.

Then the "new" swindles. As a Police Chief recently stated, why worry about the new swindles when the old ones are working so well. As an example, would you believe that the scheme of "salting the gold mine" is still being practiced? Well, in a northern city, a con artist bought six color TV sets at the regular price from a retail store. He then sold them, still in their cartons, to six prominent local people for 1/5th the

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price he had paid for them. He then hired several high school students to work as telephone solicitors to sell several "carloads of TV sets purchased new from a bankrupt retail chain". When potential customers balked, he referred them to the original six customers who had been "salted". He collected almost \$60,000 before the police were alerted to his scheme. The high school students were innocent and had no knowledge of the illegal phases of this operation.

We could write forever on this subject, there are so many swindles being operated today. What we have hoped to do in this short piece is to convince you that anyone can be swindled; that a con artist does not "look like" a con artist; and that you must spot him by "how" he operates.

We have set out certain key words or suggestions which will help to alert you to a possible swindle. You should remember the following and think twice -- investigate when these alert you.

CASH Whenever you are asked to turn over sizable amounts of cash, be cautious. Why is cash necessary? Why not a check? Consult with others before making your own decision. Avoid large cash transfers.

SECRET PLANS Be cautious of being drawn into secret deals wherein you are asked to surrender anything of value. Why are you being asked not to tell anyone?

GET RICH QUICK Any scheme that promises you rich rewards should be carefully investigated.

SOMETHING FOR NOTHING A "retired" swindler once said that any time you are promised something for nothing, you usually get nothing.

CONTESTS are great, but be sure they are not just a "come-on" where everyone "wins" something -- usually being drawn into some money-losing scheme.

HOME IMPROVEMENTS The very best investment you can make is in a little time to investigate the reputation of the people with whom you are dealing. They should be reputable and have satisfied customers. Be cautious of door-to-door solicitors and itinerant contractors.

CONTRACTS It is unfortunate, but homes have been lost as a result of signing a mere TV repair contract. Signing

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a contract is not a frivolous matter. The contract may be secured by a deed of trust on your house. It may include a provision that failure to pay on time will permit a judgment to be entered against you. Contracts in most states can be sold to a bank or finance company for collections, although these institutions have no responsibility for the quality of the product delivered or the work performed.

HASTE Be wary of any pressure that you must act immediately or lose out.

There is no better insurance than dealing with reputable, well recommended businesses or persons.

CAVEAT EMPTOR!

Your Retirement Anti-Crime Guide



A 'BETTER RETIREMENT' BOOK from

American Association of Retired Persons
and National Retired Teachers Association



This booklet is published as a special service
by
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED PERSONS
and
NATIONAL RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

AARP and NRTA offer members a full range of important services and benefits, including a convenient, economic mail-order drug service, a world-wide travel service for older persons, an outstanding health insurance plan plus life and auto insurance especially designed for older people, the opportunity to join local chapters or units and take part in their varied programs, courses in stimulating subjects (in person or by correspondence), hospitality lounges in three cities, and attractive magazines and other publications written and edited for older readers. Membership dues are \$2 a year (see applications bound in center of book).

Your Retirement Anti-Crime Guide
was prepared by the
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How to be safe on the streets

As an older person, you are probably more concerned about street crime—including the threat of purse snatch, strong-arm robbery and holdup—than about any other criminal activity.

On the other hand, there is clear evidence that many of our worst fears are overreactions—not directly related to the *reality* of the crime situation. A report on crime in America by the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice concluded that the public fears most the crimes that occur least often—crimes of violence. But, you are much more likely to have your home burglarized than to be involved in a person-to-person confrontation involving the potential for personal injury.

The members of the commission felt strongly that the fear of violent crime in America was, at bottom, a fear of strangers. Yet, most murders and assaults are committed by people who know their victims—by relatives, friends, or acquaintances. Nationwide, only 12 per cent of murder victims do not know their assailants. Statistically speaking, the closer the relationship, the greater the hazard of violence.

Many people fear interracial crime. Yet all recent studies show that, in most cases, the assailant and victim are of the same race and of the same socio-economic class. Many women fear rape and suffer untold agonies of the imagination whenever they find themselves in an unprotected situation. Yet, for older women, the facts of the matter simply do not bear out this fear. For women over 65, the chance of rape is so remote as to compare with being struck by lightning.

We are not suggesting that anyone abandon prudent habits. But there is little point in being tormented by unlikelyhoods. And if you do certain things that are suggested in this chapter—to protect yourself from *real* possibilities—you can reduce the chance of those things happening to you to near zero.

THE STREET CRIMINAL

Most street criminals, like burglars, are OPPORTUNISTS and, in their own way, sensible. Occasionally, we can stop triggering a DESIRE in the criminal—by, for example, not flashing wads of money. Occasionally, we can greatly increase the possibility of arrest—should we be victimized—by getting an accurate description. Most often, we can REMOVE THE OPPORTUNITY.

The street crimes that most of us are in real danger of are purse snatch, strong-arm robbery, and holdup. Purse snatch, the most frequent, is usually a hit-and-run operation in which speed is of the essence. The usual story is that someone comes up from behind, grabs the purse, and disappears so rapidly that nobody gets a good look at the thief. Most purse snatchers are fleet-of-foot teen-agers, who take advantage of an opportunity. After age 25, they generally graduate to something more lucrative.

Strong-arm robbery is robbing by the use of force and intimidation (also called mugging). Holdup is taking something from you by threatening you with a weapon, usually a gun or knife. According to a recent study, nearly one-third of the robberies of older people are committed in, or in the immediate vicinity of

the victim's residence, and another one-third occur in the victim's neighborhood, usually within four blocks of home. Most robbers are less than 25 years old.

These facts provide an important clue to increased personal safety: Be as crime conscious and "on the alert" when at home and in your neighborhood as you would be when traveling in strange places. We are not suggesting that you crouch in fear on your own street. But use what you now know to *increase* your sense of personal security and well-being. Be alert! Now that you know a little about the criminal, and the likelihood of being involved with one and in what way, let's see what can be done about it

WHEN WALKING

Don't give people opportunities to commit crimes. Never flash large sums of cash or other valuables. If you must carry money, do so inconspicuously on your person. Women can carry money in other places than purses (such as a deep, secure pocket) and men do not need to present a bulging hip pocket.

Always plan your route and stay alert to your surroundings. If you must walk at night, choose the busiest and best-lit streets. Try to go with companions. It's very advisable and more pleasant, especially after dark. Someone should know your route and destination so that you will be missed if you do not arrive on time.

Stay away from buildings and walk next to the street. Avoid dark places, short cuts, alleys, thick trees and shrubs, and sparsely traveled areas. If you find yourself uneasy in a lonely situation, perhaps as it begins to get dark, it can be reassuring and practical to walk down the middle of the street. But be alert to traffic.

A big part of being aware, sensible, and much more secure is to avoid areas in which there seems to be a large incidence of crime. Think of it this way: Until the merchants and residents in that area take collective steps to solve their crime problem, they can do without your business.

Have your key ready when walking to your front door so you can open the door and be inside with a minimum of fuss. If you arrive by taxi or private car, ask the driver to wait until you're inside.

IN STORES

Don't display cash except in small amounts.

Don't leave your purse unattended, in shopping carts or on

the counter while you examine an item. Do not get separated from it in a crowded restroom.

If you're buying something and open your purse, don't allow yourself to be distracted. Close it as quickly as possible.

IF YOU ARE ROBBED

Carry as little money as possible. If you are held up, give it up gladly as the price of your safety. **DO NOT RESIST!** This is one of the most important points to remember if a holdup seems imminent. Give the robber what he wants. Never try to fight him unless he attacks you. According to police records, robbery victims who do not resist generally are *not* injured, but there are countless cases of serious personal injury to victims who imprudently threaten or resist in a simple robbery. It is madness to seize this moment to throw out a slur or other invective. Be calm, attentive, and give your assailant exactly what he wants.

Try to remember enough about the robber to give the police something to work on. One technique that may help keep your head clear is to try and pick out one or two really good points of identification. A facial scar or prominent feature instead of what color suit he wore; a distinctive tattoo or physical deformity instead of the fact that he had a hat on (he can take it off). However, if you seem to be memorizing his face, it may give him unpleasant ideas. Always, your primary objective is to preserve your personal safety.

If you *can* give the police a decent description, they may be able to identify the man. Many street criminals are habitual offenders with records.

PICKPOCKETS AND PURSE SNATCHERS

Every pickpocket knows that you can't steal a man's money if he has his mind on it. So thefts are timed to coincide with shifts of interest—at fires, accidents, ticket lines, store demonstrations, depots, markets and theaters.

On the other hand, purse snatchers, who most often victimize older women, look for "golden opportunities." Your best defense is the knowledge that it can happen to you and a constant attitude of prevention!

First of all, do you really have to carry that purse or is it just a habit? If you have a specific objective, like going to the

grocery store, couldn't you just take the money that you need, or just a check?

Remember the pickpocket's operating theory and always be aware of your money, purse, billfold, etc., while shopping, in crowds, in elevators, trains, buses and all public places. Everything else follows from that.

For women, the basic rule is: Don't dangle your purse away from your body so as to make it easy to snatch. If a thief who's half running can get a grip on the strap, and keep running, the odds are all in his favor, unless you allow yourself to be violently jerked, dragged, and perhaps injured. The mistake is giving him the idea that he can get a grip. Carry purses close to your body with your hand, if possible, covering the clasp. Large, bulky purses are easiest to spot, and grab. Shoulder bags are harder to steal, and you can more comfortably rest your hand on the clasp, foiling would-be pickpockets.

However, don't carry your purse with the strap wound around your wrist so you could be pulled down if it is snatched. This is not conflicting advice. You should keep a firm grip on your purse and not present an easy target. But if your purse is grabbed, it makes little sense to risk a sprained wrist, damage to bones and ligaments, or a bad fall because you're all wound up in the straps.

If you carry a clasp-type handbag, don't carry it so, if opened, it would open away from your body.

Don't carry openweave, basket purses with bills, wallets, or other valuables swimming around in full view.

If you carry your money or wallet in a coat or sweater pocket, can it be seen or detected? If so, it's an open invitation to a nimble-fingered pickpocket. And you probably won't feel it because your outer clothing is bulky.

If you're carrying packages or books *and* your purse, take advantage of the added protection. Put your purse between your body and the packages. A lot of purse snatchers like to strike a loaded-down victim. They're after your purse, not the packages, so deny them.

Be wary of strangers who start meaningless or odd conversations with you. They may be removing your wallet or money. Unfortunately, even kindly individuals who assist you crossing the street, mounting buses or adjusting your packages may have other intentions. You needn't refuse help or a friendly chat. But be aware of what's going on.



How to be safe in your car

Always keep your car doors locked when driving, and windows rolled up far enough to keep anyone from reaching inside. At stop signs and lights keep the car in gear and keep alert. This advice goes double at night.

If another car follows closely or tries to force you over, or if you are being threatened by someone on foot, drive off and blow your horn. Blow it in quick blasts—it's more attention-getting than leaning on the horn. Don't be afraid to pull into a gas station or police station blowing your horn like crazy. It may be embarrassing, but you'll be safe.

Travel well-lit and busy streets, even if it takes a few more minutes to get home. You're much less likely to run into trouble of

a criminal nature. Plan your route to avoid high crime areas. Your peace of mind is well worth the small forethought it takes to do this—and have an enjoyable trip—especially at night.

Don't leave your purse on the seat beside you when driving. Place it on the floor. And don't leave bundles or bags or any other tempting articles in plain sight in a locked car. Lock them in the trunk.

Never leave your car without locking it, even for a few minutes. At night, park only in a well-lit spot near enough to your destination for safety. Look around before leaving the car. If anything looks suspicious, wait, or move. When returning to your parked car, night or day, circle it to check the front seat, back seat and floor and trunk before entering—to assure that no one is hiding in the car.

When you arrive home, keep the headlights on until you have the car in the garage and the house door unlocked. A remote control garage door opener can be worth the money it costs to install, particularly for women who live alone. It allows you to stay safely in your locked car until you are safely in your locked garage. The garage light comes on as the door opens and stays on until you've had time to get in the house.

Never pick up a hitchhiker—whether for the sake of Christmas Eve, a taxi strike, a student, or a man in uniform. It's a shame, but the odds are against its ever being a good idea, for men or women. Some police checks of hitchhikers have shown that a high percentage of them have criminal records.

If your car should break down, and you're not within seeing distance or earshot of safe assistance, these are the recommended steps, particularly for women, especially at night (they are essential for anyone in an isolated area):

Get off the road far enough that you won't be hit by an oncoming car, even if it means driving on a flat tire. Turn on your emergency flasher system, raise the hood, and, if possible, tie a handkerchief to the aerial or door. If you are on a turnpike, freeway, or throughway and there is a police or roadside callbox nearby, use it. Otherwise, get back in your car, lock the doors, and wait for help. If a motorist stops, send him for help. Don't get out of your car to discuss the problem, and don't accept a ride to the nearest gas station or police station with a stranger. Really helpful people will be happy to send a policeman or highway patrolman to your aid.

A final word. If you happen to see what looks like a stalled car, never stop to assist! *Do* call the police. They will be happy to see what the trouble is. It could be a plant for a robbery.

CAR THEFT

About one million cars are stolen each year. Most of us own cars. By simple logic, you have a reasonable chance of becoming a victim. But you can reduce that chance to near zero by taking precautions, and taking them consistently. Why? Because, of those stolen cars, almost *half* had the key in the ignition, and *most* were not locked. Most car thievery is not professional; it is a matter of an opportunity too-tempting to pass up! This is a matter of record. So. . . .

Always lock your doors! Always. And never leave your keys in the ignition! The fact that almost half of all stolen cars come equipped with ignition keys shows you what *that* does for your chances of coming back and finding your car there.

Never leave the engine running if you leave your car, even in a friend's driveway, even for a few brief seconds. Of course, this won't happen if you've taken the other precautions we suggested.

And don't "hide" spare keys under the carpeting, over a sun visor, or under a fender. It's about as clever as leaving a house key under a doormat. If your car *is* broken into, the lucky thief can drive off with it too.

Remember, don't give a passerby or observer an *opportunity* to steal your car. Develop an attitude of crime prevention.



How to be safe at your door

Most of the people who come to your door or call on the telephone have legitimate reasons for doing so. But a very few people would like to rob or assault you in the privacy of your own home. They may even use the telephone to determine your sex or accessibility, i.e., whether or not you live alone. Many people, particularly women, have been assaulted because they blithely opened the door to someone who *seemed* legitimate. All of this sounds very sinister, and it can be. But you should understand two things: First, the chance that someone at your door or on the telephone is in this frame of mind is statistically very remote; second, you should never take the chance that he is not. Your best defenses are a constant, suspicious attitude of prevention, and a peephole in your front door.

Never automatically open your door when someone knocks. Even if you are expecting a caller. And don't open your door a few inches and rely on a chainlock to keep anyone out. One-way peepholes can be bought cheaply and installed simply by drilling a hole through your door. Use them. The people you have to fear will rely on your natural desire not to be rude to anyone to get you

to open the door. Don't do it. Your friends and legitimate businessmen, even if they are expected, will understand and appreciate your caution.

If you look out and see any stranger, no matter how familiar and authoritative the uniform or how clean-cut the caller, ask that identification and credentials be slipped under the door. Refuse to deal with any businessman, serviceman or "government official" who doesn't. Every legitimate caller will have them. Check them out by telephone while he waits. If you're not interested, say so, without opening the door.

If a caller wants to use the phone to summon help or make an emergency call, take the message and make the call for him. If it was a ruse, he'll be gone when you get back. If a person becomes threatening, you have time to call the police.

At night, draw your blinds or draperies to prevent anyone from watching you from outside. Call the police immediately if you hear or see a prowler, or if someone comes to the door who, for any reason, you do not trust or believe you might have reason to fear.

Be cautious about using apartment house laundry rooms when you are alone, particularly at night. Try to have someone with you.

The same goes for using apartment house elevators. Particularly for women when there are no other people around, it is wiser to remain in the lobby for a few minutes than to enter an elevator with strange men. If a man holds the elevator door open for you, you needn't get flustered, feel rude, and enter. Stick to your guns. It shouldn't matter to him, and it does matter to you.

Finally, don't play telephone games. Use the telephone on your terms, not as though it were a device that forces you to respond, robot-like. If a caller won't identify himself at once, hang up. Never allow yourself to be drawn into a conversation with an unknown caller, "survey taker," or census taker in which you reveal your name, address, marital status or anything to indicate that you are alone. Legitimate survey takers and census takers come to your door, with credentials. Here's one way to handle a frequent telephone occurrence. CALLER: "Who is this?" YOUR RESPONSE: "Whom are you calling?" If the call is obscene, hang up.

If you receive frequent "wrong number" calls, hang-up calls, late night calls from strangers, or other oddities, call the police immediately and ask their advice. It's exactly the kind of thing they're there for; use them.



How to defend yourself

What can and should you do to personally defend your safety, and when? This is an important question that, hopefully, will never come up. The first and cardinal rule is to try to practice crime prevention to the degree that self-defense will not be necessary.

It's largely a matter of common sense. Most of us instinctively know when we may be placing ourselves in danger. Avoid those situations where you have any inkling that you might run into trouble. Generally, that means avoid isolation, be particularly careful at night, and be particularly careful when you are not with companions or when you are on unfamiliar territory.

If you are robbed, don't resist if all the property in the world is at stake. The same goes for burglary. You may not have a television set or your wallet in the morning, but you and your family will be safe and accounted for.

Many police departments suggest that you carry a whistle. Obviously, women may find more use for it than men. A police whistle or basketball referee whistle—both available and inexpensive—is shrill enough to attract a good deal of interest. Carry it where it can be used immediately.

Most law enforcement agencies do not recommend that women, or men, carry anything lethal. They are not being unnecessarily conservative. Anything deadly or harmful is too likely to be used against you by anyone who would personally attack you in the first place. This includes tear gas devices (not much good in the open air and illegal in many areas), guns, hat pins, kitchen knives, etc.

Your best defense, if you are attacked, is a lusty, shrill scream, or loud continued shout for help. If you are grabbed by the arm or wrist, instead of pulling away, try throwing your arm straight up, hard, to break the grip of one thumb. Run, screaming, yelling, making all the noise it is possible to make to the nearest house or most conspicuous spot you can find, depending on your situation.

If someone suspicious is following you, cross the street. If he continues to trail you, prepare immediately to defend yourself by screaming and running to the nearest residence or business, or flagging down a passing car.

If a car approaches you and you are threatened, scream and run in a direction opposite that of the car. The driver will have to *turn around* to pursue you.

If you *are* attacked, then all precautions are off. Do everything in your power to protect yourself. Scream, call for help, kick, bite, fight, struggle. Your object is to break away to a place of greater safety. Scream while running. Make noise!

REPORTING CRIME

Always report a crime, even an attempt, no matter how insignificant, and whether or not you lost anything. The police use crime reports to determine the kinds and frequency of police patrols, where they should be concentrating their efforts; in short, the ways in which they can best serve your community.

Crime repeats itself. Don't take the attitude that there is little use in reporting it. Remember, a noninvolved society is exactly what those of us who value the quality of life in our communities do not want!



How to make your home safe

SUBURBAN HOMES: AN IDEAL TARGET

Like many others, the burglar has moved to the suburbs, where self-secure homeowners compound the problem by failing to take even the most rudimentary steps to protect their persons and property. They "announce" their absence from their homes by leaving a trail of telltale clues that would tempt a saint: Homes are left unlocked (in California, 28 per cent of the burglars walk right in), or, if locked at all, are equipped with ineffectual locks. Ladders are left stacked conveniently against second-story windows, and in the shrubbery around some homes a whole army of burglars could work undetected for hours. Many people lock all the doors and windows in the house, except the garage, where they thoughtfully leave all the tools necessary to break in everywhere else.

And, once burned, many people waste money on ineffectual security, such as putting three locks on a flimsy front door. The fact is, according to one crime prevention expert, that not one burglar in a thousand knows or cares how to pick locks. They nearly all break in, after trying the knob to see whether the door is locked in the first place.

And burglars are increasing in gall as well as numbers. A

Kansas City study has turned up the fact that, in half of that city's residential burglaries involving victims aged 60 and over, the burglar forced entry through a door or window clearly visible from the street. The researchers remind us that most of these break-ins were committed in broad daylight, with near neighbors on both sides of the residences—a distressing commentary on our powers of observation and sense of community.

Although it's hardly likely, city dwellers should not be lulled into a false sense of security. Burglars have not abandoned the cities—as steadily rising urban crime attests.

PROFILE OF A BURGLAR

Part of your defense, as always, is knowing your enemy. The salient facts about today's residential burglar are that he is young, often very young, an amateur, and mainly interested in an easy opportunity. While this may seem deplorable, it is to your advantage because most of the time you can thwart him simply by removing his opportunities.

Most residential burglars are young male adults, less than 30 years of age—at which time most burglars become sufficiently experienced and discriminating to concentrate on commercial establishments, or the homes of the very rich. Nationwide, 83 per cent of all burglary arrests involve under-25-year-olds. In one recently released study, 64 per cent of the burglars were under 18.

This does not mean he lacks talent, or normal intelligence levels. Most have both, and ample ingenuity to master the rudimentary skills necessary to pry open a door or window and rummage through likely stash points for valuables. A fifth of the time, he enters via an unlocked door. If you are burglarized, this youthful, intelligent opportunist is probably your man. And he refuses to look the part. In case you are still looking for a billed cap, face kerchief, and turned-up collar, forget it. He may be clean shaven, crew-cut, and fitted out in sports clothes, repairmen's uniforms, or anything that blends soothingly with the environment.

Usually he does not want to attack anyone—he wants to get richer, quicker, and without interruption. But it is woefully misinformed to believe that burglars are inherently nonviolent. They commit their crimes in a state of high tension and are capable of doing you great harm if trapped, scared, threatened, or simply confronted. *Never sacrifice yourself or be injured to save property.* Some burglars are rapists, drug addicts, and mentally unbalanced.

If you see a burglar, try to get one or two good points of identification, get away, and call the police. Never try to attack him. Even if he doesn't have a gun, he's quite capable of retaliating with a knife, screwdriver, or pry bar, yours or his.

Burglars are a lazy lot, who will pass up a secure home in favor of an easier target. There are more than enough unprotected homes to go around, so make sure yours isn't one of them.

HOW HE GETS IN

Most burglars enter a residence through a door, preferably an unlocked one. So begin to raise your security by locking your doors. Police plainclothesmen who run security checks of burglary-prone neighborhoods and apartment buildings habitually find 25 to 30 per cent of front doors unlocked.

Statistically, a burglar's second choice is through a convenient window, but he'll pass up a locked door or window if he can find an easier entry.

Take a security walk around your home and make your own burglary survey. How would *you* break into your home? Keep in mind that the burglar does not want to be seen entering or leaving the house, so a side or rear entrance, perhaps decorously shielded by shrubbery, will be a likely target. Cellar or garage entries are absolute favorites. In your garage, for example, the happy burglar can work out of sight with your tools. He can relax. So keep your garage doors locked, all the time.

Don't forget air conditioners, which burglars have been known to slip out of windows, and later walk off with. A few screws or other fasteners would make it more difficult.

How else can he get in? Here are a few more ploys that show up in crime statistics:

He finds your "hidden" key. No burglar is going to search the entire grounds looking for it, but if you put it in any of the traditional hiding places—under the door mat, in the mail box, the flower box, over the door—you may as well leave your door open.

He breaks out a glass pane in the door or kicks in a door panel and reaches in to unlock it. Most crime prevention experts and burglars will tell you that wood- or glass-paneled doors don't deserve good locks. But you can give glass panels a backing of sturdy metal grilles, available in many styles from hardware stores. And you can reinforce wood doors with individual panels by means of 3/4-inch plywood mounted on the inside with carriage

bolts that go all the way through the door and the plywood.

He forces or pries the door open. Gaps between the door and its frame lure burglars with crowbars. If you don't want to buy a new door or pay a carpenter to shore it up, shield the gaps with angle iron (heavy strips of steel folded at a 90-degree angle) fastened to the edge of the door with carriage bolts.

He gets in a window, locked or unlocked. Unfortunately, wide plastic tape applied to a window pane can muffle noise and hold shattered glass. But lock them all anyway. And consider investing in window locks that are mortised into the bottom window bar. This tidbit of advice comes from a veteran lock picker. The much-used sash latch can be opened too easily with a knife from the outside, he says.

The same man advises replacing outside door hinges with invisible ones mortised into the door. This simple bit of carpentry foils another common burglar's trick: Removing the exposed hinge pins and swinging the door open from the hinge side.

And here are a few other "annoyances" to be on the lookout for. Be wary of unsolicited telephone calls, surveys, unknown callers and "wrong numbers." This is a traditional way of "casing" a home. If the burglar gets no answer, he may be over in three minutes to see if your place is ready to be burglarized. There's no need to jump to conclusions if you get a "wrong number." But too many such instances or several in a day should cause you to think, and perhaps to alert the police. They'd much rather prevent a burglary than investigate one.

And don't think that just because you're home in broad daylight you can't be burglarized. As we have said, audacity is on the rise. A quick and nimble burglar can easily observe your residence on a Saturday morning and note the activity. If you've been in the backyard pulling crabgrass for an hour and there seems to be no other activity, he may slip into the house through the unlocked front door or any other entry on the opposite side, keep you in view and get out after grabbing everything within easy reach.

Some burglars are creative sociologists. They scan the newspapers for notices of weddings and funerals, graduations, christenings and bar mitzvahs, then visit the home of the family during the ceremony. Everyone is on time, including the burglar. Arrange to have somebody at home on such occasions.

The legendary "cat burglar" who steals into your home at night while you are sleeping deserves special mention because he is

a different breed entirely. He is often armed, professional, and dangerous—and can be deterred by a barking dog or an alarm system but little else without making your home a fortress. If you awaken to any suspicious nighttime noises, the very best advice is to lock your bedroom door from the inside, and call the police on the extension phone you should definitely have in your bedroom. Otherwise, avoid him.

DISCOURAGING THE BURGLAR

Let's see how you can use the four basic anti-burglary principles—DENY, DETER, DELAY, and DETECT—to greatly reduce your chances of being burglarized. We will discuss ways to deny and deter the burglar in this chapter. Methods for delaying and detecting him will be taken up in the following chapter, *How to choose locks and alarms*.

First, DENY the burglar everything you possibly can. If you have no money or convertible securities in the house, you have denied him. Maybe it would be better to separate yourself from things that are too precious to lose. Can you place valuable jewelry in a safe deposit box, your furs in storage during the warm season? Look around your home and think what else might make an attractive heist. If you think you're hiding cash when you put it in a sugar bowl, bureau drawer, or behind a picture, stop and reconsider. These hiding places are traditional, and thieves have a sense of tradition too. They would likely check every one of them on a sweep through your house. Coin banks are another poignant target. In the same vein, don't leave your purse overnight on the table in the entryway, or your wallet in your pants slung over a chair. Don't make someone's search as predictable as going home and stealing his mother's purse. If he gives up, you've won.

If you can't deny a burglar, let's think about how you can DETER him. One of the least expensive and most effective deterrents you have at your disposal is light. Burglars can't hate light too much, else they wouldn't be cleaning out whole houses in broad daylight. Is that what you're thinking? True enough. But remember your objective: To reduce the burglar's *perceived* opportunities to burglarize. It's not simple illumination you're after (although that helps, particularly at night), but the *appearance* of a lived-in house. Put succinctly, if he thinks you're there, it can be as good as being there. Keep this principle firmly in mind . . . and use it to deter.

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STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____
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Month Day Year
☐ \$2 for 1 year ☐ Payment enclosed (check or money order, please—
☐ \$5 for 3 years ☐ Please bill me later no cash)

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YES! Enroll me immediately as a member of NRTA. I understand that I can also enroll my spouse for an additional payment of \$2 per year.

NAME _____
(Please print)
SPOUSE'S NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
TOWN _____
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MY BIRTH DATE IS _____
Month Day Year
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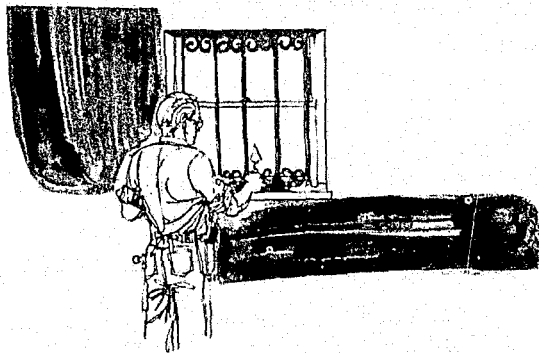
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Leave interior and exterior lights on while you are away for the evening. Outside, you should have one of the automatic devices that turns on lights when dusk comes—otherwise your darkened yard will be noticed on weekends and during vacations. And statistics show that crime rates crumble in bright neighborhoods. So you can see both into and out of your house, clear away any shrubbery that obscures doors and accessible windows. Municipal lighting requirements are on the rise everywhere, and apartment dwellers should pressure landlords to meet requirements for corridors and lobbies. Call for a building department inspection if your landlord is behind the times, or chip in a little and replace existing bulbs with ones of higher wattage.



For more lived-in feeling, leave a radio on, playing at normal volume, when you're away for an evening or weekend. Consider the money spent on electricity a blue chip investment. Or connect a bedroom and/or bathroom lamp and a radio to a timing device that can be set for any selected time period.

Someone that *can* be there while you're away is a dog. If you like dogs and have the necessary facilities, he's another excellent anti-burglar investment. Buy one of the alert breeds that make a lot of noise when someone comes to the door—and give him a dog biscuit when he does it. Of course, he may *like* the burglar and bite the investigating officer and have other inexplicable moments of total worthlessness (that's why you should also like dogs), but he's one of the better alarm systems you can buy. You probably don't need an attack dog, who may hate the neighborhood children

more than burglars. In the rush, imagined or real, to stay alive, too many people are rushing out to buy ferocious animals, improperly trained, and getting heartache and lawsuits instead of protection.

Guns *can* be a deterrent, and having a weapon around the house may make you feel infinitely more secure—but most of the evidence seems to point in the opposite direction. It seems to break down this way: The burglar you are likely to encounter is easily discouraged by less dangerous methods; your simple presence is usually enough to send him elsewhere. If you are dealing with someone more desperate, he quite likely also has a gun, or may end up using yours against you after a number of maneuvers that people who are not used to armed confrontations have difficulty imagining. And there is no protection from the law if you shoot at prowlers or peeping Toms. They are guilty of misdemeanors only, as long as they do not enter your house or other structure.

If it is legal to own a gun where you live, the question is one you must decide. Almost all law enforcement agencies advise against it. And consider one other chilling fact. Each year about 1,200 Americans are *accidentally* killed and more than 10,000 wounded by guns in their own homes. There are no comprehensive figures on persons killed at home by criminal intruders, but it is probably no more than a few hundred. Tragic accidents often occur at night when someone is awakened from sleep or otherwise startled, sees a shadowy figure or *something*, grabs the gun, fires in haste, and shoots a member of his family home unexpectedly, up in the night, or other innocent, unexpected person. It seems improbable, but if you keep a gun handy it is *much* more likely to happen to you than using the same gun to save your life. Think of it. That should be enough for most of us.

'INVITATIONS' TO BURGLARY

One of the best burglary deterrents you have at your disposal is to be aware of, and cancel, the open invitations you unwittingly extend to the roving burglar looking for a good, safe job. Before you pooh-poo the idea, remember that a very substantial number of residential burglaries are proved to be the result of carelessness that provided an easy opportunity. And remember that the opportunists are out there in droves, and they spend considerable time cruising and looking for invitations. We have already talked about a few of these invitations; let's consider a few more.

Jane is going to drop by today to pick up a book and chat. You don't know exactly when she's coming and you have to run some errands yourself, so you leave her a note, taped to the front door, saying you'll be back at 3:30. Don't do it; what more could a burglar ask?

Carelessness with house keys accounts for a substantial number of burglaries. What good does it do to have a "safe" home, if somebody else has the key? Never carry identification tags on your key ring or holder. If you lose your keys, it's better to have them lost and gone forever than in the possession of somebody who now has the key to your front door, your address, telephone number, and probably the keys to your car. He can call to see if you're home before coming over. Or he can call, identify himself as an employee of the supermarket, parking lot, or department store where you misplaced your keys, and ask you to come pick them up. He can be in a phone booth a block from your house. As soon as you rush out to retrieve your keys, he rushes in and cleans out your house, and may leave in your second car if you are tidy and keep *all* your keys together. There are infinite, charming variations on this theme.

So, separate your house keys from your car keys as a matter of policy. And leave only the auto ignition key if you park your car in a commercial garage or parking lot. Anyone could make a duplicate in your absence, and trace your address through the vehicle registration you carry in your car.

When having keys made in a "while you wait" shop, watch to see that the keymaker doesn't make one for himself.

A few other invitations you can cancel. Basement doors or windows often provide burglars with a fairly easy entry into your house amidst the camouflage of bushes and shrubbery. Make them less inviting with metal grilles, painted-over windows, curtains, an inside door-bar, and sturdy locks.

Through your garage is a delightful way to get into your house, and the 10-speed bike and expensive power tools lying around in full view are tempting in themselves and indicative of affluence. Lock it, even when you run to the store for a carton of milk.

When you move into a new home or apartment, have the tumblers of the locks reset. It can cost as little as \$6. You don't know who may still have keys to the old ones.

Sliding glass doors, the kind that open onto patios and back-

yards, often off the bedroom, are easily forced. Buy a key-locking bar lock from any of the major lock companies. Or buy a strong, wooden dowel about an inch and a half in diameter and an inch shorter than the length of one sliding door. Slip the dowel in the door's channel and it will prevent the door from sliding. If a broom handle meets these requirements, use it. You can install extra-heavy shatterproof glass in such glassy places, but burglars seem loath to make that much noise. Police records show hardly an instance of a burglar breaking a sliding glass door or picture window to gain entrance to a house.

If you are a woman living alone, list only your last name and initials in telephone directories *and on mail boxes*. Never indicate to an unknown caller, either at the door or on the phone, that you are not married.

Finally, make a safety check every night before retiring! Be sure all doors and windows are locked and proper lights are on.

WHEN YOU'RE AWAY

When you leave your home for a prolonged period of time, discontinue milk, newspaper, and other deliveries by phone or in person ahead of time. Do not leave notes.

Have the lawn tended, put some lights on timers inside and outside the house, and have someone remove advertising circulars and other debris regularly. A trusted neighbor or friend can do this. He can also change the shades from time to time as you would do if you were home, and be on the lookout for suspicious activity.

Notify the post office to hold or forward your mail, or have this same trusted person pick it up daily.

Don't have the telephone temporarily disconnected—the disconnect message is growing in popularity as a dead giveaway that you're gone. But *do* turn the loudness of the ring down so it cannot be used as a cue that no one is at home.

Don't notify burglars of your absence and how long you'll be gone via social notes in the newspapers. Tell everybody about it *after* you return.

Contact your local police division and inform them of your absence so they can have a patrol car swing by every once in a while. They should know where you can be reached in an emergency.

If you're more worried about burglary than possible vandalism to your car, you can leave your second car locked and parked in

the driveway instead of inside the garage. The garage door should, of course, be locked.

If you return and find a door or window has been forced or broken, *do not enter*. Use a neighbor's phone immediately to summon the police. If you get inside and find that a crime has occurred, do the same thing. The intruder may still be there. Don't touch anything or clean up until after the police have inspected for evidence. And do something immediately about the security lapse that allowed the break-in in the first place.

We hope you are becoming convinced that you are your own best security expert. The protective measures we have been talking about to DENY and DETER the burglar *do* work.

There are two other excellent, highly successful burglary deterrents being used in many communities today. A brief word about each.

MARKING YOUR PROPERTY

A program usually called "Operation Identification" is reducing burglary by as much as 75 per cent in many communities. The simple expedient is to mark each of your valuable possessions with an inexpensive electric etching pencil—often available on loan from your local police or other civic group. In Pasadena, Calif., you merely present your driver's license to the officer at the police department information desk or at any fire station and check the tool out. It handles like a ballpoint pen and will etch metals, glass, ceramics, plastics or wood surfaces.

Inscribe your driver's license number (or other recommended identifying number) inconspicuously on furniture, appliances, guns, cameras, tools, etc. Jewelry and precious antiques should be appraised and photographed instead of etched.

Upon return of the tool, you are given an "Operation Identification" decal to place on your front window. It advises potential burglars that all items of value on the premises are marked for ready identification by law enforcement agencies.

You can do the same thing on your own (the etching tool costs less than \$10), but why not get a community, or at least neighborhood program going? In Wichita, Kan., of 10,000 residences enrolled in the program, only four have been burglarized in the last two years.

Be sure to mark the insides of the *skins* on your fur coats. Many police department stolen property rooms look like fur stores

because furs cannot be returned to the rightful owners once the labels and linings are missing.

A NEIGHBORHOOD SECURITY WATCH

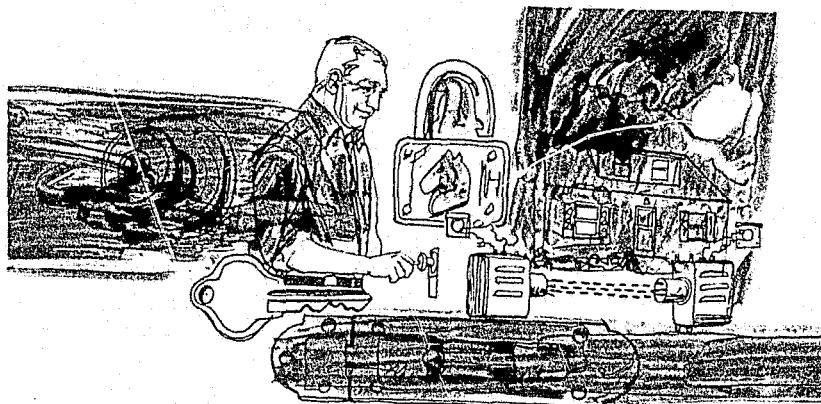
There is certainly a fine nuance between helping your neighbor and interfering in his business. But your neighbors are often your single best security system. In a few neighborhoods it is virtually impossible for a burglar to enter the area on foot or by car without being observed. Such neighborhoods, in which people are truly concerned with each other and their mutual safety, have extremely low burglary rates—according to recent studies by criminologists, several have had literally no burglaries within the past decade. The word gets around.

Wouldn't it be nice if the age of "noninvolvement" didn't extend to your neighborhood? Wouldn't it be nice if a neighbor's call to the police saved your life, or kept your house from burning down or someone from stealing your car? Wouldn't it be nice if you could walk around your neighborhood and feel at home, or at least unafraid? If you respond to your neighbor's need as you would have him respond to yours, you probably can.

Get out and talk with your neighbors about the crime problem and crime prevention. Let them know you are concerned about your safety and theirs. We realize this is more difficult in some neighborhoods than others. But if you sit in your house and remain noninvolved for fear of meeting blank stares from your neighbors, the situation could get worse, not better. Take the initiative. Discuss *joint cooperation* in keeping a vigil on each other's apartments and homes. That kind of discussion could save your life and property—and make your neighbor your friend.

Specifically, always call the police immediately when you see a crime being committed. Forget about the fear that you are reporting something that amounts to nothing. Everybody, including the police, will thank you.

Get to know your neighbors' living patterns, when they are at work, on vacation, and so forth—not to spice up your life—but so you can spot suspicious persons or occurrences—and prevent inspired criminal activity like moving vans clearing out an entire house when nobody is moving. Call the police immediately if you see a suspicious person around your property or someone else's. Write down the license numbers of unfamiliar cars that are repeatedly cruising about or doing unfamiliar things.



How to choose locks and alarms

No lock is completely burglar-proof, but locks do buy time and make the burglar's work harder. If the lock is a good one, it'll slow him up so he risks detection, or more likely pass up your home in favor of a more inviting target. But it's amazing the number of careful people who put up with useless locks, or waste money on excellent lock sets for insecure doors. We've already talked about some of the ways to reinforce flimsy doors, glass panels, basement windows, and sliding glass doors. Assuming you've done all these things, what kind of locks do you have on your good doors and windows? Does the hardware in your residence serve to DELAY the burglar?

If you have spring-bolt door locks even a child can open them. Most door locks are spring operated. Open the door, lock it, and see if you can push the bolt back by pressure against the beveled face of the bolt. If you can, a burglar can insert a plastic playing card or credit card in your locked door and do the same thing in a matter of seconds. If the main bolt is side-by-side with a separate little plunger or trigger bolt, you have a dead-latch. This offers much more security than the simple spring latch because the smaller bolt depresses when the door is closed and keeps the main bolt from being forced back or "shimmed" with a credit card or caseknife. Try it to make sure.

For all exterior doors in your house or apartment, you need a dead bolt lock that requires the use of a key to turn the bolt when

you are leaving, and a turn of the bolt when you are inside. Even the best of the pros will be slowed down by one of these.

Dead bolts come in two varieties, horizontal and vertical (also called a rim lock), which describes the direction in which the bolt drops. You want a horizontal dead bolt to extend at least one inch into the strike plate. They cost around \$20, which is not an extravagant price to pay for your personal safety.

In addition to the dead bolt, many people install a double-cylinder lock on glass-paneled doors. These locks have a cylinder on the outside and a second cylinder on the inside. When you double lock the door while you are inside, you will need a key to get out.

The advantage is that a burglar also needs a key to get in or out. So if he breaks a glass-paneled door, he can't reach in and open the door from the inside. He still needs a key to unlock the door. And, if he enters through a window and all the doors in the house have double-cylinder locks, he has no way of removing large objects because he can't get the door open. Double-cylinder locks do have one important disadvantage in case of fire! Young children and guests who may not know where the keys are can be trapped, or you yourself may be imprisoned in a blazing house. There's no sense in this, particularly considering that fire is a much greater statistical hazard than criminal intrusions. For this reason, lock a double-cylinder lock only when there is no one at home, or leave the key in the lock when you're home.

Simple, heavy sliding bolts also make very effective secondary locks for exterior doors. They are cheap, and easy to install. Chain locks, however, are a kindergarten exercise to snap. If you're not home and a burglar gets through everything else and down to the chain, you might as well not have it. If you *are* home it can be a positive hazard if you open the door a crack and depend on it to keep somebody out. Few of them will hold if even a moderate-sized man throws his weight against the door. Peep-holes are a much safer way of communicating until you have determined whether or not you want to open the door. Credentials and other documents can be slipped under the door. It's no longer rude; merely prudent. You can apologize later for your momentary lack of hospitality.

Secure double-hung windows, the kind that slide up and down, with an effective home remedy. Simply drill a 1/4-inch hole through the window sash into the frame. Insert a headless 10-penny nail

or carriage bolt or other steel pin into the hole and you have easily and cheaply served up quite a problem for the burglar. Drill holes at other levels if you wish to permit the window to be raised or lowered slightly for ventilation.

Casement windows are much more secure to begin with than the double-hung variety, and can be really shored up by replacing the lever lock with a key-lockable device available from many hardware stores and locksmiths for about \$4. Then, even if he breaks the window, who wants to climb through all that jagged glass?

But remember—every bedroom should have a window available as a fire exit. At night, the bedroom window may be your only means of escape. *Always* have only a strong, *unkeyed* lock on one window in each bedroom, and make sure everybody knows which one it is.

ALARMS—THE ELECTRONIC DETECTORS

Should you have an alarm system? The answer is "maybe," but probably not, and probably not one of the elaborate ones with a price tag to match. Most reputable alarm companies (who are, incidentally, *not* lacking customers) say there are four situations in which you might consider a comprehensive electronic security system that can cost from \$400 to many thousands of dollars to install. These are when (1) you have many real valuables that need protection, (2) burglaries are rampant in your neighborhood, (3) you are away from home for long stretches or frequently, and (4) you have no nearby neighbors. There are a couple of other advantages. It can add substantially to the resale value of your home, and it costs very little to add fire detection to such a system. And if you live in a one- or two-family house, your greatest personal threat is fire.

So, if you find yourself in any of these situations and you have the money to spend, you should probably talk, long and hard, with a reputable, well-established alarm systems company.

On the other end of the price scale, we will mention a few simpler alarms that serve one specific purpose, such as to alarm one door. If you have used this guide to do a house or apartment security check and made the improvements suggested, both to your house and your personal habits, you've already done the best part of the job. But if you're still concerned about your personal security, any of these devices are worth considering. Along with a

good dog, they are your fourth line of defense against break-in—to DETECT the intruder.

- You can buy an alarmed door lock that will sound an alarm if the door is forced open. It is battery operated, needs no wiring and can be purchased inexpensively from several large manufacturers. Remember that this, and other devices, require neighbors who will respond, summon help, or come to your assistance if you're not home. Ask for their cooperation.

- There is a portable unit that sounds an alarm if someone passes between it and a light source. Placed on a table and pointed at a lamp across the room, it goes off when someone passes through that room.

- You can buy fairly comprehensive systems sold in kit form for self-installation. They start at about \$25 and protect against entry through exterior doors and selected windows, depending on how extensive a system you want.

- There are also systems that require no wiring. They are powered by small flashlight-type batteries and transmit signals to the alarm control by radio waves. Of course, if the batteries are dead, you have no system, and they must be replaced routinely.

- There are motion detectors that alarm when any motion in a room interrupts the ultrasonic waves. The motion may be caused by a burglar—or by a child, pet or unaware guest. Also, if not properly adjusted, they have been known to upset pets or even give some members of your family headaches.

- And there are a host of barrier alarms, such as infrared rays, that sound an alarm when someone passes across the beam. They work on the same principle as the supermarket door that opens as you approach, except that they are hooked up to a piercing sound.

If you really feel the need, you might consider getting together with other concerned people in your neighborhood or AARP-NRTA chapter or unit, and systematically investigating the various alarm systems on the market, as a group project. Ask your insurance man, police, and licensed locksmiths for information. And don't forget, if you decide to invest in anything sufficiently elaborate, add fire-sensing capability.



How to handle con artists

You may not be too much concerned about becoming involved in a fraud—which is the use of deceit or trickery to induce someone to part with something of value, usually his money. You probably think you would be the last person in the world to fall for a bunco artist—that's someone who practices a swindling game or scheme. After all, they're clumsy attempts to part fools from their money, right? So blatantly preposterous and outside the law that no intelligent, normal citizen would fall for one. Right?

Wrong, on both counts. Law enforcement officers with any expertise in this area will tell you that there is no end to the ways in which intelligent, well-educated, otherwise aware people can be swindled and defrauded every day, if they are hit with the right scheme, at the right time, by the right "operator."

They will tell you that, despite all that the Federal Trade Commission, the Better Business Bureaus, the Postal Service, and law enforcement agencies can do, one larcenous scheme seems to flourish as fast as another is exposed. That the same schemes, with infinite variations, have been successfully operated for decades, right up to and including today. That if you have a bit of larceny in your own heart—that is, you believe you *can* get something for nothing—you're setting yourself up for a swindle. And an "it can't happen to me" attitude doesn't hurt the swindler a bit. In

fact, the universal, bewildered question from the victim to the reporting police officer is almost always, "How could this happen to me?"

We hope you are never victimized. If you've never been swindled, you're speaking from a strong position. But prior warning is one of the best protections you can have. Unfortunately, the variety in the fraud business is dazzling. But if you are aware of some of the most common "pitches," the usual approaches, and other characteristics of a deal to stay away from, it will cause you to think before you leap—and a little forethought will usually save you from being rudely parted from your money.

THE PIGEON DROP AND THE BANK EXAMINER

These two bunco schemes are flourishing in every major city across the country. They seem preposterous. But the swindlers are consummate actors. Bunco division police officers constantly wonder why these talented people don't make money legitimately. The victims are usually older people, often women.

The Pigeon Drop. The victim is approached by one of the swindlers and engaged in a conversation on any sympathetic subject. Let's say the victim is an older woman. When the swindler has gained her confidence, she mentions a large sum of money found by a second swindler who, at that moment, "happens" to pass by. The victim is led to believe that whoever lost the money probably came by it unlawfully. The swindlers discuss with the victim what to do with the money. One of the swindlers says that she works in the vicinity, and decides to go contact her "employer" for advice. She returns in a few minutes and states that her boss has counted the money and verified the amount, and that he agrees that as the money undoubtedly was stolen or belonged to a gambler or some such variation on a theme, that they should keep and divide the money three ways. *But* that each should show evidence of financial responsibility and good faith before collecting a share. The victim is then induced to draw her "good faith" money from her bank. After she has done this, either alone or in the company of one of the swindlers, the money is taken by the swindler to her "employer." Upon the swindler's return, the victim is given the name and address of the employer and told he is waiting with her share of the money. The victim leaves and, of course, cannot find the employer or sometimes even the address. When she returns to where she left the swindlers they,

of course, are gone. In many locales, this little scheme accounts for about 65 per cent of all confidence game complaints to police.

The Bank Examiner. Law enforcement officials have labeled this bunco scheme one of the slickest to appear in many years. It is currently flourishing from New York to California. Principal targets are people in the 60-and-over age group. It happens this way. A phony bank or savings and loan "investigator" calls you or comes to your home. He is very serious, and may have brought along deposit slips from your bank and other official-looking papers. He tells you that the bank is checking up on a dishonest employe, and explains how you can help. He says he wants to make a test to see what the suspected employe does when a customer draws money out of his account. He suggests that you go to your bank, draw a specified amount of money, then let him use it for the test. Either he or a "bonded messenger" or some other official will pick up the money at some nearby point. You withdraw the money. Advised of the need for "absolute secrecy" and that the money must be cash "in order to check serial numbers," you ignore the bank teller's concern that you are drawing out such a large sum of cash. You give the money to the "examiner," who hands you a receipt, thanks you for your "co-operation," and may tell you how he plans to use it to trap the suspected employe. Once he's gone, you'll never see him again, or your money. The bank, of course, has never heard of him.

If it seems inconceivable that anyone would fall for one of these two stories, you need re-educating. Take a few moments to think them through in an imaginative way. Remember that swindlers are often very intelligent people. They rarely use force or even threaten physical harm. Instead, they make you feel secure, intellectually or emotionally stimulated, and "in on something." It's like being momentarily taken in by a consummate actor on the stage or screen. That's point number one.

We can learn a few other things from just these two "lines." Now, *why* must you act "immediately," or sign "right now," instead of thinking about the situation long enough to seek advice and check it out? For example, the dishonest bank employe is not going to go away. The simple reason is that most bunco stories would begin to fall apart immediately if you gave it a moment's clear-headed thought, away from the influence of the con artist. Don't jump into anything involving your money or property, ever! Always, always remember: If it's legitimate, it'll be there tomorrow.

If it isn't legitimate, then you definitely don't need it.

Something for nothing? Get rich quick? Secret plan? Shun them all. Don't be naive. Banks, legitimate businesses, government officials, and rational private individuals do not propose secret plans to complete strangers, ever!

The Pigeon Drop and Bank Examiner are dramatic, person-to-person encounters. Let's look briefly at a few other rackets you may come up against

MAIL FRAUDS

The chief postal inspector has a list of frauds perpetrated through the mails that would astound you. You are probably unaware at this very moment that many of them are highly illegal.

They are directed against CONSUMERS of all products, against people seeking BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES, against people seeking MEDICAL HELP, and against people seeking SELF-IMPROVEMENT methods. Let's look at a few in each category. Remember that these "opportunities" arrive in your mailbox, every day.

Consumer Frauds. The "fake contest" starts with the exciting news that you "have won." In reality, there is no contest. It is a come-on to get you involved in a transaction where you are going to be parted from your money for no return.

"Home Improvement" offers are often made through the mails. And they are one of the most popular swindles going. You have nothing to gain by using the mails to improve your property.

"Chain-referral schemes" have been going on since the year one. You buy an appliance or some other product, and you will undoubtedly end up getting it for free, since you will get a commission for selling additional ones to friends. They're overpriced and impossible to sell. You've bought it.

"Debt consolidation." An offer to make your life rosy by consolidating your debts, giving you one easy finance charge and peace of mind to boot—that comes through the mail—is something to throw away. Legitimate banks and lending institutions do offer debt consolidation, with financial counseling, for people who request it. Any mail offer probably includes heavier financial burden than you have now. Stay away.

"Retirement Estates" are constantly being offered to a few lucky individuals for ridiculously low prices. Investigations almost always prove there's something drastically wrong. If common sense

tells you the offer "can't be true," it undoubtedly isn't.

Business Opportunities. Let's look at a few. Potential entrepreneurs, who can't afford to lose their savings, should exercise all the caution in the world when faced with one of these. Don't jump; and check out every angle exhaustively.

"Business Franchises," such as a hamburger or restaurant chain, can be legitimate and lucrative. However, honest ones with money-making potential are bound to have a price tag to match. Sometimes, even that is no guarantee. The usual outcome of buying into a fraudulent operation is to end up with a worthless name and nonexistent services from your franchise operator.

"Work-at-Home" schemes are more within the average person's pocketbook. The victim is usually a woman who seeks additional income by working at home. If a newspaper ad or flyer proposes that you earn money by working at home, sewing, knitting or doing some other task, asks for a small "registration fee," and a sample of your work to demonstrate your skill--beware. One such offer drew 200,000 inquiries. No one qualified and none of the money was returned.

Medical Frauds. These can be downright dangerous because while you are fooling around with some bogus treatment or cure, your health may be worsening for lack of legitimate medical care.

"Fake Laboratory Tests" are always being offered, somewhere. If you're susceptible, you lose your 10, 15, 20 or more dollars, get an absolutely worthless report on whether or not you have cancer, arthritis or gall bladder trouble, and you may be misled and endanger your health.

"Miracle Cures" often publicized in the backs of newspapers and magazines are not worth reading. They shouldn't be there in the first place, no matter how hedged or discrete or fuzzy the language. If you bite, the quackery is usually consummated through the mail.

"Mail Order Clinic." In this seemingly legitimate offer, you are drawn into a free medical diagnosis or some other bait and trapped into expensive and useless treatments. Legitimate doctors, clinics and hospitals *do not* advertise, and they do not sell their services for free. Ever.

Self-Improvement. We all have a natural desire to look, act, and be better than we are. A laudable idea, which is seldom to be realized through a mail offer (such as one to teach you new skills through a contract requiring regular payments).

OTHER WAYS YOU CAN BE BILKED

Now that you've seen what can happen to you through the mails, let's hit the high points of a few of the other most popular frauds and bunco schemes. Many, many people are practicing them every day, in big cities and little towns. Authorities have documented more than 800 different schemes to *illegally* separate you from your money or property.



Advertising Campaigns. You are led to believe that you have been chosen to be featured in an advertising campaign because you are a leader, a model homemaker or some such thing. The idea is to get you to sign a contract for some benefit or inducements to participate. Make sure the contract doesn't include signing away your home if you fail to keep up payments on something or decide not to participate in some other way.

This is an extension of a *legitimate* business practice wherein famous or noteworthy people *are* asked to be a part of a legitimate advertising campaign. This is important! Many schemes *are* reminiscent of legitimate practices; you know you've heard of them before; they operate in a fuzzy area in which you stand to gain nothing, but can be legally held to the terms of anything you sign.

Bait and Switch. Here again we have a legitimate sales technique that *becomes* illegal. If someone advertises a commodity at a ridiculously low price to get you into his store or place of business, that is the "bait." If you get there and the bargains do not exist or

are all mysteriously sold, and you are steered to a higher-priced item, often an unknown brand, that is the "switch." It is illegal; report it.

Contracts. Never sign a contract until you have thoroughly read it, had it looked over by your banker or lawyer or other appropriate expert, and then thought long and hard about what it means for you. *Stop before you sign anything and do all of these things.* Many contracts that seem harmless, unimportant, or unquestionably on the up and up have clauses that go far beyond what you have been verbally led to believe. Irregardless, they may very well be binding. Such a small thing as a magazine subscription may involve a deed of trust to your home, or endless payments. If you learn nothing else, don't do this.

Fear-Sell. This is the rush technique, coupled with a generous dose of anxiety-producing high pressure. "Your tree is so rotten that unless it is immediately cut down it will crash into your roof!" "Your water heater is about to blow up!" "Your electrical wiring could cause your house to burn down any minute!" "Don't drive another minute in your car until you buy a new engine! You're endangering your life and others!" If anyone gives you this line, quietly but firmly take your business elsewhere—and *do* check it out, elsewhere. You'll probably find nothing wrong.

If your doomsayer is a "city inspector," complete with phony credentials, nip it in the bud by not letting him past your doormat, and call in to check his credentials. This should take care of it. There are very few "city inspectors" who do this kind of thing. If you get taken in, he'll inspect whatever it is he's inspecting, find it completely unsafe, order it shut down (the water, the furnace, etc.), and then come up with the name of a plumber, electrician or other expert friend who just happens to be able to respond to your emergency. After it's all over with, you've had nothing done, been charged an exorbitant amount, and often been talked into a fat maintenance contract to make sure it doesn't happen again.

Home Improvements. Many experts list home improvement frauds as the biggest fraudulent operation going. Your chances of meeting up with one of these traveling repairmen—who just drove by and noticed that your chimney is about to fall in, or just have enough paint left over from a big job to give your house a coat at a big savings—are excellent. Again, legitimate repairmen do not make idle stops in such a helpful manner.

A big part of protecting yourself against all fraud is being an exhaustive *shopper*. Resist the impulse to grab anything that just comes along. The best advice if you "hate shopping" is to forget about savings, and don't buy anything that isn't a brand name product or service. You'll end up ahead.

Remember these important points, always, and you'll never get burned:

Be constantly aware of what's happening to you, what people are saying, and how they are saying it! Are you being rushed? Stop it immediately!

Know what you are signing! Even a "receipt" or a minor contract. Get away and read it. If your salesman objects, even jokingly, hand it back to him and close the door on that deal. If it's legitimate, it'll be available around the corner.

If you are being offered something for nothing, as a general rule don't go for it. Allow yourself three days to check it out.

Stay away from secret deals and plans. The only people who could legitimately involve a private citizen in such a situation are law enforcement officers. Call police headquarters, check with the commander, and verify their authenticity. Don't use their telephone number. Look it up yourself. The whole thing is unlikely.

Cash—once out of your hands it can be used by whoever has it. Bells should go off in your head before you turn over any sizable sum of your money to anyone—especially a stranger.

In the end, you are your own best protector of yourself—if you know how. And that's what this book has been all about!

AARP-NRTA ANTI-CRIME PROGRAM

This book was prepared in response to innumerable requests from AARP-NRTA members for information and practical advice on crime prevention. To further assist members, your Associations have developed a new Crime Prevention Program, designed to be presented in a series of four sessions in local AARP-NRTA meetings.

If your chapter or unit would like to participate in the program, it should select a program chairman to contact AARP-NRTA headquarters in Washington for the special Crime Prevention Program handbook, the accompanying series of four films, and other resource materials. A full script accompanies each of the four sessions, so that a local volunteer can conduct the series. Remember, your best defense against crime is information and prevention!

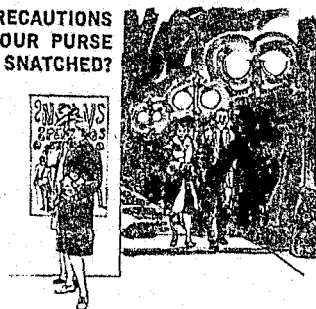
"Alone, and always alone, must we meet great issues. As an individual we entered this world and, as an individual, we depart from it. The individual man is still the moving force, the dynamo, the energy that moves the mass and drives into adventurous seeking for what lies forever beyond the ever receding horizon."

Ethel Percy Andrus
Founder of AARP and NRTA

QUESTIONS THIS BOOK ANSWERS



WHAT SIMPLE PRECAUTIONS
 WILL KEEP YOUR PURSE
 FROM BEING SNATCHED?



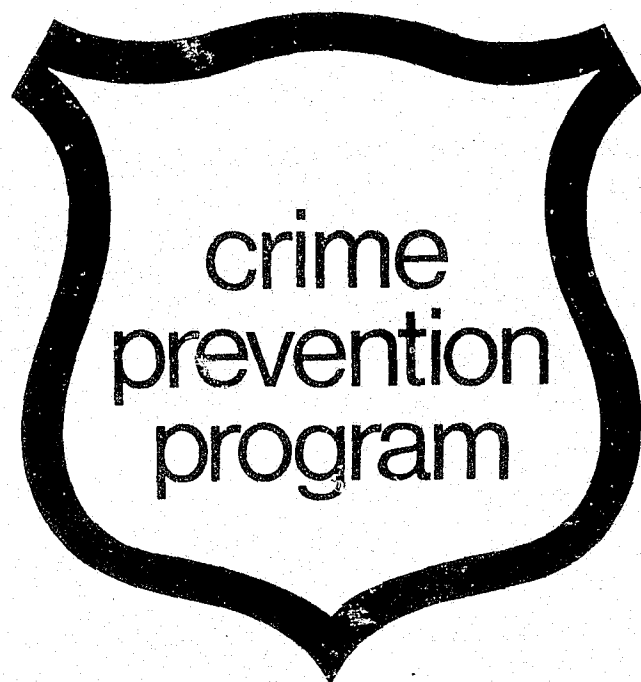
WHAT MEASURES CAN
 YOU TAKE TO KEEP
 FROM BEING CONNED?



WHAT PRECAUTIONS SHOULD
 YOU TAKE WHILE DRIVING?

TO JOIN AARP OR NRTA—PUBLISHERS OF THIS FREE 'BETTER RETIREMENT' BOOK—USE THE CONVENIENT COUPONS IN THE CENTER OF THE BOOK

American Association of Retired Persons
 National Retired Teachers Association
 215 Long Beach Blvd.
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A public service program

National Retired Teachers Association
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RETIRED
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AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION
OF RETIRED
PERSONS

FOREWORD

The National Retired Teachers Association and the American Association of Retired Persons are endeavoring in many ways to help the mature person cope with crime.

One of these endeavors is the Crime Prevention Program. Crime Prevention is a science that can be defined as the anticipation, the recognition and the appraisal of a crime risk and the initiation of positive action to reduce or remove this risk.

Mary Mullen
President NRTA

Douglas O. Woodruff
President AARP

Bernard E. Noy
Executive Director

National Headquarters 1909 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20049 (202) 872-4700

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NOTE:

This program is structured to be given in four meetings, each of about two hours duration:

First Meeting	Street Crime
Second Meeting	Burglary
Third Meeting	Fraud/Bunco
Fourth Meeting	Community/Police Relations

6th Revision

TO CHAPTER/UNIT OFFICERS

The need for a Crime Prevention Program has been demonstrated to National Headquarters in many ways--by national surveys, by observations of our volunteers and by personal comments. The leaders of your Associations have responded to this need.

To move toward defining the problem and building a program we conducted considerable research. In addition to the review of many surveys and studies, this included correspondence, phone conversations and conferences with:

- 216 Police/Law Enforcement Departments
- 50 State Criminal Justice Planning Commissions
- 43 Associations/Institutes/Universities
- 9 Publishers
- 18 Government/State Agencies
- 10 Manufacturers
- 36 Alarm/Hardware Companies
- 7 Research Organizations
- 11 Film Producers/Distributors
- 42 Individuals

The next major effort was to analyze the masses of information and statistics and put them in a form that would meet the needs but not be overwhelming in scope or detail.

We urge you to be flexible in presenting this program. You may want to try variations such as those suggested in the Planning Guide.

Resource persons are usually easy to obtain. Most law enforcement agencies have members who are qualified in crime prevention activities. The graduates of the National Crime prevention Institute at the University of Louisville in Kentucky are good resource persons for this program.

Let us help you if we can.

CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMSTREET CRIME--I6th RevisionSTREET CRIMEPRESENTATION SCRIPTMeeting No. 1
(Two Periods)(Aims)

-During this presentation we will cover the most common street crime problems and give specific and currently acceptable guidance to you.
-Through experience, law enforcement officers have developed knowledge of what the real dangers are--we will point these out to you.
-We will give you practical pointers to follow--things to do or not to do. These have been developed on the basis of much practical experience.

(Motivation)

-If you follow this advice, you will be able to increase your personal safety and reduce the risk of becoming a victim of street crime.
-One good example of a simple but effective crime prevention measure is known to all of you. At one time, bus drivers were subjected to assaults, robberies, and murders--mostly over a few dollars in the coin box. Bus drivers stopped handling money, the coin box was bolted to the bus, and this type of crime has almost completely disappeared.

(Introduction to Subject)

-Everyone, when out on the street, could be a victim but the older person, and particularly the older woman, is more often the prey.
-We will run a film which will show the things you should and should not do.
-In this film you will see how certain acts on your part may increase your chances of being victimized and how these chances can be greatly reduced by taking certain simple precautions.
-In the film you will see a woman returning from grocery shopping. She carries her purse in such a way as to make it easy for a thief to snatch it. The scene is reenacted to show you how a simple precaution will reduce this risk.
-The film will show things you should and should not do when walking at night.

-It will show you things to look for and to avoid while traveling at night.
-The question of carrying weapons will be discussed.
-Conduct in an apartment building will be shown. It will show you what to look for and what actions to take.
-Precautions will be given on safe conduct while driving at night--anti-crime precautions.
-Other crime prevention actions will be portrayed.
-Lastly, the film will show you some of the dangers of carrying guns or knives.
-We will now show the film. The title is:

WALK WITHOUT FEAR

Start film: WALK WITHOUT FEAR
(20-minute film)

(Recap of film)

-You have just seen a film which portrayed the most common situations that you may encounter on the street.
-You have seen how careless actions can increase your risks of being victimized.
-You have seen how certain protective and precautionary measures or actions can greatly reduce your risks.
-Immediately following the break we will cover in greater detail some of the things that you should know to make you safer from street crimes.

(BREAK)

STREET CRIME
(Second Period)

(Introduction to Second Period)

-During this second period we will present more detailed information and some additional pointers that you should know.
 -The more you know about the street crime and the more you understand it, the better your chances are to cope with it and thereby reduce your risks.
- (Subject)
-Finding the causes of crime--why a person becomes involved in criminal activity--and finding solutions are among the most pressing social needs of today. Our nation and the world have spent and are spending thousands of millions of dollars in this quest. We know the ills of crime, but the cure remains elusive.
 -Your Associations are using their influence in every possible way to encourage government, industry, and private endeavor to seek out the causes of crime and to find solutions.
 -Until a cure is discovered we must deal with practical factors--those things you can do now to reduce your chances of being victimized.
 -Three things are necessary before a crime can be committed--we might call them the parts of a CRIME TRIANGLE.
 -The criminal must have:
 - the DESIRE to commit a crime,
 - an OPPORTUNITY to commit a crime, and
 - the POSSIBILITY of ESCAPE.
 -Now, it is true that a few criminals will commit a crime knowing there is no chance of escape, but these are usually crimes of passion or they are committed by that small minority who are mentally ill.
 -In CRIME PREVENTION basic principles are to devise means to remove one or more of the angles of the CRIME TRIANGLE. The DESIRE, the OPPORTUNITY, or the ESCAPE.
 -One thing we can do a great deal about is--REMOVING THE OPPORTUNITY. Street criminals are most often OPPORTUNISTS.

- Sometimes our very actions, like flashing sums of money, create a DESIRE in the criminal. Let us learn how to avoid these tempting actions.
- And we can do things that will greatly increase the possibility of ARREST should we be victimized.
- Now, having dealt briefly with the criminal, let's look briefly at the nature of street crime.
- The STREET CRIMES that we are most frequently subjected to fall into three major categories. They are:

Purse Snatch
Strong-arm Robbery (Muggings, etc.)
Holdup

- Purse Snatch is usually a hit-and-run operation--quite often done so quickly the victim hardly knows what has happened. The police so often hear the victim say that someone came up from behind, snatched the purse, and disappeared so rapidly that a good look at the thief was not possible.
- Strong-arm robbery is, as the name indicates, robbing by the use of force.
- Holdup is taking something from you by threatening you with a weapon, usually a gun or knife.
- Having now examined the criminal and having determined the principal problems, let us see what can be done about it.

WALKING

- You spend much of your time walking in public spaces--on the streets and byways--and you saw in the film some of the things you should not do. Do not give the criminal an OPPORTUNITY to commit a crime.
- Plan your route, especially at night. Follow well-lighted and well-traveled streets.
- Try to go with companions, especially after dark.
- If possible, someone should know your route and destination so that you will be missed if you do not arrive on time.
- Avoid dark places, short cuts, thick trees and shrubs, and sparsely-traveled areas.
- And, most important, try to be aware of areas in which there has been a large incidence of crime and avoid them.

In Stores

- Do not display cash except in small amounts.
- Do not leave your purse unattended, as on the counter while you examine an item.
- If you are transacting business and have your purse open, do not allow yourself to be distracted. Close your purse as quickly as possible.

Robbery

- DO NOT RESIST! One of the most important points to remember if you are held up is DO NOT RESIST. Give the robber what he wants. Do not try to fight him. The police have countless records of persons who have sustained serious injury by resisting a robber whereas in most cases those who have not resisted have not been injured.
- It is very important to remember enough about the robber to give the police something to work on. One technique is to concentrate on one or two identification points. They may be:

A scar on the face
A prominent skin blemish
A distinctive tattoo
A physical deformity

- One or two really good points of identification will be of great help to the police.
- Remember, many street criminals are habitual offenders and are well known to the police. Something like 80 percent of the felons in the criminal justice pipeline get back into the system.

Purse Snatch

- Purse snatching is one of the most frequently committed street crimes and, again, the older woman is most often the target.
- In the film you were given some pointers to keep in mind. We will give you a few more.
- First, do you REALLY have to carry that purse or is it just a habit?
- If you are just going to the grocery store, could you not do just as well by just taking the money that you need? Or just a check?
- Think prevention!

- Do not dangle your purse so as to make it easy to snatch. You saw in the film how easy it was for the purse snatcher to grab the victim's purse.
- Again we emphasize relative values--injury versus property. Do not carry your purse with the strap wound around your wrist or in such a manner as is likely to cause you to be pulled down if someone runs up behind you and snatches your purse.
- Now, you may think your law enforcement officers are giving you conflicting advice. This is not so. The police want you to keep a firm grip on your purse and not to be an easy target. Many times this will discourage a criminal - deny him an opportunity. But if a thief does grab your purse, do not expose yourself to the possibility of being thrown down or dragged.
- Following the advice of your law enforcement agencies presents a bit more trouble. All this takes a little extra thought and planning but we should strive to develop an attitude of being Crime Prevention conscious.

DRIVING

- The film gave some advice on driving. Some of this advice is important enough to review briefly.
- Keep your car doors locked and windows rolled up at least far enough to prevent anyone from reaching inside.
- Plan your route to avoid high crime areas.
- Travel well-lighted and well-traveled routes. You are less likely to be victimized in these areas than in dark and sparsely traveled streets and roads.
- Do not leave your purse on the seat beside you where it can be snatched easily.
- If threatened, drive off and blow your horn. The horn blowing may attract the police or scare off the threatening persons or attract help.
- When you park your car, always lock the doors.
- When returning to a parked car, always look inside - into both the back and front sections - to assure that no one is hiding in the car.
- Develop awareness - prevent crime.

Auto Theft

- Almost a million cars were stolen in 1971. Again in 1973 there were 923,600 automobiles stolen. Clearly you have a good chance of becoming a victim. Reduce these chances by taking a few simple precautions.
- Lock your doors!
- Never leave the keys in the ignition of an unattended car!
- Never leave the engine running if you leave your car--even for very brief periods!
- Out of all the cars that were stolen about 8 out of 10 had the doors unlocked and about 4 out of 10 had keys in the ignition. Considering the relatively few cars that were left with keys in the ignition, you can see that this act greatly increases your risk of being a victim of car theft.
- Develop an attitude of Crime Prevention.

At Home

- In the film you were shown several crime prevention pointers pertaining to conduct in and around your home.
- You should NOT automatically open your door when someone knocks, especially if you are alone. Know who is outside.
- If the caller is an unwanted salesman, you can always say you are busy without opening the door.
- Telegrams can be slipped under the door without opening the door.
- If the caller wants to use the phone, take the message and make the call for him.
- If the person becomes threatening, you have time to call the police, or call others, or otherwise protect yourself.
- Be cautious in using laundry rooms when you are alone; try to have someone with you.
- Draw your blinds or draperies closed to prevent prowlers from watching from outside.
- If you hear a prowler, call the police immediately. If the lights are out, leave them out.
- On the telephone, do not say anything to indicate that you are alone when talking with an unknown person. If the call is obscene, hang up.

Self Defense

-Certainly one of the most important subjects that can be discussed is self-defense. What can and should you do about it?
-The first and cardinal rule is to try to practice crime prevention to the degree that self-defense will not be necessary.
-Avoid those situations wherein you may have to resort to self-defense.
-If you are robbed, do not resist if only property is at stake.
-Do not provoke the robber by actions or words. Do what he tells you to do.
-Many police departments suggest that you carry a whistle. If you do, carry it where it can be used immediately.
-Experience has shown that screaming is one of the best defenses for a woman who is being attacked.
-If you are the victim of an attack, you should do everything possible to protect yourself. Scream, call for help, kick, bite, fight, struggle. Try to run away to a place of greater safety. Scream while running.

Weapons

-During discussions about self-defense, the question is often raised about carrying weapons, particularly guns and knives. Questions that you might ask yourself before deciding to carry a weapon could be:

Is the weapon legal?
 Is the weapon safe to use?
 Are you trained to use the weapon?
 Do you know the limitations of the weapon?
 Do you know the law? How far can you go in the use of the weapon?
 And, as the film portrayed dramatically, so often the weapon is used against the victim.

-More and more non-lethal weapons are coming on the market. Research has been continuing in this area of development of weapons. Your law enforcement agency may have advice on this subject.

Reporting Crime

-You should always report crime. Police use crime reports to determine the kinds and frequency of police patrols. They are used for a number of police purposes. Do not take the attitude that there is little use in reporting a crime.

-Remember--if your report includes the description of a criminal, try to furnish one or two or more good, reliable identification features of the criminal.

(Summary)

-We have seen an educational film and have talked about crime--how to cope with it, how to avoid risks, and what to do in various situations.
-We have talked about the criminal triangle--DESIRE, OPPORTUNITY, and ESCAPE--how we can prevent crime by the removal of one of these factors.
-We have pointed out that the most common street crimes are purse snatch, strongarm robbery, and holdup.
-We know we can reduce our risks by taking certain simple precautionary actions.
-We have stressed the importance of not resisting if only property is at stake.
-We have pointed out some of the dangers of carrying weapons.
-Be aware! Be Crime Prevention conscious.

(Conclusions)

-We know there are simple measures or actions you can take to reduce your risks.
-Criminals are opportunists--do not give them an opportunity to commit a crime.
-Our most important message is to become Crime Prevention conscious.

Think how you can avoid crime.
 Think prevention.
 Act prevention.
 Be aware.

CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMBURGLARY--II6th Revision

14
PRESENTATION SCRIPT
Meeting No. 2
 (Two Periods)

BURGLARY-RESIDENTIAL SECURITY(Aims)

-During this presentation we will discuss some burglary problems as they pertain to private residences.
-We will show you what you can do to decrease your risks and to increase your security.
-We hope to encourage you to report those things that will help your law enforcement officers in their fight against crime.
-We hope to encourage you to become more security conscious and to develop a Crime Prevention attitude.

(Motivation)

-Burglary is the most frequently committed of the major crimes--of those crimes reported in the FBI Uniform Crime Reports.
-It is the opinion of many law enforcement officers that most burglaries can be prevented.
-If you develop an attitude of being security conscious and if you follow a few simple precautions, you can greatly reduce your chances of being burglarized.

(Introduction to Subject)

-Many people clearly understand what a burglary is but frequently interchange the words "burglary" and "robbery."
-A robbery is a person-to-person crime, a crime such as a holdup.
-A burglary, if we use the definition given in the Uniform Crime Reports of the FBI, is the unlawful entry of a building to commit a crime even though no force was used to gain entrance.
-You see, then, a robbery is a crime against persons.
-A burglary is a crime against property which requires illegal entry into a building.
-During this presentation we will talk about burglaries against homes, houses, apartments--those burglaries that are most likely to affect you personally.
-In the film we are about to show, you will see how some of your actions or practices actually "invite" a burglar to attack your home.

-You will be shown some security devices and
-You will be given some anti-burglary pointers.
-More than 50 law enforcement agencies cooperated in the making of this film.
-The information is timely, factual and can help you reduce your risk.
-We will now show the film. The title is:

INVITATIONS TO BURGLARY

Start film: INVITATIONS TO BURGLARY
(22-minute film)

(Recap of film)

-You have seen how some of your practices may actually "invite" a burglar to choose your residence.
-You have seen a film that explains various security devices that residents should know about.
-You have been given some advice on how you can discourage or prevent a burglary.
-During the next period, we will cover in greater detail some of the things you should know and repeat some of the things that are important to you.

(BREAK)

BURGLARY-RESIDENTIAL SECURITY
(Second Period)

(Motivation)

-In recent years there has been a great increase in residential type burglaries. Since this form of crime is directed against you, we will show you what to do.
-Residential burglaries are increasing at a greater rate than burglaries of businesses. More and more you are becoming the Number One target.
-Daytime residential burglaries....burglaries committed in broad daylight....have been increasing at an unbelievable rate. As an example, in the last decade, between 1960 and 1970, daytime residential burglaries increased a whopping 337 percent. Again in 1973 the burglary rate increased 7% over 1972.
-And like many others, the burglar has moved to the suburbs. Some of the reasons for this suburban trend are:

There's lots of loot in the more affluent suburbs.

Easy in - Easy out. Those beautiful new highways allow him to get in and get out fast.

Increased police patrol and increased security awareness in many cities have driven the burglar to greener pastures.

The suburban dweller quite often is more relaxed about security and makes an easier target.

Police are spread thinner in these areas.

More distance between houses and the opportunity to work hidden by shrubs and trees give the burglar a better chance to hit and run.
-All these indications point to the fact that you--the resident--are becoming more and more the target of the burglar.
-But even at that, major studies, surveys and many law officers state that most burglaries can be prevented and without too much cost or trouble.

(Introduction to Subject)

-During this second period, we will briefly examine the burglar and discuss some of the aspects of the crime of burglary.
-We will show you how quite often the burglar is an opportunist and when you present an opportunity it is an "invitation to burglary." Let's find out how to avoid these unwelcome visits.
-We will spend most of the time telling you how to reduce your risks--what you should do as countermeasures against the burglar.

(Subject)

The Character of the Burglar

-First, a few facts about today's burglar.
-In military terms, to know your enemy is the first step toward victory.
-Most burglars today are young, and many are very young. As an example, in one study recently released, 64 percent of the burglars apprehended were under 18 years of age.
-Only a few are truly professional--most are non-skilled who seize opportunities or search for opportunities to burglarize. This is to our advantage because it is very difficult to thwart a skilled burglar. The others can quite often be thwarted by removing their opportunities.
-Most burglars do not want to attack anyone--they are looking for money or something to convert into money. However, if trapped, scared, threatened, or the like, they have been known to resort to violence. The lesson here is not to sacrifice yourself or be injured to save property. Try to get one or two good points of identification and report the matter to the police. Get away from the burglar. Let your law officer handle him.
-Drug addiction causes an astronomical amount of crime. Many addicts must steal the equivalent of a color TV every day to support their habit. They can be irrational and dangerous if confronted.

Points of Entry

-Most burglars enter a residence through a door and since they usually are not committed to hard work, they like to walk right in--which they do more often than you might think. So, from this, we should remind ourselves to lock our doors.

-Statistically, his second choice is through a convenient window. In one major city, a study disclosed that over 90 percent of the entries into residences were through doors and windows.
-Since he most often is a nonskilled worker, an opportunist and not looking for hard work, he'll pass up a locked door or window if he can find an easier way into the premises.
-Garages afford an excellent point of entry. He can often work out of sight and may even have you provide the tools to force the door. So often such tools are stored in the garage and an opportunist will not overlook this. The lesson here is to keep your garage doors locked.
-Openings leading to fire escapes are often used if they are unprotected from the outside.
-Make your own burglary survey. How would you break into your home?
-An example, burglars have been known to slip air conditioners out of windows to afford entry. Sometimes they walk off with the air conditioner as well as your favorite fur.
-With these thoughts in mind, take another look at your residence and think how you can improve your security. In the case of the air conditioner, a few screws or other fasteners would make it more difficult....and that is what you are trying to do....make entry more difficult. Making entry impossible is almost impossible, unless you want to build another Fort Knox.

Methods of Entry

-Keeping out a professional is very difficult....fortunately there are not too many of these around in proportion to the nonskilled.
-Some of the accomplishments of truly skilled burglars have made even old-time law officers gasp with admiration. A classic example was the penetration of an island fortress set up by a wealthy gangster. The pro, who was later caught, said it was just too much of a challenge. His team included expert electronic technicians and skilled locksmiths. You can't beat combinations such as that. What you can do, though, is not make it worth his time....and that is a fundamental anti-burglary principle. If you reduce to a minimum the valuables you have in your home, you can deny the burglar.

.....So we will devote our consideration to those methods employed by the common, street variety of burglar..... the one who is most likely to enter our homes.

.....We will just list some of the things that show up in crime statistics.....the experiences of your law enforcement agencies.

.....How do they get in?

An unlocked door.

Finding your "hidden" key.

Breaking out glass pane in door and reaching in to unlock door.

Window open or unlocked.

Slipping, picking or pulling lock.

Removing exposed hinge pins and swinging door open from hinge side.

Kicking in door panel.

Forcing or prying door open.

Lifting patio sliding glass door off tracks, forcing flimsy lock, prying sliding door.

.....These are things that most often come to the attention of the police. You see, then, that most of these operations are relatively simple and easy to do.

.....Some hit-and-run burglars observe your residence and note the activity. If you are working in the yard and there seems to be no other activity, they will slip into the house through the unlocked door on the opposite side, keep you in view and get out after grabbing everything within easy reach.

.....Some burglars make a practice of phoning your residence first; if there is no answer, they follow this up to see if your place is ready to be burglarized.

.....A small minority that deserve special attention is the so-called "cat" burglar who enters an occupied house at night and stealthily removes your valuables, including the wallet under the pillow. He can be dangerous. Be careful if you awaken while he is still there. It is best to avoid him.

Pilferable Items

.....Well, in your residence, what is he likely to look for?

.....Usually he will take anything that can be easily converted into money.

.....Since money is what he wants, money is one of the main things he looks for in his search. Many convicted burglars who have been interviewed in the course of studies have said this over and over.

.....Now, he may want dope, but money, or its equivalent, is his vehicle for a ride his dream cloud.

.....Just because he is looking for money doesn't mean he will pass up items that are easy to convert into money.

.....These are some of the things most frequently stolen:

Appliances that can be easily sold
Binoculars
Cameras
Coin Collections
Credit Cards
Expensive Bicycles
Furs
Guns and Gun Collections
Jewelry
Other Valuable Collections
Power Tools
Sporting Goods
Stereos
Tape Recorders
TV's
Typewriters
Valuable Tools
Watches

.....Think of items in your home that fall into this general category of pilferable items. What do you have that we have not mentioned?

Countermeasures

Now, having learned this much about the burglar and how he operates.....let's see what we can do to encourage him to follow another line of work.

.....We will go into some detail and tell you some specific things to do to reduce your risk of being burglarized but, first, it may be more important to touch on some basic anti-burglary principles.

.....These are the 4 D's.....

Deny
Deter
Delay
Detect

.....Because this is a major subject area and people spend entire lives in the study of security, we can talk about only those things of greatest importance to you. If you remember these basic principles and apply them to your residence, you can go a long way toward determining your own security needs. Remember, you can't guarantee your home will be burglary-proof. You can, very definitely, switch the odds to your favor.

.....If you want to increase the security of your home, think how you can deny, deter, delay or detect the burglar.

.....Corollary principles of protection are, the burglar does not like:

Locks,
Light or the
Law.

.....We will discuss the practical application of these principles of protection as they relate to burglary.

.....Deny.....How can you deny the burglar?

.....If you have no money in the house, you have denied him.

.....How else can you deny him?

.....You are the best judge of this. Think of those things you can do to deny him.

.....Can you place valuable jewelry in a safe deposit box if it is used only rarely? This will deny him.

.....Can you place your furs in storage during the warm season? This will reduce your exposure and deny him during the period they are in storage.

.....With these few examples as a starter, think what might be stolen from your residence and how you can deny the burglar.

.....Don't underestimate yourself! You can be your best security advisor. It takes a little time and a little thought.

.....If you can't deny him.....let's think about how we can deter him.

.....Lights that are placed to make the house look occupied while you are away for the evening will make him think twice.

.....Keep interior and exterior lights on while you are away for the evening.

.....The best general advice along the lines of making the burglar hesitate is to make your place look occupied. How can you do that? It is not so difficult, is it?

.....How about a barking dog? There are times when poor Fido gets the wrong end of your boot for barking at Uncle Andrew, but he may be more valuable than you think. Give him a dog biscuit. He may be your best alarm system.

.....Some have found that a radio playing at normal volume has been a good deterrent. With a few lights and a radio or TV playing, the burglar may think you are enjoying an evening in your favorite armchair. It will make him think. If someone is going to follow burglary as a line of work, let's make them work at it. Many times these simple measures will cause a burglar to try a less risky residence. One burglar told a policeman, after his arrest, that burglary of residences was so easy he couldn't resist the temptation.

.....Now that you are rapidly becoming your own security expert, what other ways can you think of to deter a burglar from attacking your residence?

.....On the contrary of deterrents.....let's consider for a moment some "invitations" to burglary.

.....An "invitation" to burglary may be an open garage door with no signs of activity. If your garage door is open, and there is no one about, the burglar may very well boldly walk to the front door and knock vigorously several times. If you answer, he might ask if Suzy Z is at home, and when you reply in the negative he will be off to his next attempt. If there is no answer, this is an open invitation to proceed to the garage, use your tools and make his entry.

.....And while we are talking about "invitations," how about a ladder leaning against the house and no one about the premises? The same routine as the open garage door caper, plus a ticket to the porch roof or second floor if you were inconsiderate enough to lock your doors and windows on the ground level.

.....And a better one than that. Cousin Mabel has promised you one of her geraniums, so while you are away shopping for the afternoon you leave a note on the front door instructing her to leave the pot on the back porch, saying that you will return at 4:30 p.m. What more could a burglar ask?

-Other "invitations" are too much shrubbery, or shrubbery that is too thick, and lots of dark places. Consider additional lights to illuminate the dark areas. Consider trimming the shrubbery.
 -Another "invitation" to burglary could be the careless use of your house keys. Do not carry I.D. tags on your key ring or key holder. If you lose your house keys, it is better to have them lost and gone forever than to have them returned by a burglar.....a return that usually occurs during your absence.
 -Separate your house keys from your car keys if you park in places where your keys must be left with the car. It is too easy to duplicate your house keys. Your residence address can easily be determined. In fact, it might be readily available if you leave your registration card in your car. Some states require such display of cards.
 -Basement doors or windows are sometimes weak points in the security of your home. These places often provide opportunities for the burglar to work hidden from view. You may want to consider extra protection for these vulnerable openings. Possibly a metal grille over the basement door if the door has glass in it. Or possibly a bar across the inside if the door is solid.
 -We can just give you a few examples of some things you can do. If you remember the basic principles pertaining to protection, you can determine most of your own needs. Examine your house from the burglar's point of view.
 -Of course, if there has been no burglary problem in your area, you will not likely make a fortress of your residence. You should, however, always take the minimum, simple, and prudent precautions. Do not give the burglar "invitations" to your home. Do not leave an expensive 10-speed bicycle in full view in an open garage during periods of your absence. It takes such little time to close and lock the garage door.
 -Many burglars spend considerable time just cruising and looking for such "invitations" to burglarize.
- Vacations - Prolonged Absences
-Your residence is particularly vulnerable to burglary during periods of prolonged absences. For this reason we will devote special attention to some of the precautions that should be taken.
 -Again, we want to continue to follow our principles of protection.....a basic principle. Do everything possible to make the place look "lived in."

-So.....to make your place look occupied, stop all deliveries, have the lawn tended, put some lights on timers so they will come on at darkness and go off during the day.....be your own security expert. Think of those things you can do to make your place look as if someone is about or may return in a short time.
-If you can arrange it, try to get a friend, relative, or neighbor to look after your place--pick up handbills to prevent them from accumulating in the mailbox, turn lights on or off, change the shades from time to time as you usually do, take those actions necessary to make the place look as if someone is living there.
-Notify your law enforcement agency of your absence and let them know how you can be reached in an emergency.
-Do not have social notices posted in the paper as to your departure and duration of your absence. Have this done AFTER you return. Do not advertise to burglars that you will be away.
-Secure all valuables during your absence. Do not leave money in the house. Place valuable jewelry and other items in a safe deposit box. Lock up cameras or other items of high unit value. Do whatever you can to deny the burglar these items.
-And upon your return if you see a forced door or window or other indications of a burglary, do not enter. Go to the nearest phone and call the police. Have the police enter and search the place first. Do not take a chance of walking in on a burglar and having a confrontation. Let the police take that chance.

Hardware

-On our way toward helping ourselves become better acquainted with how to secure our residences, we have talked a little about DENYING the burglar the opportunity to steal; we have considered some of the ways we can DETER him; now we will take up some of the ways to DELAY him.
-Don't make his work easy. Use every possible means to delay him.
 - A locked door delays him more than an open door.
 - A good lock delays him more than a poor lock.
 - A strong, well-secured door delays him more than a screen door.

CONTINUED

1 OF 3

But keep both doors locked.....the screen door and the solid door.

Use every possible means to delay him.

-The more ways you can employ to delay him the greater the chances that he may be scared off, apprehended or just plain discouraged.
-Does the hardware in your residence serve to DELAY the burglar?
-How effective is your hardware?
-Examine your outside doors. Do they have spring-bolt door locks? Open the door and see if you can push the bolt back by pressure against the beveled face of the bolt. If you can, then a burglar can open your door by pushing a thin strip of stiff plastic against the bolt. This is a very common weakness in house door locks. Most door locks are spring operated.
-On doors that have glass panes, can a pane be broken and the door opened by reaching inside? If so, this door may need additional protection. One practice widely used in this case is to install a double-cylinder lock which requires a key to open the door from the inside. Another way is to place a wire grille over the glass part of the door. This is often done on basement doors where the appearance of the grill is not objectionable.
-Check your windows and other openings into the house. Have you made it easy for a burglar to enter?
-There are many styles of hardware in many price ranges to meet your security needs.
-Many homemade and self-installed devices can be very effective. We will consider a few.
-In the case of windows that slide up and down, double-hung windows, it is easy to drill a 1/4-inch hole through the window sash into the frame and provide for a steel pin. Holes can be drilled at other levels to permit the window to be raised or lowered slightly for ventilation. Pins can be easily made by sawing off the head of large nails. Make the pin just long enough to be flush; then it will require a magnet to remove it. Cheap, easy and a means to further delay or deter the burglar.

-A stick similar to a broomstick can be laid in the tracks of sliding glass doors to prevent them from being opened. Some burglars have been known to flip these sticks out of the tracks with a long, thin screwdriver, but in most cases these sticks can be effective locking devices for the door.
-Sliding bolts are cheap and easy to install. They can be very effective.
-And remember about chain locks. Few chain locks will hold if a man throws his weight against the door.
-There are too many kinds of hardware and too many possibilities for us to consider them here.
-Perhaps you might undertake the formation of a burglary security inspection team to cooperate with the law officers in making home security inspections.

Alarms

-Should I have an alarm system?
-How effective are they?
-What kind of alarm system should I have?
-These questions are asked many, many times and all we can say to each question is that it depends on many factors.
-The alarm industry has grown to large proportions in this country in response to the needs growing out of the increase in crime. There are now vast varieties of alarm systems and alarm components that can be bought on the open market.
-We will talk briefly about a few that may answer your needs.
-Of course, you all know of elaborate systems that are engineered and installed by major companies with a price tag to match. If you feel you have a major problem and if you have the money to spend, you can solve this by calling in a reputable, well-established company.
-On the other end of the price scale, there are simple, single-unit alarms that serve one specific purpose, such as to alarm one door.
-An example is an alarmed door lock that will sound an alarm if the door is forced open. It is battery operated, needs no wiring and can be purchased from several large manufacturers. This is low-priced.

-Another example is a portable unit that sounds an alarm if someone passes between this unit and a light source, such as a table lamp. These are frequently placed on one table and pointed at a lamp on another table so that an alarm will be sounded if someone passes from the outside door across the room toward the bedrooms or stairs. It will alarm if the light is turned out. This is low-priced.
-There are kits sold as a package for self-installation that provide protection against entry through exterior doors and selected windows. These kits can be bought for prices ranging from about \$25.00 up to much larger amounts depending on how extensive a system you want.
-There are also systems that require no wiring. These units are powered by small flashlight-type batteries and transmit signals to the alarm control by radio waves. One caution in the use of these is to assure that the batteries are replaced routinely.
-There are motion detectors that saturate a room or protected space with ultrasonic waves. Any motion in this area after the unit has been activated will sound an alarm.
-There are numerous kinds of barrier alarms, such as infrared rays that sound an alarm when someone passes across the beam. The old-fashioned Army trip wire is a form of barrier alarm and many old soldiers know how to fabricate one of these at home.
-If your area has the need and you can find persons to form a security inspection team, these would be interesting subjects for inquiry to further your local interests.

Weapons

-Many people keep weapons around the house. We will talk a little bit about this.
-This is a personal matter and you alone must decide what you are going to do.
-However, we think it well to repeat here the same questions we are asked in the presentation on STREET CRIMES:

Is the weapon legal?

Is the weapon safe to use?

Are you trained to use the weapon?

Do you know the limitations of the weapon?

Do you know the law? When can you legally use the weapon?

Have you thought of the possibility of the weapon being used against you?

-There is an additional danger that requires special attention. There have been many cases of people shooting members of the household by mistake. A person who awakens from deep slumber and sees a shadowy figure may fire in haste and shoot an innocent person. This possibility must receive your careful attention if you keep a gun. Most law enforcement agencies advise against keeping guns even in areas where they are legally owned.
-If you should confront a burglar, it is best to let him escape. Try to remember one or two good identifying features, such as scars, tattoos, or deformities. The better your description the better the chance of apprehending him.

Police Cooperation

-The police alone cannot control crime.....they need your help.
-Lend your law enforcement officer your eyes and ears.
-Help control crime and protect your neighborhood by reporting:

Suspicious persons in the neighborhood.

Unusual actions, such as someone leaving a neighbor's house with a TV when you think the neighbor is not at home.

Unfamiliar cars that repeatedly cruise about the neighborhood or park suspiciously for periods of time.

License numbers of cars that are unfamiliar and that are doing unusual things.

(SUMMARY)

-We have covered many aspects of the burglary problem during this presentation.....probably too much for you to remember.
-We will hasten through a brief review.
-We pointed out that burglary is the most frequently-committed of the major crimes.

....We noted that residential burglaries are more numerous than those against businesses and that daytime attacks are growing rapidly.

....We noted that most burglars are young. In one State, 65 percent were teenagers and more than half of all the burglars were under 17 years of age. These figures are higher than the example we quoted in our presentation and serve to emphasize the youthfulness of the modern burglar.

....Most burglars enter through doors with convenient windows a close second.

....The items that are most often stolen are those that can most easily be converted into money. These include expensive and portable items, such as color TV's, stereo sets, cameras, guns, radios, and similar items, as well as the traditional items, such as furs, jewelry, watches, and money.....especially money.

....And, last, what you can do about it.

The more you deny the burglar the less he will get.

The more things you do to deter him, the less likely you are to be a victim.

We noted many examples of things you can do to delay him.....and

Detection. There are many devices, both inexpensive and costly, that you may choose to detect him. Not least of all is your dog as an alarm system.

....If you try to do your part in burglary prevention and help your law officers do their part, a great many burglars will have to turn to other lines of work.

(CONCLUSION)

....There is no sure way that you can prevent your residence from being burglarized, but a few simple procedures and possibly a few extra pieces of hardware can greatly reduce your risks.

....A recent study concluded that the ordinary citizen can reduce his chances of victimization by taking a few simple precautions and that a substantial number of residential burglaries were the result of carelessness which provided easy opportunities for burglars.

....Remember the captured burglar who told the sheriff that breaking into a house was so easy that he could not resist the temptation.

....Let's try to remove that temptation....Practice the principles of protection by following the four D's"

DENY
DETER
DELAY
DETECT

....It can be done.

CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMFRAUD/BUNCO--III6th RevisionMeeting No. 3
(Two Periods)FRAUD/BUNCOPRESENTATION SCRIPT(Define Aims)

-During this presentation we will show you some of the most widely practiced bunco schemes.
-We will alert you to the actions that you can take to reduce your chances of being victimized.
-We will show you how you can cooperate with law enforcement officers to increase the chances of bringing these criminals to justice.

(Motivation)

-You say, "It can't happen to me!"
Well--maybe not.
You say, "It hasn't happened to me yet and it won't!"
If you have never been swindled, then you are speaking from a strong position.
-BUT--law enforcement officers throughout the country are constantly receiving reports of criminal fraud and quite often the first thing they hear is, "How could this happen to me?"
-We hope you are never victimized. Let's be aware and be better informed as to how we can avoid being victimized.

(Introduction to Subject)

-In the film we are about to show, you will see enacted four episodes. Each depicts a common form of criminal fraud.
-In the first episode you will see how the BANK EXAMINER FRAUD is worked. You will see how these clever operators go about selecting a victim, how they determine if the victim has a bank account, how the victim is drawn into the scheme, and how cleverly the victim is induced to turn over cash to a stranger.
-In the second episode you will see how a swindler weaves his plot, how he plays upon the emotions and weaknesses of his victim, and how he secures a contract and binds the victim to an agreement far beyond what she has talked about.

.....In the third episode you will see how the home repair fraud is worked. The swindler offers such a good bargain that no homeowner can resist it--until the time comes to pay.

.....In the fourth episode you will see how the infamous and eternal PIGEON DROP swindle is worked. This is too incredible to believe. But every day, somewhere in the country, it is being practiced.

.....After showing these four commonly practiced schemes, the film will quickly reenact each episode to show how the intended victim could have aided in setting up an arrest.

(Start Film) (27-minute film) ON GUARD - BUNCO

(Recap of Film)

.....THE BANK EXAMINER--you have seen how he operates. He is likely to pick a victim who is alone and who is not likely to have an immediate opportunity to discuss the PLAN with someone. You saw how quickly he steered away from the intended victim who lived with her son--experience has shown him that this lady would have probably confided in her son and this would have reduced the chances of successfully carrying out the scheme. You saw how cleverly he determined where the victim banked. You saw how he drew the victim into the PLAN by seeking her help to catch a crook in the bank.

.....The contract--You saw how easily the salesman led the victim into signing a contract that was different from the various subjects of conversation. This trick is becoming one of the most frequently practiced frauds. Be sure you know what is in the contract before you sign. If there is any doubt, hold the contract for a few days.

.....The home repair fraud--There are endless varieties of this swindle. You were shown how the home improvement offered such a good bargain that the homeowner could not pass it up--until it came time to pay.

.....AND the PIGEON DROP....how can this incredible swindle be practiced day after day? The film told it all.

(Summary)

.....These well-dramatized episodes show so well how smoothly these talented swindlers work.

....We cannot emphasize too strongly the importance of knowing the conditions of any contract that you sign. The best advice is to hold the contract until you have had ample time to examine it fully--and possibly discuss it with a friend or relative.

....Home repairs? If you do not know the repair man well, then you must learn how to shop for quality economical repairs the same as you have learned to shop for groceries--or have a knowledgeable friend advise you.

....The Pigeon Drop?--Enough is said when we say that you should always be suspicious when a stranger offers to share a sizable sum of money with you.

(Conclusions)

....We hope that you are now more aware of the methods of operations of some swindlers and are thereby better able to avoid victimization.

....We hope that you may now be better informed as to how to help law enforcement officers in their efforts to apprehend these criminals.

(BREAK)

FRAUD/BUNCO
(Second Period)

(Define Aims)

-During this second period on Fraud/Bunco we will tell you about a great number of different schemes. These are but a fraction of the many varieties of schemes presently in practice about the country.
-Many of the things you were alerted to in the first period relative to spotting a bunco artist also apply to these schemes.
-And again, the points brought out in the first period apply relative to cooperating with law enforcement officers in trying to get more of these criminals out of circulation.

(Motivation)

-Get rich quick?
Something for nothing?
Secret Plan?
You must act now and sign here!
-Quite often these are the tunes of a bunco artist. If it is easy to get rich quick, why isn't he doing it?
-Something for nothing? A retired bunco artist once said that when you get something for nothing most times you get something that ain't nothing.
-Why must you sign right now instead of holding the contract long enough to think about it and seek advice about it?
-And, unless you are in the military, you always want to be wary of these secret plans, like help me catch the thief in the bank but please do not tell anyone.
-Being educated and being intelligent are no insurance against being swindled. Police records are loaded with reports of such people being victimized.
-Swindles are practiced against all age groups, against both men and women, against both educated and poorly educated.....there is no restriction to joining the club of those who have become the victims of criminal fraud.
-However, most often it is the older person and very often this older person is a woman who lives alone.

(Introduction to Subject)

-In our first period we dealt with some widely used schemes, some of which must be practiced on a person-to-person basis. That is, the Bank Examiner and the Pigeon Drip are person-to-person encounters.
-We will not consider MAIL FRAUDS, a category that is growing rapidly with almost limitless variations.
-From an investigative standpoint, the Chief Postal Inspector lists about 68 major categories that cover those frauds under his investigative jurisdiction.

(Subject)

-The Chief Postal Inspector has listed the following as being particularly active areas:
-Those frauds directed toward CONSUMERS.
-Those directed toward persons seeking BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES.
-Those involving MEDICAL FRAUDS.
-Those directed toward a persons seeking SELF-IMPROVEMENT.
-There are other categories, but we do not have time to devote to other than the most frequently practiced swindles.
-Under the category of CONSUMER types we have:

The FAKE CONTEST

It often starts with the exciting statement that you have won. In reality, it is a contest wherein no one wins--there are only losers. This can be practiced by mail or by advertisements or by telephone solicitations.

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Home Improvement swindles place high on the list and have long been among the most popular. So often the Postal Inspector is brought into the case because somewhere along the line the mails were used to defraud.

CHAIN-REFERRAL SCHEMES

This scheme has also been an all-time favorite and continues its popularity. You buy an appliance or some product and supposedly will

have little difficulty getting the item for "free" since you will get a commission for each additional item you sell. Few sell anything and usually the item is far overpriced.

DEBT CONSOLIDATION

Legitimate banks and lending institutions do have honest services for debt consolidation and counseling. However, there are dishonest services that place the debt-ridden person into an even worse situation by "consolidating" his debts with heavy additional financial burdens.

RETIREMENT ESTATES

So often the bargain looks so attractive you cannot afford to turn it down. An acre of land for only \$350.00 and golden sunshine 360 days per year. We have investigated some of these offers and find that if you go to the area any real estate agent will sell you all the land you want in a nearby tract for \$30.00 per acre.

.....Under the category of BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES we have, among others:

BUSINESS FRANCHISES

Franchising is a legitimate and rapidly expanding industry. A hamburger chain or hotel chain or restaurant chain develops a name and some speciality (such as fried chicken) and has an honest business offer. So often, in the fraudulent operation the name you buy is valueless and the services offered are either non-existent or sold at unreasonable costs.

WORK-AT-HOME

Persons, particularly women, seek additional income by working at home. The Chief Postal Inspector reports that one newspaper ad drew more than 200,000 inquiries. This was in answer to a fraudulent offer. To qualify the persons had to send in a small registration fee and perform a sewing task to demonstrate skill. No one qualified and none of the money was returned.

.....Numerous other business opportunities are offered-- vending machines, distributorships for merchandise, area representatives, and many others.

.....Under the category of MEDICAL FRAUDS there are:

FAKE LABORATORY TESTS

The postal inspectors investigated a case in one State wherein a fake laboratory conducted more than 15,000 fake tests for cancer at a cost of \$10.00 per test. A goodly profit when you consider the small overhead.

MIRACLE CURES

There is always someone somewhere who claims a cure for any condition. Often, these are publicized through newspapers or magazines and the quackery is consummated by the use of the mails.

MAIL ORDER CLINIC

The victim is drawn into the scheme by offers of free medical diagnosis or some other bait and then is trapped into expensive long-term and useless treatments.

.....Under the category of SELF-IMPROVEMENT we have

EMPLOYMENT OFFERS

In the fraudulent offer, persons eager to achieve self-improvement are drawn into contracts requiring regular payments for useless services purportedly leading to attractive job opportunities.

CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

There are many legitimate courses offered, but the fraudulent correspondence schools are in keen competition. The victims usually are induced to sign contracts which trap them into regular payments from which they cannot legally escape.

.....In addition to the frequently practiced schemes shown in the film, and in addition to the many mail frauds commonly practiced, there are many, many others.

.....One national authority has stated that there are in existence more than 800 different schemes to bilk, defraud, or otherwise illegally separate a person from his money or property.

.....Let us look at some of those that frequently come to the attention of law enforcement authorities.

ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN

Quite often this approach is used as a "lead in" or to get a foot in the door by making you think you have been chosen to feature in an advertising campaign. You may be told that a survey has shown that you are a leader or that you are unique in some way and this feature will be used to build an advertising campaign. You will be given benefits or some inducement to participate. Be sure that your benefit is not in the form of a contract or deed of trust signing away your home if you fail to keep up payments on something you later decide is not worth keeping.

You can see that this is a fraudulent exploitation of a legitimate business practice. Quite often a political or business leader is selected to be the feature of a LEGITIMATE advertising campaign and he receives some legal reward for lending his name to the campaign.

BAIT AND SWITCH

Here again we have a legitimate sales technique that is often extended into unfair and illegal practices.

The legitimate merchant often will advertise a commodity at a low price, even at cost or below, with the idea that you will be attracted to his store and buy something else or get into the habit of shopping there. He has the bargains for sale and in reasonable quantities and does not complain if you shop his store and buy nothing but the bargains.

The illegal "come-ons" are ridiculously priced merchandise that does not exist, or will not be sold, and the only intention was to get you into the store to steer you to an unknown brand at a high price.

CONTRACTS

Signing a contract that contains terms that go far beyond what you anticipated is one of the integral parts of so many swindles today. If you learn nothing else in this presentation, we emphasize KNOW WHAT YOU ARE SIGNING.

Examples that may shock you are these:

Recently, a prosecuting attorney told of a case wherein a salesman had a blind man sign a contract which was subsequently sold to a finance company for collection. The salesman, of course, flew the coop never again to be found. BUT the blind man was put to untold agony and expense trying to extricate himself from the contract which had been sold to a finance company and the finance company was "Holder in Due Course." What made the whole deal stickier was a deed of trust to the man's house was included in the contract.

Another prosecuting attorney told of a case wherein a magazine salesman sold a 91-year old woman a series of 10-year subscriptions, which was legal, but he also got her to sign a note, including a deed of trust to her home, and sold this note to a finance company for collection. Again, the finance company was "Holder in Due Course."

CASH TO PAY OFF YOUR DEBTS

By now you are beginning to see that so many frauds are illegal extensions of legitimate business practices. Here is another:

The victim is deeply in debt and is looking for some relief when he sees an advertisement or is told by someone that he can get cash for his debts and make the future free of worry. He quite often does get cash, usually a small amount, and he gets his debts "consolidated." But what a price he has to pay. Pretty soon he finds all the sweet talk has evaporated and now there is nothing but harsh words and threats. He has signed a contract that binds him to everything including the village whipping post.

CHARITIES

It is sad but so many frauds are carried out in the name of good works. One estimate puts the fraudulent charity losses at more than \$100 million per year, but no one really knows. First, so often the contributor does not know his money is being diverted from a good cause and, secondly, there is no way of knowing how many of these rackets are being worked.

Here again, we say know who you are dealing with and be sure the money gets to where it is intended to go.

DEEDS OF TRUST

This vicious practice is particularly cruel because it can have such distressing economic effects upon the victim.

Many persons have been tricked into signing contracts which contain a deed of trust to the home as a means of securing the contract. These cases are not uncommon.

As an example, a woman signed a "receipt" for a TV set which turned out to be a contract for payment which was secured by a deed of trust to her house.

A man signed a contract for some relatively minor home repairs, and when he fell ill and could not meet the payments, he found the contract had been sold to a finance company and was secured by a deed of trust on his home.

FAKE TITLES

Do you know there was a swindler operating in a major city who was selling parked cars off the street? He had a pocketful of fake auto titles and was giving bargains right there on a busy street. Considering he had no money invested in the inventory, anything he got for the sale was 100-percent profit.

Again, learn to be a good shopper! Know your product; know with whom you are dealing.

FEAR-SELL

Another technique used to rush a victim to the slaughter.

Your tree is so rotten that unless it is immediately cut down you may find it on your home!

Your hot water heater is about to blow up and must be replaced immediately!

The electrical wiring here is so bad that unless something is done right now your house will burn down!

If this part on your car is not replaced now you are likely to have to buy a new engine!

This is what is known as "fear-sell" and frequently is used to frighten you into the arms of the swindler.

THE INSPECTOR

This swindle is worked in a variety of ways but essentially depends upon someone posing as an official inspector.

As an example, we will tell you of a widely practiced operation in one city. In this swindle, a man posing as a city inspector presented himself at the door of the homeowner, displayed phony credentials, made the statement that he was making a routine inspection, and gained entrance. He inspected the hot water heater and declared it unsafe. Then disaster--the water had to be turned off immediately to avoid a calamity. Now--how long can a family in the city endure without water. Even overnight is beyond the endurance of most people. When you consider the bind that this puts on the housewife who has to cook, or the kids that go unbathed, or the husband who goes unshaved, you can see that something must be done right away. So the kindly "inspector" just happened to know of a plumber who could respond to an emergency and restore the appliance to satisfactory working condition. The plumber responded, did little or no worthwhile work, charged an exorbitant amount and, to add a little kicker, signed up the homeowner to a fat maintenance contract.

If you have any doubts about the city official, call the city hall or other appropriate place and verify the story that has been told to you. If the inspector is a phony, he will undoubtedly disappear during your phone call. If he does, try to give the police a good description and tell them his methods of operation.

INVESTMENTS

There are not many people buying stock in Klondike gold mines anymore, but many are buying stock and investing money in a vast variety of fake enterprises. We laugh at the number of times that the Brooklyn Bridge was sold, but only the name has changed. We are still investing large sums of money in buying nonexistent land developments, bright new business opportunities, and endless other fake offers.

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

We mentioned this as a major mail fraud-- it is also worked without involving the mails. Some observers of the fraudulent follies state that home improvement frauds take second place only to door-to-door magazine salesmen and it makes up for its second-place standing by involving a bigger take.

Complaints would make a bronze statue weep. Paint that washes off with the first rain. Aluminum siding that peels as the repairman drives off into the sunset. Lightning conductors made of painted rope. A comedy script writer could not think of the preposterous frauds that are practiced every day upon the public.

Again, you must learn to be a good shopper. Know your contractor. Know your product. Seek good advice. Consult homeowners who have had work done by the same contractor.

LOANS WITHOUT INTEREST

If any company can lend you money without interest and stay in business--they are not in the money-lending business but are in something else.

The ad may say "\$1,000.00 without interest," but that is not the way the story unfolds when you go down to the loan office. Most likely you will sign a note for \$1,000.00, get considerably less in cash, and be bound to charges, interest, and maybe other conditions that you didn't bargain for--but will find out about later.

STREET CORNER SALES

Buying flowers from a street corner vendor is a reasonable thing to do, but buying a new color TV out of a stranger's auto trunk is something else. We can only say, "Buyer, beware."

(Summary)

-As we said at the outset, the variety of fraudulent schemes is almost endless. As soon as one becomes well-known and less likely to succeed, a new variation springs up. You surely will see new fields of fraudulent endeavor in the environmental, ecological, and pollution fields. Then when space travel becomes popular, you will find hawkers selling tickets to unknown heavens, promising streets of gold and eternal bliss with a set of feathered wings thrown in FREE.
-Bunco artists are, knowingly or otherwise, astute students and observers of human behavior. Their basic tools in the trade are knowledge of ways to manipulate people to go along with the scheme. Their desires, ambitions, and weaknesses are exploited to lead the victim to the slaughter.
-The desire for self-education has resulted in a long and persistent string of correspondence school frauds.
-The ambition to have a small retirement business has resulted in many frauds in this area.
-The hope of gathering in a nest egg without much effort has led many to lose the last of their savings.
-The older person who is lonely is a special target of these swindlers. The lonely person yearns for some attention which is freely given by the bunco artist until he gets his loot. In addition, the older person who lives alone often can be maneuvered so as not to consult anyone.
-Just because you have never been swindled is no guarantee you never will--it just shows that you have a good track record so far. You may meet your match.
-Just because you consider yourself well-informed and well-educated is no insurance against being swindled by a well-informed and well-educated swindler.
-If you are swindled, help the law enforcement officers as much as you can to apprehend the criminal.
-In a major survey of a few years back, 9 out of 10 victims did not report the swindle to the police. Half of the victims felt they had gotten themselves into the swindle and therefore were at fault. About 40 percent felt that nothing could be done anyway.

(Conclusions)

.....So, we would like to go over some of the things that are most important to remember:

Be aware!

Know what you are signing!

Be cautious about any Get-Rick-Quick scheme. If you are offered something for nothing, be sure you know what you are getting and who is giving it to you, and be especially careful about what you sign to get it.

Be cautious about being rushed into things.

Be leery of secret plans. There are times when secrecy is a legitimate means used to achieve an end--such as a plan entered into with law enforcement officers designed to trap a criminal. In every case of this kind you can verify the authenticity of the officers. You can call police headquarters and check with the commander.

Cash--be careful about being drawn into any arrangement wherein you must turn over sizable sums of cash to anyone, especially if the person is a stranger.

END

Program Title.....Crime Prevention

Subject Title.....Fraud/Bunco
Words and Phrases

The following words may be useful to you as background information for a discussion following the presentation:

Bait and Switch

A method of operation wherein a person is attracted by a particularly attractive bargain or "bait" and then switched to an item that is overpriced.

Bilk*

To cheat out of what is due.

Bunco*

Sometimes spelled "Bunko." A swindling game or scheme. (Perhaps derived from the Spanish BANCA, meaning "a bank.")

Cognovit

An acknowledgement or confession by a defendant that the plaintiff's cause is just. See Confession Judgment.

Confession Judgment Note

A common provision of an installment contract wherein the purchaser signs away his rights to any court defense. In other words, if you do not make the payments, or in any other way do not abide by the provisions of the contract, the holder of the contract can easily secure a judgment in court.

Defalcation*

Embezzlement.

Defraud*

To deprive of something by deception or fraud.

Embezzle*

To appropriate fraudulently to one's own use.

Fake*

Counterfeit/A worthless imitation passed off as genuine.

Flim Flam*

Deception or fraud.

Franchise*

The right to be and exercise the powers of a corporation.

Fraud*

Deceit or trickery. The intentional perversion of truth in order to induce another to part with something of value.

Grifter*

A person who obtains money by swindling or cheating.

Holder in Due Course

A third party, such as a bank or finance company, that has purchased a note or contract from the seller or supplier. The bank or finance company has no responsibility for the acts between seller and buyer be they fraudulent or otherwise. The holder in due course doctrine is barred by statute in a few States.

Nailed to the Floor

A sales technique whereby a particularly attractive item of merchandise is displayed or advertised but which cannot be sold. It merely serves to entice the buyer into the marketplace. Beware of the salesman who permits the sale of an item that is nailed to the floor.

Par Selling

A sales practice wherein the salesman is allowed to keep a certain percentage above a certain (par) price.

Peculation*

Embezzlement.

Pitchman

Sometimes used to describe a person who hawks wares, quite often used in an unsavory sense.

Puffing

A sales technique wherein exaggerated claims are made for the item that is for sale.

Quack*

A pretender to medical skill. A charlatan.

Referral Selling

A plan wherein the buyer is told he can earn commissions by referring other persons to the seller and thereby get the item free.

Shill*

One who acts as a decoy, as for a pitchman or gambler.

*Definitions taken from Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary.

CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMCOMMUNITY/POLICE RELATIONS--IV6th RevisionPRESENTATION SCRIPT
Meeting No. 4
(Two Periods)COMMUNITY/POLICE RELATIONS(Aims)

During this presentation we will tell you about the various programs, plans, actions, and activities that will help your local law enforcement officers.

(Motivation)

Law enforcement officers have always said, and it has been widely accepted, that crime cannot be overcome without the support of the community. This does not require a great amount of effort and it requires no money. All it requires is your interest--your concern for yourself and your fellow person. Your home can be made more secure and your life less fearful if you care.

(Introduction to Subject)

During this presentation we will discuss various Community/Police programs. They will be:

....Crime Check--or it may have another name in your community. This program is sponsored by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and your local police department. A parallel and similar program is Neighborhood Watch which is sponsored by the National Sheriff's Association and the local offices of the sheriffs. This program, in effect, has you use your eyes and ears for the fight against crime. It tells you the things you should report to the police.

....The Property Identification Program is a plan wherein you voluntarily mark all your property that might be stolen. We will tell you how this helps you and how it helps your law enforcement officers.

....Closely aligned with the aforementioned is the property inventory. A means of knowing what you have so that you will be better able to accurately report theft or burglary losses. It also will help you in fire losses.

....We will also suggest ways in which you can help your neighbors in making your area more secure.

....We will deal briefly with witness perception--how you can make better reports to the police should you witness a crime or be the victim of a crime.

.....And we will talk about street lighting programs.
The benefits of better street and private lighting.

.....We will show you samples of Home Security Check-Off Lists, Vacation Check-Off Lists, and Home Security Inspection Forms.

.....We will also explain the advantages of Security Inspection Teams, Hardware and Alarm Committees, and an example of a Citizens' Patrol.

(Subject)

.....No program involving Community/Police relations can be successful unless it is undertaken with the full cooperation of your local law enforcement agency and your local political leaders.

.....If you decide to participate in any of these local programs, you must first determine how it can be done with their cooperation and, quite often, with their guidance.

.....Few of these programs require money on your part.

.....All require some degree of involvement on your part.

(Publicity)

.....If you decide to initiate any of the following action programs, you may find it advisable to obtain publicity through the various media. Many groups have found that newspapers, radio stations, and TV stations cheerfully publicize these programs as a part of their public service to the community. You may think of other ways to achieve additional publicity.

.....In the following we will consider briefly some ways in which you can become involved to improve your community and to help yourself.

CRIME CHECK NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

.....The essential element of these programs is to secure the help of the people to report unusual or suspicious incidents, as well as to report any crimes that may occur in their view.

.....Crime Check is a program of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

.....Neighborhood Watch is a program of the National Sheriff's Association.

.....There are other similar programs that may have names such as Crime Alert, Crime Stop, Crime Watch, or the like.

.....Contact your local law enforcement chief and get the information on your local program. If there is no well-organized program in operation, you may want to work with the local officials to establish one.

.....Many localities have special telephone numbers that are easy to remember and that require no money to call through a public telephone.

.....Many law enforcement agencies do not require you to identify yourself if you are reporting unusual or suspicious incidents.

.....You should report what you SEE.....

Examples:

A stranger carrying TV's, household items, or similar unusual activities.

Strange persons loitering around your neighbor's house while the neighbor is away.

Strange automobiles that are cruising the neighborhood with no apparent business.

Broken or open windows or doors.

Persons walking down the street repeatedly peering into parked cars.

Anyone removing parts of a car, such as radios, batteries, and license plates when this person does not appear to be the owner.

.....You should report what you HEAR.....

Examples:

Screams or sounds of confusion and distress.

Loud and unusual noises or explosions.

PERSONAL PROPERTY IDENTIFICATIONHistory

Most sources credit the chief of police of Monterey Park, California, with starting this property marking program in 1963.

.....The program was so successful in reducing burglaries that it has spread throughout the country.

WHY

.....The program has four major advantages. Property marked in accordance with these program guides:

Deters Crime

Thieves and burglars are less likely to steal an item that can be positively identified and that will be difficult to sell.

Positive Identification

The owner of stolen property can easily be located through existing records.

Helps Criminal Prosecution

The arresting officers can more readily use the stolen property in pursuing the case through the courts.

Aids Recovery

Stolen property is more likely to be returned to the owner.

WHAT

.....This program is a system wherein you enscribe upon certain items of personal property a number that can readily be traced to you.

.....You will be told by your law enforcement officers which number to use. Quite often it is the number on your automobile operator's permit. If you do not have such a permit, then they will assign a number to you. An advantage of this system is this number is on record and you can easily be identified from this number.

HOW

.....Your local law enforcement agency will tell you which number you should use in marking your property.

.....An electric etching tool is used to mark your property with a permanent number that positively identifies you with the item.

..... The electric etching tool is not expensive. The money to buy these tools is often secured from a sponsoring civic organization or from the local law enforcement agency.

..... The tools are usually placed in convenient locations such as libraries, fire stations, police stations, or other places where they are readily available to the members of the community.

..... The tools are loaned free of charge for short periods of time.

..... After your property has been marked, a window or door sticker is provided to place upon your residence. This is placed in a conspicuous location to serve as a deterrent to burglars and thieves. The sticker states that all property has been marked.

..... This marking of property for positive identification is easy and it is effective.

..... Statistics have clearly shown that when this program is carried out in accordance with the instructions of your local law enforcement officers there has been a sizable reduction in burglaries and stolen property sales.

..... Property that is difficult to mark such as jewelry, silver, and the like can be photographed. A cheap snapshot of the items will serve the purpose of making a satisfactory record.

..... The lawful transfer of such property can be handled easily. When you sell or give away such property, the old identification number SHOULD NOT be erased. The new owner should put his number on the item so that BOTH numbers are clearly legible.

..... Publicity for these programs is usually easy to obtain. Again, with the cooperation of your local political leaders and your local law enforcement officials, publicity is usually easy to get. The more publicity generated the greater it serves as a deterrent to burglars and thieves.

..... Again, this program is easy to carry out. It has proved to be effective in many locations where it has been in operation for a long time.

PROPERTY INVENTORY PROGRAM

.....Making an inventory of your personal and household property serves an important purpose should you have a burglary, theft, or fire loss.

.....So often we cannot recall with accuracy what is missing and certainly cannot recall information such as serial numbers and other details that may be needed.

.....In any of the losses mentioned, this information is vital.

.....Attached is a sample form that could be used to record this information.

.....Many consider making this record a tedious and time-consuming task that is easily put off. For this reason, some positive action should be taken to assure the completion of this record. One acceptable method is for a group to decide to perform this task by a certain date that has been agreed upon by the majority. This tends to motivate the group to accomplish this chore so as to be able to report back its successful execution by the agreed-upon date.

.....After the record has been made, be sure to keep it in a secure place such as a safe deposit box.

LIST OF PROPERTY

	Item & Make	Color	License Number	Personal Ident. No.	Original Cost
Automobile					
Bicycle					
Lawn Mower					
Motorcycle					
Scooter					
	Item & Make	Serial No.	Personal Ident. No.	Original Cost	
Radio					
Stereo					
Tape Recorder					
Television					
	Item & Make	Serial No.	Personal Ident. No.	Original Cost	
Power Tools					
Special Equipment					
	Item & Make	Serial No.	Personal Ident. No.	Original Cost	
Dryer					
Washer					
Other Appliances					
	Item & Make	Serial No.	Personal Ident. No.	Original Cost	
Binoculars					
Camera					
Jewelry					
Sewing Machine					
Sporting Goods					
Typewriter					
Watches					
	Make	Serial Number	Caliber	Personal Ident. No.	Original Cost
Guns					

NEIGHBORHOOD MUTUAL PROTECTION ACTIVITIES

-So often our apathy.....
Our feeling that nothing can be done.....
Our feeling of entrapment in complex situations.....
Tend to paralyze us into inaction.
-We sometimes feel that solutions can be achieved only with
great amounts of money and a complex organization.
-This is not always the case.
-Some of the most effective crime-reduction efforts have been
accomplished with little organization, small expenditures of
time and NO MONEY.
-We have lost sight of one of our greatest assets.....something
well-known to all of our pioneer forebears.....a reliance and
dependence on one another.
-Let us cite one small example that we observed in a two-block
area of one of our major cities.
-This area had row houses, about three stories on the average,
with small front yards, shrubbery, and tree-lined streets.
Street assaults, muggings, harassment of lone women, and
burglaries incensed the residents in this area. They had a
block party one night, decided on some simple rules of pro-
cedure, and decided not to have any formal organization. The
rules were that all residents would observe the streets as
frequently as convenient and be alert to any unusual activity.
All residents would assure that doors and windows had reasonably
secure locks and that these would be locked during periods when
they were unoccupied. Strangers in the neighborhood would be
observed. Automobiles cruising the neighborhood with no apparent
business would have their license plates noted. Those women who
worked and came home alone at night would always have a whistle
handy for immediate use. It was but a short time when these
simple, cost-free procedures began to pay off. A car with two
young men slowed down one night and pulled alongside a woman
walking from the bus stop to her home. She blew her whistle
long and loud and within seconds a dozen eyes were observing
her and two residents ran out into the street at the sound of
the whistle. The young men sped off in their car. Within
three weeks a burglar was apprehended in a house by the police
after someone had called in a report of a suspicious person in
the alley.
-This kind of neighborhood cooperation and awareness will help
you reduce the crime in your neighborhood.
-It requires no money.
-It requires no organization.
-It requires very little time.
-It DOES REQUIRE THAT YOU CARE ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBOR.

LIGHTING

-Light has long been used as a major deterrent of many forms
of crime.
-A police chief in one of our major cities once said that a
good street light is as valuable as a good policeman and is
a lot cheaper. This may have been said with obvious exag-
geration, but there was no intention to deceive as to the
value of good street lighting.
-Private lighting of your residence is equally important and
not necessarily expensive.
-We sometimes fail to realize the other benefits derived from
good lighting. It can:
 - Beautify the area, if done with taste and expertise.
How many times have you seen buildings, statues, and
other objects enhanced by tastefully arranged lighting?
 - Greatly increase traffic safety. The statistics on this
clearly demonstrate the value of lighting.
 - Improve pedestrian safety.
 - Increase business in those commercial areas where the
lighting has been poor.
 - Aid in performing work, such as that of the public ser-
vants who must work during hours of darkness, as well
as repairmen and maintenance men.
 - Decrease the consumption of electricity at the same
time giving better light.
-Many cities throughout the nation have started street lighting
campaigns.
-If you feel your community needs better lighting, you should
organize a small group to begin a lighting campaign.
-Do not be discouraged if at first you are but a few. A small
rural women's club in Georgia started a campaign that spread
throughout the entire State.
-As in all projects of this nature, you need the support of
your local political leaders.
-It is likely that the major elements of a successful effort
will be the support of your local political leaders, your
police chief, and your electrical power people.

.....The first step logically would be to determine the nature and extent of your problem. This could be determined by a survey conducted by your power company in consultation with other persons such as the street and highway people in your local government.

.....After finding out what your lighting problem is, your group should seek the continued expert advice of the political leaders, their civil employees, and the power company to determine what has to be done to improve the lighting. As you work, questions will surface. Such as:

How much will it cost?

What should be done first?

How can we establish a timetable that will include reasonable and achievable goals?

How can we get general public support?

How should we publicize the effort to achieve public support?

.....There have been many examples of astonishing success as the result of just small groups of women who have taken a civic interest in improving the street lighting in their communities.

.....We will give you additional information if you need it. Write your National Headquarters.

WITNESSES

Perception

.....If you are a witness to a crime, your responsibilities are likely to fall into two phases.

.....The first is what you tell the police.

.....The next may be what you tell them down at the courthouse..... if you are called upon to testify at a trial.

.....Of course, your law enforcement officers would like to have a complete and accurate description of everything you saw-- everything you witnessed.

.....Very often this is not easy to do.

.....So often a witness, whether he is directly involved in the crime or not, is subjected to a flurry of fast-moving events by strangers under circumstances in which there may be elements of danger, poor light, distractions, and.....what else?

.....More often than not, the conditions are far less than ideal.

.....So what should you try to do?

.....Try to remember as much as you can but, above all, when identifying a person or a vehicle, try to remember one or two.....or as many as you can.....really good identifying features.

.....As an example, place yourself in the shoes of the police. Which of the following would make the better identification of a suspect who has fled and for whom they are now searching?

.....A white male, medium build, about 5' 10" to 6', wearing a brown coat, black trousers and.....yes...you remembered when he ran he had white socks. You could see his white socks.....and there was another feature that made him very distinct.....he had only one arm.....the left sleeve of his coat was stuck into the left pocket. That makes a pretty good description, does it not?

.....But what does the officer have to go on when the description given him is little more than that you saw a man in a brown coat running down the street?

.....As we have said before, furnishing a good description of a subject to the police is not always easy.

.....But do the best you can and try to be as observant as you can.

.....One method of estimating height is the eye-to-eye method. If your eyes and his eyes are the same height, you can guess he is about the same height as you. If your eyes are about level with his Adam's apple, you have got to add a few inches.

-Try to remember unusual things..
-Is the clothing neat or new or old or dirty or sloppy or what?
-Did the person talk with an accent or in a foreign language?
-Were nicknames or distinctive expressions used?
-The persons may have referred to all women as sisters and all men as jokers. Distinctive expressions such as these should be reported.
-A similar technique should be used in describing an automobile.
-If you can get the license number or a part of it.....get as much as you can and write it down immediately. If you do not have a means of writing it, keep repeating the information.
-Try to get a good identifying feature such as a unique dent or something that is different about that particular automobile.
-Whatever you have observed, you should write it down as soon as possible.
-And you should convey it to the police as soon as possible.

Testimony

-If you are called upon to testify at a hearing or a trial, you should try to remember a few guidelines.
-Speak so you can be heard and understood. Speak loudly enough to be heard. Speak clearly enough to be understood.
-Try to answer in your own way, factually and briefly.
-If you do not fully understand the question, ask that the question be repeated or explained, whatever is necessary for you to understand it.
-Guard against losing your temper, even though some things may irk you or puzzle you.
-Be sure you tell about only those things you saw. Do not venture into guessing about anything.
-Do not try to be a comedian. Trying to be funny in the witness chair is likely to lead to your embarrassment or, worse, to a contempt citation.
-Avoid arguing with opposing counsel. Even though you may feel you have provocation, do not engage in any argumentative tactics with the opposing counsel.

-Being a good witness can be quite difficult. Remember lawyers spend years in the schoolroom and in the courtroom mastering their art. It will not be easy for you to try to best them. Tell your story plainly, honestly, forthrightly, and to the best of your ability.
-It is not our purpose here to instruct you as a witness. We are merely giving you a few practical hints. You must rely upon legal counsel for more complete advice and for guidance.

VACATION CHECK-OFF LIST

NOTE: Your greatest risk of being burglarized is likely to be during those periods of prolonged absences.

- | | <u>Check</u> |
|---|--------------|
| 1. Notify your local law enforcement agency of your absence.... | () |
| 2. Lock all doors..... | () |
| 3. Lock all windows..... | () |
| 4. Lock garage door..... | () |
| 5. Secure items such as jewelry, furs, cameras, credit cards, checkbooks, etc..... | () |
| 6. Cancel all deliveries such as newspapers, milk, etc..... | () |
| 7. Have mail held at post office or forwarded or picked up..... | () |
| 8. Have someone pick up handbills and throwaways..... | () |
| 9. Place a light or two on automatic timers..... | () |
| 10. Adjust blinds and draperies to make house appear to be occupied..... | () |
| 11. Never leave note on door which may indicate your absence.... | () |
| 12. Arrange to have lawn cut and yard work done..... | () |
| 13. Arrange for a friend to inspect your property regularly..... | () |
| 14. Ask neighbors not to tell strangers such as salesmen, repairmen, etc., of your absence..... | () |
| 15. Do not advertise your absence in the local social notices... | () |
| 16. Remove ladders from sight and secure them in locked places.. | () |
| 17. Don't "hide" keys under doormats, flowerpots, or similar places..... | () |
| 18. Check basement windows, garage windows, and other openings.. | () |

NOTE: Upon return, if there are any signs of burglary, such as a broken windowpane or forced door, call your police before entering. Do not take the chance of confronting a burglar inside.

SECURITY INSPECTION TEAMPurpose

.....A National Institute of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice study entitled PATTERNS OF BURGLARY concluded in 1972 that:

The most important recommendation that we can make is that the ordinary citizen realize that, by a series of simple, straightforward acts, he can affect the likelihood of his being burglarized. Our evidence indicates that a substantial number of burglaries is the product of citizen carelessness providing an easy opportunity for a thief. Our prediction is that simple acts, of the kind we shall mention, because they affect characteristics with a high frequency among burglary offenses, could have a marked effect on counteracting the completion of such offenses, if widely utilized.

.....The purpose of a SECURITY INSPECTION TEAM is to develop a level of expertise among a group of interested volunteers that will enable that group to make simple, straightforward recommendations to those members who desire a residential security inspection.

.....Some localities have law enforcement officers who make these inspections upon request.

Formation

.....If your group has determined that such a team can serve a useful purpose to your members, form a team of volunteers.

.....Consult your local law enforcement agency to determine if they have an interest in cooperating with this venture.

Duties

.....Determine the duties of the team based upon the following information and upon your initial experiences making inspections.

.....Consider developing sources for installation and repair work. In many areas it is difficult to obtain persons to do minor installation work. This may be an opportunity to create an income-producing activity that will render a valuable service to homeowners.

.....Consult with local locksmiths, hardware dealers, and alarm companies to develop knowledge of security devices and hardware.

.....Devise an inspection form that meets the needs of your team.

Considerations

.....Remember the four D's:

DENY
DETER
DELAY
DETECT

.....Anything you can do to effect these anti-burglary principles will increase the security level of the protected area.

.....Complete the home security check-off list with the person requesting the inspection. Discuss ways to DENY, DETER, DELAY, OR DETECT.

.....Examine exterior doors to determine if they have spring-latch locks. If the latch can be forced back by exerting force against the beveled face, then a burglar can open the door by inserting a thin plastic strip between the door and the jamb and thereby force back the latch. Consider the installation of dead bolts or throw bolts.

.....Are all windows equipped with locking devices? Consider installation of some form of device on those windows that may afford access to a burglar.

.....Can a burglar break a door glass and thereby reach inside to open the door? Consider the installation of a double cylinder lock.

.....Do you have a sliding glass door? Examine the lock and determine if it is substantial. Can the door be lifted off the tracks from the outside? Consider an additional lock.

.....Is there a possibility that persons have access to your house keys other than members of the family? If so, change cylinders in locks.

.....Do other openings, such as basement vents, basement windows, garage windows, and roof openings have a means of locking?

.....Do you have windows or other openings that are close to utility poles, trees, fire escapes? Examine to determine if these openings could be used by a burglar to gain entrance. Consider a means of protecting these openings.

.....Are ladders accessible for burglars to use? Keep ladder out of sight and inside locked area.

.....Do exterior doors have hinge pins that can be driven out so as to allow door to be opened from the hinged side?

Improvised and Inexpensive Security Devices

.....There are many ways to increase security at a low cost.

.....The use of a 2 x 4 across doors or openings in locations where appearances are not a factor.

.....The use of steel pins (cut from the shank of large nails) in wooden frame windows.

.....The use of hasps and padlocks on openings where appearances are not a factor.

.....The use of pipes or grilles over basement openings or windows.

.....The use of sticks jammed in such a way as to prevent the opening of double-hung windows.

.....The use of inexpensive throw bolts or slide bolts.

.....The use of a stick cut to drop in the tracks of sliding glass doors. Even though the door can be lifted off the tracks from outside, or even though the stick may be flipped out of the tracks by a long, thin screwdriver, this additional precaution is so cheap it is worth consideration.

NOTE

.....IMPORTANT--ALWAYS ASSURE EASY ESCAPE IN CASE OF FIRE!

ALARM AND HARDWARE COMMITTEE

-If you form a Security Inspection Team and become active in security inspections, you will soon discover the variety and diversity of alarms and hardware.
-This may lead you to consider creating a special group to become familiar with this subject. This is an interesting subject and you should not have difficulty finding members who would like to acquire knowledge in this area. You may be fortunate enough to have a person in your group who has a background of experience that would make that person a leader in this activity.
-The function of this committee would be to make inquiries into the alarm and hardware market and develop knowledge or sources of information that would permit recommendations to be made to the member requesting a security inspection.
-We will mention but a few facts about this subject. Detailed information must come from sources such as installers, dealers, law enforcement officers, manufacturers, and others that will come to your attention should you become involved in this activity.
-Alarms can be proprietary or central station; that is, they can sound an alarm locally or transmit an alarm to a central station such as the police department or security service.
-Alarm systems can be battery powered and operate as independent units, or they can be a part of a wired system using house current for energy.
-Alarm systems can:
 - Turn on lights
 - Sound an audible alarm
 - Transmit a silent alarm
 - Automatically dial selected telephone numbers, such as doctors, friends, and give a pre-recorded message
 - Photograph the protected area, as in banks, and
 - Send an alarm to the local police or your security service
-Alarms can be designed for burglary, fire, smoke, special situations, emergencies, and testing. Special situations might be warning you of water in the cellar or freezing pipes, and for emergencies such as sending alarms to selected persons should you have a health problem. Systems can do any or all of these things.

-There are many types of barrier alarms, as for doors, that can be independent units or parts of a system. They can be as simple as a battery-powered, easily-installed combination lock and alarm to protect the front and other selected exterior doors.
-There are alarms, such as a screen, that if cut or torn transmit an alarm.
-Barrier alarms can be based on the use of invisible light. Infrared light beams, invisible to the eye, can be used to project a beam across a door or room or other protected area. An alarm sounds should anyone break the beam by walking through it.
-There are simple portable devices that are battery operated and can, as an example, be placed on a table and pointed toward a light source, such as a table lamp across the room. Should anyone walk between the light and the alarm device, an alarm would be sounded.
-There are "space" alarms that protect areas, such as a room, by microwave or ultrasonic sound waves. Any disturbance or intrusion into the protected area would initiate an alarm.
-There are pressure mats and pressure tapes that sound an alarm should anyone walk on them. These are usually hidden under floor coverings.
-There are numerous switches used to initiate an alarm, such as magnetic switches, plunger switches, pressure switches, vibration switches, tilt switches, micro-switches, normally-open and normally-closed switches.
-Security hardware and hardware that gives you greater protection than that which is commonly used cover a vast area, both in variety and function.
-A relatively modest amount of money and a small amount of time spent in the investigation of alarms and hardware will soon give you enough information to be able to greatly increase residential security at a reasonable cost. Many devices are easily installed.
-You will be greatly satisfied with your accomplishments should you undertake this task.

HOME SECURITY INSPECTION FORM
HOME SECURITY CHECK-OFF LIST

These two forms can be combined if you so desire. We will discuss both and encourage you to make your own form based upon the suggestions that have been given in this session and based upon the information presented here.

The HOME SECURITY INSPECTION FORM should be used as a guide by SECURITY INSPECTION TEAMS. It should be so compiled as to lead the team through an orderly inspection as well as to serve to remind them of what should be inspected.

The HOME SECURITY CHECK-OFF LIST can be used by the home resident as a means of proceeding through an orderly process of determining if certain fundamental security practices are being followed.

Most burglars enter through a door and nearly all burglaries are committed by entry through doors or windows. This does not surprise anyone. These should then receive your greatest attention.

Start at the main entrance and examine each door:

- Can the door be opened by slipping the latch?
- Can the door be opened by breaking out a pane of glass and then opened by reaching inside?
- Are there other weaknesses in the door?

Sliding Glass Doors

- Can your sliding glass doors be securely closed?

Windows

- Follow the same procedure in checking the windows.
- Does the window have a secure lock?
- Can it be locked partially open if the window is sometimes opened for ventilation?
- If there is a window air conditioner in the window, is the air conditioner secured to the frame?
- Is the screen normally kept latched or secured in place?
- Are there any other weaknesses?

Other Openings

- Follow the same procedure in checking other openings.
- Are there roof access doors, ventilation openings, or weak points in the structure that would allow easy access from the outside?
- Can upper openings or porch roofs be easily reached by utility poles or trees?

Lighting

- Should there be additional exterior lighting?
- Are all sides well illuminated to prevent concealment?

Shrubbbery

- Does shrubbbery afford places of concealment for someone to hide or behind which someone can work to gain entrance?

NOTE: ASSURE SEVERAL ESCAPE ROUTES ARE AVAILABLE IN CASE OF FIRE.

This is a means whereby the resident (or the Inspection Team) determines if security precautions are being followed:

1. Have your doors, windows, and other openings been inspected to determine if the locking devices are secure?
2. When you leave the house vacant, do you always lock the doors and windows?
3. Does the house look "lived in" during your absence?
4. Do you leave several lights on when you are absent during the evening?
5. Are ladders secured and out of sight?
6. Are valuable wheeled items, such as bicycles and lawn mowers, out of sight and secured?
7. Do you "hide" your house keys under flower pots or in the mail box?
8. Do you leave notes on your door when you are out?
9. Do you have a safe deposit box for securing valuables?
10. Have you devised methods whereby only very small amounts of money are kept in the house?
11. Do you lock up your checkbook?
12. Have you made a record of credit cards - or other papers that can be identified by number?
13. Have you marked your pilferable property with your personal ID mark?
14. Have you inventoried and recorded your valuables?

[illegible]

A number of localities have experimented with Citizens' Patrols with varying degrees of success. Some have been abandoned as worthless. There is considerable potential in these patrols and they should be given a trial if you have certain factors in your crime problem that are subject to reduction through the use of these patrols.

It is essential in any effort of this nature to have the full support and cooperation of your local political leaders and of your local law enforcement officials. It is impossible to have any success without this support.

You should first determine what your crime problem is and how it can be reduced by patrols. A meeting between the citizen group and the political and law enforcement leaders would help you here.

In considering the composition of the patrols, you must not eliminate the possibility of the effectiveness of some teenage patrols.

The duties of the patrol will be largely determined by the nature of your problem. In other words, if you have had occasions when women have been harassed upon returning home at night, you may decide to concentrate on the hours that have been the most dangerous and the area that has reported the most complaints. This could be, as an example, between a bus stop and a housing project. Some patrols have operated only during the early evening hours and have served to report a variety of things to the police. The police have instructed these patrols in what to report and how to report.

You, as an operating unit in support of your police, can develop the most effective means of operating and the most effective organization.

PLANNING GUIDE6th RevisionPLANNING GUIDEProgram Title.....Crime PreventionPLANNINGThe Program Chairman

To initiate the Crime Prevention Program, a chapter or unit should select an interested member to act as Program Chairman. The Program Chairman has the important role of coordinating the program.

In the planning stage, the Program Chairman will want to go over the program script to determine how to achieve the most effective form of presentation.

Various methods of program presentation should be considered in an effort to achieve higher levels of audience interest, subject comprehension and retention. Consider the possibility of using panels, discussions, role-playing and various other combinations.

Methods of presentation will be limited by such things as the availability of qualified resource speakers, physical facilities, time and other local factors.

Good judgment should be used in deciding how to present the program, considering these local variables.

Resource Person

Early in the planning stages the Program Chairman should obtain the services of a resource person for each session.

Most law enforcement agencies have a member who is qualified in crime prevention activities. The graduates of the National Crime Prevention Institute at the University of Louisville in Kentucky are good resource persons for this program.

If you obtain the services of a crime prevention officer from your local law enforcement agency, it is likely that he will provide a projector, screen and other aids.

The resource person should be given the program script well in advance of the scheduled session.

The program script should be used as a basis for the presentation or as a guide. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE RESOURCE PERSON ADAPT THE PRESENTATION TO LOCAL CONDITIONS.

One of the major objectives is to reduce the fear of those in the audience. We know from wide experience that the chances of being victimized can be greatly reduced. Knowing this, the resource person should be able to increase confidence and reduce fear.

THE PRESENTATION

Factors to Consider

Assure that needed equipment, such as a projector, is on hand and ready to use.

Begin the presentation as punctually as possible.

Assure that the speaker can be heard.

Repeat questions so that all present can hear the questions asked.

Guard against wasting time of the audience.

Monitor temperature for comfort.

Arrange for comfortable seating.

Have proper lighting.

METHODS OF PRESENTATION

Lecture

The lecture form of presentation is one of the most commonly used methods. The ability of the lecturer will be the most important factor in achieving a successful presentation.

Discussion

This method has the advantage of allowing the audience to participate in the presentation. The audience is allowed to make known its needs, desires, and views.

A discussion must be controlled as to time and scope.

Demonstration

Some subjects lend themselves particularly well to the demonstration method.

Example: If you are presenting the subject of door locks or alarms, demonstrating the actual hardware is one of the best methods.

Panels

Panels are an effective method for presenting a variety of individual views.

This method relieves monotony.

Monitoring of a panel is recommended so as to control time and scope.

Role Playing

If done well, role playing is one of the most effective methods of presentation. Even though the audience does not physically participate, they become more involved in the presentation.

Some planning and imagination can produce interesting little dramas on the most ordinary subjects.

Example: Law enforcement officers recommend that upon returning home at night you should walk briskly to your door, have your keys ready, and enter promptly. This reduces your exposure and reduces the opportunity of the potential criminal. Think of the ways this could be acted out. In the wrong way, the actor ambles up to the door, cannot find the key, drops all manner of things, and finally gets halfway to the door as the mugger approaches from behind. In the right way, the actor walks briskly to the door, inserts the key, opens the door, and enters. The door is closed as the mugger slams his nose into the locked door.

Questions

This method is a very useful means of interjecting variety into a presentation. It can be used to:

- Create interest
- Maintain interest
- Focus attention
- Review
- Summarize

Types of questions can be:

- Factual
- Interest-stimulating
- Thought-provoking

Never use:

- Tricky questions
- Ambiguous questions
- Pointless questions

Questions should always be:

- Clear
- Within capability of audience

Points to Observe

From the outset the speaker should try to establish rapport with the audience by whatever means thought effective. Try to project person-to-person eye and voice contact with individual members of the audience.

Speak clearly, speak loudly and use language that can be understood.

Use actions, gestures, and variations in voice to emphasize, to provide variety and to avoid monotony.

Strive to create interest, provoke thought and achieve audience acceptance.

Motivate the audience to want to be informed by:

Showing and demonstrating need;

Example: Why should I want to know this?
How will it make my life safer
and more secure?

Arousing curiosity;

Example: Could it happen to me? How are persons taken in or victimized?

Offering rewards:

Example: By practicing the precautions presented in the program, one can reduce the risk of becoming a victim.

Gaining satisfaction;

Example: Audience is better prepared to confront various dangerous or deceptive situations as a result of information gained in the program.

PRESENTATION PLAN6th RevisionPRESENTATION PLAN

Program Title.....Crime Prevention
 Film
 Lecture/Discussion
 Questions/Answers

Subjects

The Crime Prevention Program covers four subjects:
 Street Crime, Burglary, Criminal Fraud and Community/Police Relations.

Objectives

To present practical experience-based advice on how to reduce the risk of being victimized.

To serve the audience by decreasing imagined fears.

To motivate the audience to want to learn more about self-protective measures.

To encourage the audience to engage in cooperative community/police activities.

Materials Needed

Films will be needed for the Street Crime, Burglary and Criminal Fraud sessions.

No film is needed for the Community/Police session.

16 mm film projector

Screen

Resource Persons

You are encouraged to secure the services of your local Crime Prevention law enforcement officer. Let him review the program script AND ADAPT IT TO LOCAL CONDITIONS. As an example, your locality may not have a street crime problem. Your Crime Prevention officer can then adapt this first session to your local needs.

FILM SUMMARIES

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FILM SUMMARIESMeeting No. I.....Street CrimeFilm Title.....Walk Without Fear
16 mm - Color - 20 Minutes

The film opens with a police chief addressing a civic group. It then portrays recommended actions and practices that can reduce your chances of being victimized by street criminals. As an example, the way a purse or handbag is carried may determine whether or not the bag will be snatched. The film suggests precautions that should be taken on the street, on buses, in cars and in public places. The question of carrying weapons is discussed. The final message is that crime prevention is the best practice. Avoid crime by not giving the criminal an opportunity.

The film was made with the technical assistance of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Meeting No. II.....BurglaryFilm Title.....Invitations to Burglary
16 mm - Color - 22 Minutes

This film is directed toward those persons residing in private homes or apartments; it is not intended to apply to businesses or other commercial establishments. The film describes how persons frequently and unwittingly invite a burglar to choose their homes. It explains various security devices and gives advice on how to increase the security of a residence. The film attempts to motivate the audience to recognize and eliminate those invitations that are so clearly evident to the burglar. The advice is practical and realistic.

The film is narrated by Raymond Burr.

Meeting No. III.....Fraud/BuncoFilm Title.....On Guard/Bunco
16 mm - Color - 27 Minutes

This film portrays four schemes that are commonly used to defraud victims. The four episodes cover the BANK EXAMINER swindle, contracts, home repairs and the infamous PIGEON DROP. The film then reenacts each episode and depicts how the victims should have reacted to each situation.

Senator BEALL. The next witness is Dr. Alvin J. T. Zumbun, criminologist and member of the Maryland Crime Investigating Commission.

Dr. Zumbun, you may come and present your testimony and, if you wish, you may summarize it and your entire statement will be entered in the record at the conclusion of your testimony.

**STATEMENT OF DR. ALVIN J. T. ZUMBRUN, CRIMINOLOGIST,
MARYLAND CRIME INVESTIGATION COMMISSION**

Dr. ZUMBRUN. Thank you very much. Senator Beall, and those interested in the hearing, I thank you for this opportunity to bring to your attention some facts and recommendations concerning crime and the elderly. One of the most neglected subjects in the study of crime is its victims. I refer to the persons, households, and businesses that bear the brunt of crime in the United States. Both the part the victim can play in the criminal act and the part he could have played in preventing it are often overlooked. If we can determine with sufficient supporting data that people or businesses with certain characteristics are more likely than others to be crime victims, and that crime is more likely to occur in some places than in others, efforts to control and prevent crime would be more productive. At that point, the public could be told where and when the risks of crime are greatest. Specific steps, such as preventive police patrol and installation of burglar alarms and special locks, et cetera, could then be pursued more efficiently and effectively. Our citizens could then substitute objective estimation of risk for the general apprehensiveness that today restricts their enjoyment of parks and their freedom of movement on the streets after dark.

Senator, at this point I am going to take advantage of your suggestion and not cover my entire report here, but will submit that written report to you and move on now, in the interest of time, to some basic recommendations that I hope are of some value to you and your committee.

We review statistics regularly, but behind these overall rather dry statistics, one sees the human misery and suffering of fellow human beings. For example, we find that in the first half of 1973, 45,000 men and women over age 50 were victims of such serious crimes as rape, robbery with injury, aggravated assaults and personal larcenies. The problem becomes even more real when one receives specifics on individual cases. For instance, within the last week, the following Baltimore area incidents were brought to the attention of the Crime Commission office. I will summarize these briefly.

Case 1. A woman's handbag grabbed by a young boy on public street. Woman was knocked to street and severely bruised.

Case 2. Woman's handbag grabbed as she was getting on bus. Woman was knocked to ground and her hand and wrist were injured.

Case 3. Woman was grabbed in hall of her apartment by thief and dragged down steps where shoulder was fractured and other injuries sustained.

Case 4. Woman returned to her home and not knowing anyone else was in the house went to her bathroom where a man entered, and

beat her unconscious. Her hand was broken, her ankle was sprained she required eight stitches in her head, and when her assailant hit her in the mouth, this cracked her false teeth which became imbedded in the oral cavity and had to be removed through oral surgery.

Case 5. A man was mugged by two young people who took his money and caused him a long stay in a hospital for injuries received.

All of these victims were 65 years of age or over. I submit to you the names, addresses, and telephone numbers, of these victims in the event your committee desires further details from the senior citizens injured.

It is difficult for the normal person to understand how any human being can cause such pain and suffering to senior citizens who are limited in their ability to protect themselves. But reflect no further—it has happened, it is happening, and it will continue to happen and the best we can do is to attempt to reduce the number of victims. How can we do that? I offer the following suggestions for consideration:

1. As has been recommended in the National Advisory Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals, for crime-specific planning in a given locale, practitioners with limited resources can collect valuable data about the characteristics of victims from those who reported the incidents to the police. This has two major advantages.

First, if a crime prevention program is to be aimed at a particular crime—for example, street robbery—then a few hundred victims of this type of crime could be interviewed in their homes to elicit details about themselves and the attack to provide the analytical data needed to effect a rational approach to solving the problem.

The second advantage is that a ready source of crime victims exists in police files for sampling purposes. It is less expensive to identify 100 victims of stranger-to-stranger assault from police files and follow them up with personal interviews than it is to screen a general probability sample to find 100 people who were assault victims; indeed, thousands of randomly selected adults would have to be screened in a household interview to produce 100 assault victims.

2. The judiciary across the country must gain a better known reputation for giving maximum jail sentences to the animal-like thugs who are preying on our senior citizens. One must pursue this suggestion with the realization that consistency in sentencing may produce a deterrent effect resulting in the reduction of suffering by our senior citizens. It is a late hour, but still not too late to sympathize with the victim instead of the offender. Although we must continue to seek ways to reform the offender, until such time as we meet with greater success, we must commit ourselves to protecting our society from the recidivist—the offender who continues to live via a life of crime. This protection begins with maximum jail sentences in such cases as crimes against our senior citizens. It is not theory but commonsense to state that the criminal cannot continue to terrorize the community if he is locked up. It is not theory but a fact that the bulk of our crimes are being committed by offenders with former records—many of them on probation or parole, having been given an opportunity to become legitimate working members of our society.

Our trust often has been misplaced. We have become more concerned with the offender than we have with his victims of today and tomorrow. I would call for this committee to lead the fight to establish the necessary legislation to assure mandatory jail sentences when our senior citizens are victimized. We have seen this in offenses involving firearms, attack on police officers, et cetera. I am merely calling for an extension of this deterrent philosophy.

3. Finally, I would bring to your attention the dire need to protect our senior citizens from the flim-flam and fraud artist who victimizes in such a way as the law enforcement authorities are seldom brought in. Many retired citizens have been bled of all or a great portion of their meager savings through the con artist who claims such things as his contractual services alone can get the snakes out of the basement, or keep the very roof from falling in if the victim will just sign on the dotted line.

I have called on Maryland Assistant Attorney General and Chief of the Consumer Protection Division, John N. Ruth, Jr., to report some selected cases brought to his unit's attention. His quick response to my request produced the document which I attach to my report. I am deeply indebted to him for his efforts, which he accomplished in a hurry.

I call on this committee to investigate the avenues which might be explored to ascertain that free legal services are made available to the senior citizen who cannot afford private counsel to review contractual proposals. This prevention approach would do much to reduce the victim rate in the fraud area of criminality.

We commend this subcommittee for its interest and efforts in the subject area of crime and our senior citizens. The subject is an extremely important one and one which has been neglected too long.

We wish you the very best in your further review of this problem and we pledge our continued assistance, Senator.

[Applause]

Senator BEALL. Thank you, Dr. Zumbrun. Mr. Ruth's statement will appear in the record as it has been presented to us by you.

[Dr. Zumbrun's prepared statement and the document referred to follow:]



Maryland Crime Investigating Commission

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TESTIMONY OF ALVIN J. T. ZUMBRUN BEFORE THE U. S.

SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGING, AUGUST 13, 1975

I THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION SOME FACTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING CRIME AND THE ELDERLY. ONE OF THE MOST NEGLECTED SUBJECTS IN THE STUDY OF CRIME IS ITS VICTIMS. I REFER TO THE PERSONS, HOUSEHOLDS, AND BUSINESSES THAT BEAR THE BRUNT OF CRIME IN THE UNITED STATES. BOTH THE PART THE VICTIM CAN PLAY IN THE CRIMINAL ACT AND THE PART HE COULD HAVE PLAYED IN PREVENTING IT ARE OFTEN OVERLOOKED. IF WE CAN DETERMINE WITH SUFFICIENT SUPPORTING DATA THAT PEOPLE OR BUSINESSES WITH CERTAIN CHARACTERISTICS ARE MORE LIKELY THAN OTHERS TO BE CRIME VICTIMS, AND THAT CRIME IS MORE LIKELY TO OCCUR IN SOME PLACES THAN IN OTHERS, EFFORTS TO CONTROL AND PREVENT CRIME WOULD BE MORE PRODUCTIVE. AT THAT POINT, THE PUBLIC COULD BE TOLD WHERE AND WHEN THE RISKS OF CRIME ARE GREATEST. SPECIFIC STEPS SUCH AS PREVENTIVE POLICE PATROL AND INSTALLATION OF BURGLAR ALARMS AND SPECIAL LOCKS, ETC. COULD THEN BE PURSUED MORE EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY. OUR CITIZENS COULD THEN SUBSTITUTE OBJECTIVE ESTIMATION OF RISK FOR THE GENERAL APPREHENSIVENESS THAT TODAY RESTRICTS THEIR ENJOYMENT OF PARKS AND THEIR FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT ON THE STREETS AFTER DARK.

THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE TELLS US THAT THE HIGHEST RATES OF VICTIMIZATION OCCUR IN THE LOWER INCOME GROUPS WHEN ALL INDEX OFFENSES EXCEPT HOMICIDE ARE CONSIDERED TOGETHER. (THEY REFER TO THE CRIMES OF WILLFUL HOMICIDE,

ROBBERY, FORCEABLE RAPE, AGGRAVATED ASSAULT, BURGLARY, THEFT OF FIFTY DOLLARS OR OVER, AND MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT). WE ARE TOLD THAT NONWHITES ARE VICTIMIZED DISPROPORTIONATELY BY ALL INDEX CRIMES EXCEPT LARCENY OF FIFTY DOLLARS AND OVER. WE ARE TOLD THAT THE VICTIMIZATION RATE FOR WOMEN IS HIGHEST IN THE TWENTY TO TWENTY NINE AGE GROUP AND FOR MEN THE HIGHEST INDEX TOTAL RATE FALLS IN THE THIRTY TO THIRTY NINE AGE CATEGORY.

A NATIONAL CRIME PANEL SURVEY REPORT ENTITLED "CRIMINAL VICTIMIZATION IN THE UNITED STATES, NOVEMBER 1974" INFORMS US THAT THROUGHOUT THE U. S. DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1973, CRIMES OF VIOLENCE AND COMMON THEFT, INCLUDING ATTEMPTS, ACCOUNTED FOR APPROXIMATELY EIGHTEEN MILLION VICTIMIZATIONS OF PERSONS AGE TWELVE AND OVER, HOUSEHOLDS, AND BUSINESSES. OF THE TOTAL NUMBER, ABOUT FIFTY SEVEN PERCENT INVOLVED INDIVIDUALS (RAPE, ROBBERY, ASSAULT, AND PERSONAL LARCENY), THIRTY NINE PERCENT PERTAINED TO HOUSEHOLDS (BURGLARY, HOUSEHOLD LARCENY, AND MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT), AND FOUR PERCENT CONCERNED BUSINESSES (BURGLARY AND ROBBERY). AGE PROVED TO BE AN IMPORTANT DETERMINANT IN ASSESSING THE LIKELIHOOD OF BECOMING THE VICTIM OF A PERSONAL CRIME. THE HIGHEST RATES OF PERSONAL VICTIMIZATION WERE RECORDED BY THOSE IN THE TWO YOUNGEST GROUPS, COVERING THE AGES TWELVE TO NINETEEN WITH EACH OLDER GROUP REPORTING A LOWER RATE THAN ITS PREDECESSOR; PERSONS SIXTY FIVE AND OVER HAD THE LOWEST RATES OF ALL. FOR BOTH MALES AND FEMALES, THE SAME PATTERN WAS MANIFESTED: THE TWO YOUNGEST AGE GROUPS HAD THE HIGHEST VICTIMIZATION RATES, WITH EACH OLDER GROUP HAVING PROGRESSIVELY LOWER RATES. FOR EACH AGE CATEGORY UNDER THIRTY FIVE, MALES HAD NOTICEABLY HIGHER RATES THAN FEMALES; OVER THAT AGE, THE DIFFERENCES IN RATES BETWEEN THE SEXES WERE VIRTUALLY NONEXISTENT. AS TO SPECIFIC PERSONAL CRIMES, THE SURVEY SHOWED THAT THERE WERE SIGNIFICANTLY MORE

ROBBERY VICTIMS UNDER TWENTY FIVE YEARS OF AGE THAN IN ANY OF THE OLDER AGE CATEGORIES. THE SAME WAS TRUE AMONG ASSAULT VICTIMS, WHERE THE RISK FELL SHARPLY AFTER AGE TWENTY FOUR. PERSONAL LARCENY FOLLOWED THE PATTERN OF ALL PERSONAL CRIMES: THE TWO YOUNGEST AGE GROUPS HAD THE HIGHEST RATES WHILE EACH OLDER AGE CATEGORY HAD A SUCCESSIVELY LOWER RATE. FOR BOTH MALES AND FEMALES, THE SAME PATTERNS WERE EVIDENT EXCEPT THAT THERE WERE TOO FEW FEMALE ROBBERY VICTIMS TO MAKE MEANINGFUL COMPARISONS. THERE WAS A SHARP DECLINE IN THE INCIDENTS OF ASSAULT FOR BOTH MALES AND FEMALES AGE TWENTY FIVE AND OVER, AND FOR MALES ALONE IN THE CASE OF ROBBERY. THE DECLINE WAS NOT AS GREAT IN PERSONAL LARCENY FOR FEMALES IN THE OLDER AGE GROUPS. THE TENDENCY FOR MALES TO BE DISPROPORTIONATELY THE VICTIMS OF PERSONAL CRIMES WAS AGAIN DEMONSTRATED BY THE FIGURES FOR ASSAULT AND, TO A LESSER EXTENT, FOR PERSONAL LARCENY.

BEHIND THESE OVERALL RATHER DRY STATISTICS, ONE SEES THE HUMAN MISERY AND SUFFERING OF FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS. FOR EXAMPLE, WE FIND THAT IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1973, FORTY FIVE THOUSAND MEN AND WOMEN OVER AGE FIFTY WERE VICTIMS OF SUCH SERIOUS CRIMES AS RAPE, ROBBERY WITH INJURY, AGGRAVATED ASSAULTS AND PERSONAL LARCENIES. THE PROBLEM BECOMES EVEN MORE REAL WHEN ONE RECEIVES SPECIFICS ON INDIVIDUAL CASES. FOR INSTANCE, WITHIN THE LAST WEEK, THE FOLLOWING BALTIMORE AREA INCIDENTS WERE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE CRIME COMMISSION OFFICE.

CASE 1. A WOMAN'S HANDBAG GRABBED BY YOUNG BOY ON PUBLIC STREET. WOMAN WAS KNOCKED TO STREET AND SEVERELY BRUISED.

CASE 2. WOMAN'S HANDBAG GRABBED AS SHE WAS GETTING ON BUS. WOMAN WAS KNOCKED TO GROUND AND HER HAND AND WRIST WERE INJURED.

CASE 3. WOMAN WAS GRABBED IN HALL OF HER APARTMENT BY THIEF AND DRAGGED DOWN STEPS WHERE SHOULDER WAS FRACTURED AND OTHER INJURIES

SUSTAINED.

CASE 4. WOMAN RETURNED TO HER HOME AND NOT KNOWING ANYONE ELSE WAS IN THE HOUSE WENT TO HER BATHROOM WHERE A MAN ENTERED, AND BEAT HER UNCONSCIOUS. HER HAND WAS BROKEN, HER ANKLE WAS SPRAINED, SHE REQUIRED EIGHT STITCHES IN HER HEAD, AND WHEN HER ASSAILANT HIT HER IN THE MOUTH, THIS CRACKED HER FALSE TEETH WHICH BECAME IMBEDDED IN THE ORAL CAVITY AND HAD TO BE REMOVED THROUGH ORAL SURGERY.

CASE 5. A MAN WAS MUGGED BY TWO YOUNG PEOPLE WHO TOOK HIS MONEY AND CAUSED HIM A LONG STAY IN A HOSPITAL FOR INJURIES RECEIVED. ALL OF THE ABOVE VICTIMS ARE PERSONS OVER SIXTY FIVE YEARS OF AGE, I HAVE GIVEN THE NAMES, ADDRESSES, AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS TO MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE INTERESTED IN FURTHER DETAILS.

IT IS DIFFICULT FOR THE NORMAL PERSON TO UNDERSTAND HOW ANY HUMAN BEING CAN CAUSE SUCH PAIN AND SUFFERING TO SENIOR CITIZENS WHO ARE LIMITED IN THEIR ABILITY TO PROTECT THEMSELVES. REFLECT NO FURTHER----IT HAS HAPPENED, IT IS HAPPENING, AND IT WILL CONTINUE TO HAPPEN AND THE BEST WE CAN DO IS TO ATTEMPT TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF VICTIMS. HOW CAN WE DO THAT? I OFFER THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:

1. AS HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED IN THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMISSION ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE STANDARDS AND GOALS, FOR CRIME-SPECIFIC PLANNING IN A GIVEN LOCALE, PRACTITIONERS WITH LIMITED RESOURCES CAN COLLECT VALUABLE DATA ABOUT THE CHARACTERISTICS OF VICTIMS FROM THOSE WHO REPORTED THE INCIDENTS TO THE POLICE. THIS HAS TWO MAJOR ADVANTAGES. FIRST, IF A CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAM IS TO BE AIMED AT A PARTICULAR CRIME-EG., STREET ROBBERY-THEN A FEW HUNDRED VICTIMS OF THIS TYPE OF CRIME COULD THEN BE INTERVIEWED IN THEIR HOMES TO ELICIT DETAILS ABOUT THEMSELVES AND THE ATTACK TO PROVIDE THE ANALYTICAL DATA NEEDED TO EFFECT A RATIONAL APPROACH TO SOLVING THE PROBLEM. THE SECOND ADVANTAGE IS THAT

A READY SOURCE OF CRIME VICTIMS EXISTS IN POLICE FILES FOR SAMPLING PURPOSES. IT IS LESS EXPENSIVE TO IDENTIFY ONE HUNDRED VICTIMS OF STRANGER TO STRANGER ASSAULT FROM POLICE FILES AND FOLLOW THEM UP WITH PERSONAL INTERVIEWS THAN IT IS TO SCREEN A GENERAL PROBABILITY SAMPLE TO FIND ONE HUNDRED PEOPLE WHO WERE ASSAULT VICTIMS; INDEED THOUSANDS OF RANDOMLY SELECTED ADULTS WOULD HAVE TO BE SCREENED IN A HOUSEHOLD INTERVIEW TO PRODUCE ONE HUNDRED ASSAULT VICTIMS.

2. THE JUDICIARY ACROSS THE COUNTRY MUST GAIN A BETTER KNOWN REPUTATION FOR GIVING MAXIMUM JAIL SENTENCES TO THE ANIMAL-LIKE THUGS WHO ARE PREYING ON OUR SENIOR CITIZENS. ONE MUST PURSUE THIS SUGGESTION WITH THE REALIZATION THAT CONSISTENCY IN SENTENCING MAY PRODUCE A DETERRENT EFFECT RESULTING IN THE REDUCTION OF SUFFERING BY OUR SENIOR CITIZENS. IT IS A LATE HOUR, BUT STILL NOT TOO LATE TO SYMPATHIZE WITH THE VICTIM INSTEAD OF THE OFFENDER. ALTHOUGH WE MUST CONTINUE TO SEEK WAYS TO REFORM THE OFFENDER, UNTIL SUCH TIME AS WE MEET WITH GREATER SUCCESS, WE MUST COMMIT OURSELVES TO PROTECTING OUR SOCIETY FROM THE RECIDIVIST---THE OFFENDER WHO CONTINUES TO LIVE VIA A LIFE OF CRIME. THIS PROTECTION BEGINS WITH MAXIMUM JAIL SENTENCES IN SUCH CASES AS CRIMES AGAINST OUR SENIOR CITIZENS. IT IS NOT THEORY BUT COMMON SENSE TO STATE THAT THE CRIMINAL CANNOT CONTINUE TO TERRORIZE THE COMMUNITY IF HE IS LOCKED UP. IT IS NOT THEORY BUT A FACT THAT THE BULK OF OUR CRIMES ARE BEING COMMITTED BY OFFENDERS WITH FORMER RECORDS---MANY OF THEM ON PROBATION OR PAROLE, HAVING BEEN GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME LEGITIMATE WORKING MEMBERS OF OUR SOCIETY. OUR TRUST OFTEN HAS BEEN MISPLACED. WE HAVE BECOME MORE CONCERNED WITH THE OFFENDER THAN WE HAVE WITH HIS VICTIMS OF TODAY AND TOMORROW. I WOULD CALL FOR THIS COMMITTEE TO LEAD THE FIGHT TO ESTABLISH THE NECESSARY LEGISLATION TO ASSURE MANDATORY JAIL SENTENCES WHEN OUR SENIOR CITI-

ZENS ARE VICTIMIZED. WE HAVE SEEN THIS IN OFFENCES INVOLVING FIREARMS, ATTACK ON POLICE OFFICERS, ETC.. I AM MERELY CALLING FOR AN EXTENSION OF THIS DETERRENT PHILOSOPHY.

3. FINALLY, I WOULD BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION THE DIRE NEED TO PROTECT OUR SENIOR CITIZENS FROM THE FLIM-FLAM AND FRAUD ARTIST WHO VICTIMIZES IN SUCH A WAY AS THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES ARE SELDOM BROUGHT IN. MANY RETIRED CITIZENS HAVE BEEN BLED OF ALL OR A GREAT PORTION OF THEIR MEAGER SAVINGS THROUGH THE CON ARTIST WHO CLAIMS SUCH THINGS AS HIS CONTRACTUAL SERVICES ALONE CAN GET THE SNAKES OUT OF THE BASEMENT OR KEEP THE VERY ROOF FROM FALLING IN IF THE VICTIM WILL JUST SIGN ON THE DOTTED LINE.

I HAVE CALLED ON MARYLAND ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL AND CHIEF OF THE CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION, JOHN N. RUTH, JR., TO REPORT SOME SELECTED CASES BROUGHT TO HIS UNIT'S ATTENTION. HIS QUICK RESPONSE TO MY REQUEST PRODUCED THE ATTACHED DOCUMENT FOR WHICH I AM DEEPLY INDEBTED.

I CALL ON THIS COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE AVENUES WHICH MIGHT BE EXPLORED TO ASCERTAIN THAT FREE LEGAL SERVICES ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE SENIOR CITIZEN WHO CANNOT AFFORD PRIVATE COUNSEL TO REVIEW CONTRACTUAL PROPOSALS. THIS PREVENTION APPROACH WOULD DO MUCH TO REDUCE THE VICTIM RATE IN THE FRAUD AREA OF CRIMINALITY.

WE COMMEND THIS SUBCOMMITTEE FOR ITS INTEREST AND EFFORTS IN THE SUBJECT AREA OF CRIME AND OUR SENIOR CITIZENS. THE SUBJECT IS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT ONE AND ONE WHICH HAS BEEN NEGLECTED TOO LONG. WE WISH YOU THE VERY BEST IN YOUR FURTHER REVIEW OF THIS PROBLEM AND WE PLEDGE OUR CONTINUED ASSISTANCE.

THANK YOU.

FRANCIS B. BURCH
ATTORNEY GENERAL
HENRY R. LORD
NORMAN POLOVOY
DEPUTY ATTORNEYS GENERAL

OFFICES OF



THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
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JOHN N. RUTH, JR.
CHIEF
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August 12, 1975

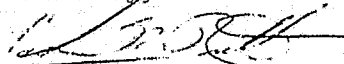
Senator Thomas F. Eagleton,
Chairman
Subcommittee on the Aging
U. S. Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

RE: Crime and the Elderly

Dear Senator Eagleton:

The attached statement is for your consideration. I appreciate the opportunity to submit it.

Sincerely,


John N. Ruth

JNR:mg
Enclosure

I appreciate the opportunity which you give for an agency such as ours to present its view to the Committee. We are not a "law enforcement" agency and we do not deal with the "criminal law" as that term is generally understood. The Consumer Protection Division in Maryland is a part of the Office of the Attorney General; as such we are involved in Civil enforcement of the laws contained in the Maryland Consumer Protection Act. In that position we hear from over 100,000 Maryland residents each year - residents from all areas of the State - from all age groups - and from every social and economic group.

We hear from the elderly, and we would therefore like to share some of what we hear with you. What we hear does not involve the so called "violent crimes"; the offenses against the physical person, or against the ownership of property, rather we hear about the "white-collar crime", theft with the pen and paper; theft by advertising medical quackery; theft by promising "extra-income" as a means of removing the savings of the elderly; in short, theft by trickery, deception, and omission of material facts. We believe that this type of crime can and should be prevented; it is this type of crime which destroys the trust of the citizens, and the very fabric of the society. It is this type of crime which can so quickly be overlooked because it does not appear on the station-house

blotter or on the list of "violent" crimes.

One of the first areas of concern has to do with health care. One need only check the local bookstore for the hundreds of books which promise "magic cures" for almost every ailment known to mankind, and the elderly are frequently grasping at any hope, however faint, to alleviate pain and suffering which medical science finds difficult or impossible to cure. Perhaps a real live example would be best - here is an actual quote from a mail-order letter offering such a book:

"Now get this!! Today, lo and behold, I am completely rid of all the arthritis no pain or stiffness whatsoever without any need to resort to aspirin, cortisone, or injections of any kind. My ulcer is completely healed, and the asthma has subsided with no recurrence at all for the last year and no prospect for any in the future.....I have even gone back to work and as far as I'm concerned, will consider retirement only when they lay me down to rest. It goes without saying that a whole new world has suddenly opened up

for me and once again life seems so well worth while.

Most assuredly you are curious as to how such medical miracle was brought about.... for hasn't Mayo Clinic themselves declared arthritis incurable? Isn't it the very nature of many ulcers to linger persistently despite the most modern remedial drugs and even surgery? Isn't it well known that asthma is something one has to learn to live with? Yet I repeat, I have been cured completely of all the above mentioned ailments.....

.....But I can do this for you. I can send you a recently published book by the doctor who originated the theory, completely explaining and outlining in layman's language this amazing method of treatment for degenerative disease and aging of the human being, and how you yourself may utilize the method and benefit from it. You may read for yourself how this doctor is overcoming arthritis, ulcers, gallstones, psoriasis, arterial disease, etc....."

It is sad enough that many elderly persons send their money, taken from their savings or Social Security

checks, or private pensions. It is sad when these dollars flow from those who need them most, to those who are profiteering; but it is tragic when these same customers now leave sound medical treatment for the magic cure promised in the book.

Currently we protect such abuse of our elderly. We allow for this shabby treatment of the sick and the infirm in the name of the First Amendment of the Constitution, "Congress shall make no law respecting....abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press...." We seem to fear any and all erosions of that very basic right of the people; and well we should. We remember all too clearly the events of the past few years, and the ability of a free and unfettered press to inform and educate the public. A right that we should protect at all cost. And yet we should find ways to protect ourselves against the great harm that comes to so many of our elderly in the form of false and inaccurate information concerning their health.

In our society we do find the ways to protect ourselves when we devote our energy and resources to that end. Clifford Irving's right to publish, his freedom of the press, was not only attacked but also to an extent censored; censored by now having his work labeled as "Fiction". Without new laws, without any change to the Constitution; with only the

will to protect and using our resources to accomplish our goal, we as a society found ways to protect a book publisher and Howard Hughes. Do we not owe at least that much to our elderly?

Our elderly are subjected to Home Repair Rackets. The State of Maryland has been progressive in requiring the licensing of home improvement contractors - most states have not yet reached that degree of protection for the residents; and yet abuses still occur. The elderly are frequently, for the first time in their lives, unable to care for their homes themselves. Allow me to quote from some letters regarding a basement waterproofing firm:

From a woman who paid \$2,200 to have her basement waterproofed:

"...I am a widow, 73 years old they have worried the heart out of me from the different times I've had to call about the basement and I want to do something about it. What should I do? When they did the work they wrecked the window sill and made a complete mess...Please help."

From a person who paid \$900 for basement waterproofing:

"....They said if, after 3 months, I still had dampness I should phone the company..... (after 5 months)....I phoned...(they) said the service people would phone me...The service

people did not phone me.....I received a postcard....I did not hear from the company so I phoned....He said they would redo my basement.... I phoned...He said their truck broke down....I phoned....He said they had truck problems...the men did not arrive and I again phoned....the men would be here....(a man) came alone and instead of pumping more material into the ground he painted some material on my inside basement walls.I phoned....I phoned....I phoned....."

When that person wrote that letter to a Federal agency the reply came back, "The _____ is authorized to act only in the public interest and is unable to resolve individual disputes, such as yours between parties to a private transaction." The writer of the letter is an elderly widow from one state who was filing a complaint against a company operating from another state and when she complains to the logical Federal agency she is told that the agency can act, "...only in the public interest...."

I encourage this Committee to review how you are defining "crime" so that you do not overlook the so called "white collar crime" which can have such devastating impact on the elderly. I encourage you to review how we are ordering our priorities when we are able to protect one book publisher and one multi-millionaire but claim to be unable to protect millions of elderly. And lastly I would encourage you to review how we are responding to those citizens who

seek the assistance of their Federal Government when they have a complaint.

I thank you for the opportunity to express these views.

John N. Ruth
Assistant Attorney General and
Chief - Consumer Protection Division
State of Maryland

Senator BEALL. Within the last few days, the Justice Department has indicated that only about one-third of all the crimes committed in this country are reported.

As a matter of curiosity, are you finding that situation prevalent in the State of Maryland?

Dr. ZUMBRUN. Yes; we find that many citizens have just become frustrated about the successes which we have had, or haven't had, within areas such as larcenies and minor assaults. Many citizens, unfortunately, have a reprisal fear when becoming involved as a witness against the criminal. They also often become nervous about getting involved in the criminal justice process where they have to testify in court. It is a new experience in strange surroundings.

We are not doing everything that I think we can do to educate the citizen as to what the system is all about, and why the citizen must function within that system.

This is not to say that the system cannot be improved. I am sure that most of the people in this room would be aware of the fact that witnesses quite often are abused, although I am sure not purposely. Many witnesses who should be taken first during the court proceedings wind up sitting around all day long and then finding that the case will be coming up the next day.

These are the kinds of things, I believe, we have to be very, very careful about. We have got to respect the time of the citizen who has already been victimized or who is assisting as a witness.

Senator BEALL. I gather from your statement that you place a great deal of emphasis on the fact that an awareness on the part of the potential criminal that he is going to be prosecuted for his offense is, in itself, a great deterrent.

Dr. ZUMBRUN. Yes.

Senator BEALL. I gather you are suggesting there is a need for greater toughness on the part of the people who are involved in the administration of justice in this country.

Dr. ZUMBRUN. Yes, sir. I think the pendulum must swing back to a more sensible point. We thought we had the know-how concerning the human behavioral sciences to think in terms of rehabilitating the offender, but we have known for some time now that the correctional institutions do little to rehabilitate the individual. We have talked about new approaches and the community corrections approach certainly has great merit. But we have got to realize that we don't have the wherewithal and we don't have the total amount of knowledge necessary to truly reform in a short-time the people who are victimizing our citizens today. I think the one temporary step we could take would be to give the maximum sentences, hoping that this would not only act as a deterrent effect, but also would keep the criminal from again terrorizing the community for at least the period of time that the law would allow for his jailable crime.

Senator BEALL. Is it the length of the sentence or the certainty of the sentence that is the deterrent?

Dr. ZUMBRUN. I would say it is both, Senator. We have quite a time-served spread in many crime categories. What with the parole system, as we have in Maryland, for example, where an inmate may be considered for parole after one-quarter of his time, even maximum

sentences bring short incarcerated terms. Some of us believe that this may be too short a period of time for some offenses when viewed from a deterrent viewpoint.

One thing that I certainly wouldn't want to be misunderstood about is the dire need to move ahead and try to do everything we can to reform the offender, because that individual eventually will be out on the street again. However, some of us are beginning to realize that many individuals who are released too early have really abused the system. These recidivists are causing problems of a more severe nature.

Senator BEALL. Thank you, Dr. Zumbrun. We appreciate your testimony.

Dr. ZUMBRUN. Thank you very much for the opportunity.

Senator BEALL. Next we have the series of panels, which will be moderated by Mr. Harry F. Walker, who is deputy director of the Maryland Office on Aging.

And with Mr. Walker at the table will be Mr. Donald D. Pomerleau, commissioner of the Baltimore City Police Department, Mr. Gene Bartell, director of the Baltimore City Area Agency on Aging, and Rosemary Chappelle, director of the Information and Referral Service—Baltimore City.

So if you will all come to the table, we will be happy to hear from you.

STATEMENT OF HARRY F. WALKER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, MARYLAND OFFICE ON AGING

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Chairman, I would like to begin by commending the subcommittee and you personally for calling this hearing on a subject of growing importance and concern to older persons.

A great deal of attention and concern is being directed toward the longstanding problems of the elderly, and properly so. However, just because some of the persistent problems have not been solved doesn't excuse us from tackling some of the new emerging ones—and certainly crime against older people is one of those.

I think with this hearing you are tackling the problem by drawing the attention of the public and Federal and State and local agencies to the serious and shameful problem of criminal actions against old men and women.

Those of us who have worked with you, Senator, and your staff recognize and appreciate your continuing concern and actions on behalf of older persons.

To begin the panel, commissioner of the Police Department of Baltimore City, Mr. Donald Pomerleau will make a statement.

STATEMENT OF DONALD D. POMERLEAU, COMMISSIONER, BALTIMORE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mr. POMERLEAU. Thank you. Mr. Senator, nice to be here. I have heard various ages mentioned this morning—55 and 65—and we put our data together on 60 and older. Having reviewed the act on older Americans, we older Americans are pleased, Mr. Senator, that you are addressing this issue, because certainly it is one of extreme importance and long overdue.

My comments, generally speaking, will be concerning the urban area of Baltimore. The data that I give you will be data taken from our central records repository on reported crimes.

Now, senior citizens in our area, age 60 and above, account for 15½ percent of Baltimore's population. Of the total amount of violent crime victims in 1974, they represented 6.3 percent of that group.

In the first 7 months of 1975, they represent 5.7 of the total of violent crime victims. A decreasing trend is noted in all categories of crime against the elderly, with the exception of serious assault, wherein there is a slight rise—it is three-tenths of 1 percent. Now, of course, these are reported crimes to us.

The largest percentage of violent crime victims lies within the age bracket of 25 to 44 in our city—37.3 percent.

Of the property crimes, the victims in 1974, the elderly represented 10 percent of that group. Of the first 7 months of 1975, they continued to represent 9.7 percent of the total property crime victims.

A decreasing trend is noted in burglary, larceny, and auto theft with respect to the elderly, 60 and above—very slight, four-tenths of 1 percent in two instances and one-tenth of a percent in another. The largest percentage of property crime victims again lies within the 25-to-44 age group, 44.3 percent.

Now, there are special problems presented by the elderly as victims, and we feel that they are predicated on real problems and, in some instances, imagined problems. We have a number of psychological problems out there that we have to overcome as well as the real problems.

We must cope with the special problems. The elderly, we find, have a desire not to become involved. I am glad to see this group here today, because this indicates a desire to become involved for the purpose of reaching a solution.

But our interviews and our records will reflect, up there, at least, the majority of them really aren't interested in becoming involved.

There is an unwillingness, too, on their part, we detect, to accuse and follow through with lengthy judicial proceedings, often at great cost to the reporting person. In these cases, the victims more often than not have very limited resources. They are also afraid of reprisal and intimidation—and this is frequently cited by the elderly.

And then there is a failure to understand what is legally required for prosecution. There is a view, too, shared by the elderly that the criminal justice spectrum maintains itself without citizen support, that once a report is made the criminal justice process will take over and handle the problem. And of course, this is not the case—the criminal justice spectrum is not handling the problem, obviously.

Police response—in our particular area we deploy a variety of our resources, allocated in various modes, including motorized, foot patrolmen—motorized patrolmen, foot patrolmen, K-9, horses, and others in areas that our historical data bank will indicate that we are likely to have the problem. This includes shopping centers, downtown financial and shopping districts, hospital areas and parking lots, the medical clinics, the parks, the housing for senior citizens, and special events for senior citizens.

And oftentimes we will have, well, I will say an undetermined number of plainclothes officers, both male and female, in areas where special events for senior citizens are taking place.

We are working in the area of community relations, special presentations to the elderly groups on self-protection, alarm devices we have heard about—the target hardening, the antiburglary methods.

We have nine district community relations councils in this city of 93,000 square miles, just under 900,000 population. And they are working out there with a view of assisting the elderly.

We feel that reporting is essential, and we must accomplish by renewing the community support of the criminal justice agencies, and we must educate the elderly to what can be done with their input, and that criminal justice agencies exist to serve them.

The department is currently coordinating with the mayor's council—Mayor's Coordinating Council on Criminal Justice—in programs involving the aging. One of those programs is SCAT—senior citizens against thievery—and on community involvement. We are also working with this group with respect to target hardening.

And while I am on that, I heard this morning from a previous speaker about the safety of the low-income housing projects. I think if you will conduct a little research, you will find that the garden-type low-cost housing projects are designed for—at least today—and are safer for families with children, that the high-rise low-cost housing projects are designed for and more safe for the elderly without children, because the elderly at this point, on low incomes, their children have grown, they are fully emancipated, and they are grandparents. And in the first instance, the parents can look out these windows and can see their children at play, and it tends to give stability to that family, where in the second instance the elderly can move into the controlled access point of ingress into this high-rise apartment, under closed-circuit TV and custodial people, which I want to say our Commission on Housing and Urban Development in Baltimore is pursuing. And you can go up the elevator and walk into your apartment—it is much safer. And I wanted to correct the record, that the high-rise for senior citizens is more safe than the garden-type villas.

There would be no point—Dr. Zumbun said, to keep giving you data—but I think you need to know that in 1974, in our city, we had 31 persons age 60 and over murdered out of a total of 293. We had 11, 60 and over, raped out of a total of 486. These are reported rapes. We had 1,708 elderly, 60 and over, robbed out of a total of 10,208. And we had 144 of 60 and over assaulted in an aggravated way out of a total of 6,379.

Senator BEALL. Do you have statistics on fraud?

Mr. POMERLEAU. No; but several of them are being conned regularly. We don't have that. The con men are constantly preying on the elderly, but I do not have them, sir.

I want to say, too, that I have heard not only here today but on national media and other places about the alarming trend in crime, that it is going to continue upward, and so forth and so on. And I am not that pessimistic, and I would not want you to leave here today feeling that this is an insurmountable problem. It isn't insurmountable.

And I forecast that at least crime in the urban areas of this country—of which there are 29 urban areas 500,000 and over—is not going to increase at the alarming rate as last year. In fact, if you review data for the last 5 years, you will find that crime has decreased in the last 5 years—in the urban areas. In Baltimore, it has decreased

6.8 percent in the last 5 years—that is not much, but at least it didn't increase.

And it will decrease this year also. We have a 3.2-percent reduction in crime in Baltimore for the first 7 months of this year.

Now, crime is rising—and I suspect this group represents urban counties. If you check the data, you will find that crime is rising in the urban counties and in the rural areas—at an alarming rate.

And I encourage you, Mr. Chairman, and the executive officials of urban counties and rural areas, to fund the various components of the criminal justice field sufficiently so that they can commence to cope with the problem, as has been done by their contemporaries in the urban area. They are not keeping pace and your chief of police of this urban county or that urban county is not going to be able to provide you the level of service that you would like unless your elected officials support their budgets.

Senator BEALL. Are you implying that there is a need for more direct Federal assistance to suburban areas, as has been the case with the urban areas over the last couple of years?

Mr. POMERLEAU. Yes; I would. And, of course, the urban areas were having social problems in the mid-sixties at the advent of LEAA and, of course, the symbol of authority and so forth—and, of course, we were in dire need in the middle and late sixties. And we were supported, tremendously, but to the detriment now of our colleagues in the rural and urban counties that were not supported in direct proportion. Their needs now differ—and that hasn't been recognized in sufficient time.

Senator BEALL. Does the geographic environment of the suburban areas as opposed to the urban areas pose special problems? In other words, in a city you are generally in a fairly confined area where you can probably better monitor what is taking place. But you get out into the counties, and you have concentrations of population at various places. Do they have special problems resulting from this separation of the centers of population?

Mr. POMERLEAU. Well, I am sure they do. And as my wife and I travel through a number of urban counties, I look at them and I say how in the world can they police them with 1,200 men? Where they have the concentrations of population and then the complete and total rural areas. Now, it can be done, but it can't be done with the number of persons that they are budgeted for under the current system.

If you will check the last FBI reports on crime, you will find that it went up 21 percent in your urban counties and 90 percent in your rural areas.

Now, by the same token, the urban cities had a 16½ percent raise, but that is being amortized downward where it will be a net decrease at the end of this calendar year, because all of us had had second, third, and fourth quarters last year—and we work against last year's data. Whereas I don't forecast that the urban counties will reach that level.

I don't want to monopolize all the time, but I, too, have some recommendations.

I heard this morning, it was suggested that there should be fewer victims. Well, I certainly don't disagree with that. But should there not be fewer offenders?

Dr. Zumbun touched on this, this morning; 52.7 percent of everyone we arrested in Baltimore City in 1974 were under 18 years of age for indexed crimes. That amounted to 11,727 youngsters.

Now, indexed crime, ladies and gentlemen—murder, robbery, rape, and aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and auto theft—the index of performance. And this year to date, first 7 months—50.7 percent of everyone we have arrested for indexed crimes, under 18 years of age. First-time offenders? No.

You talk about horror stories that Dr. Zumbun gave you—I can give you horror stories. A woman comes home on her porch after shopping, two of them come up, she screams, grab her purse, they shoot her and kill her on her own steps. Previous records? They were under 18, yes—once, twice, three, five times? No. Would you believe 10 times, 15 times, previously arrested for violent crimes?

One of our ministers walking down the street, mugged, robbed, killed. Twenty-four previous arrests—both were out on parole. Would you believe the butcher 65 years old, they took the money, said sorry, but I got to off you, killed him in cold blood. Would you believe 22 previous arrests?

We have arrested these people. But we have arrested them 20 times before, Senator.

And until the legislative and the executive branches of government convince the judicial branch of government that the offenders for violent crime must be removed from society and kept there until such time as they can live in harmony, we are not going to make any significant progress.

[Applause.]

Now, I have called for the abolition or readjustment of the juvenile court system in my area of Baltimore, that what we have is not working, and that the philosophy in handling the juvenile offenders, Mr. Senator, must be changed. It is not working.

Are we to do no more tomorrow and the day after tomorrow than we did yesterday and the day before? If that is so, then you are going to continue to be offended by 52.7 percent juveniles.

So there needs to be a change in the philosophy of handling them. And I called for the incarceration of a first-time violent crime offender, both juvenile and adult.

There needs to be a change in the philosophy of handling them, and I have called for the incarceration of a first-time violent crime offender, both juvenile and adult—remove them from the streets.

[Applause.]

Our criminal courts, generally speaking, in the city of Baltimore, are doing a good job. But what happens after that? Nobody really knows, because you can't get a handle on it. What we need is to keep them in that jail system.

Now, we—the chiefs of police of the major cities of this Nation, which I am a very active part of, support community-based corrections centers, under adequate controls. But we are violently opposed to placing violent crime offenders in community-based correction centers.

This is an issue within our State, Senator; we need community-based correction centers, and I ask you to support community-based correction centers, but I ask you also to insist that the corrections people

not place therein violent crime offenders; that you take the property crime offenders, that pass through whatever system they have in assigning them, and open up additional bed space in the correctional system so we can get the violent-crime offenders off the streets and into jail, and keep them there for a while, until they become more tractable.

As soon as this happens, I think we'll start to see some improvement, a bit more significant than we have in the past.

Now, Dr. James Q. Wilson, of Harvard, states—in conclusion, Mr. Senator, that we have had three major crime waves in the history of this great country of ours; one of them back in 1880, another in the 1930's, and the one that we are going through now, which commenced in the mid-1960's.

And he doesn't look for any improvement—any significant improvement—in our current situation until the mid-1980's—

VOICE. Oh!

Mr. POMERLEAU. I feel the same way, every time I go to work.

And his figures are correlated on our juvenile population census.

I ask you to take a look at the resources in your jurisdictions that have been allocated to the handling of juvenile offenders, and the resources that have been allocated to handling adult offenders, and then remember that in excess of 50 percent of the offenders arrested are juveniles, and see if you think then that your judicial officials can cope with the problem.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator BEALL. Thank you, Commissioner, for your very helpful testimony, and your suggestions on how we can improve this situation. I appreciate your being here today.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Chairman, the next panelist is the director of the Baltimore City Area Agency on Aging, Gene Bartell.

STATEMENT OF GENE BARTELL, DIRECTOR, BALTIMORE CITY AREA AGENCY ON AGING

Mr. BARTELL. We are very appreciative of the opportunity to highlight the special needs of senior citizens and crime.

I am with the Baltimore City Commission on Aging and Retirement Education; my responsibilities are with the Area Agency on Aging.

We feel that not only persons within the criminal justice system, but professionals in the field of aging need to be much more aware of and sensitive to the nature and extent of crime against the elderly, and the special impact that that crime has upon our senior citizens.

We feel that simply a statistical reporting of crimes that have been reported is not necessarily the best barometer to measure the impact of crime and what that means for senior citizens. We have heard discussed much this morning the underreporting of crime and the reasons for it, and all the various things that go into the underreporting of crime.

I would like to talk about the qualitative nature of crime against the elderly. Crimes committed against the elderly are crimes of a special nature, and they call for special action to protect the urban aged, particularly crime in our inner cities.

Consider the loss of \$20 to a woman who is living on social security, compared to the loss of, say \$200 to a businessman. Petty larceny is not petty when it robs a person of a week's or month's allowance of food money.

Or again, an assault which results in a fall—maybe a very minor occurrence for a younger person, but that same act against an older person might result in prolonged illness, a very difficult and time-consuming recovery period, plus the trauma that the older person incurs in such a victimization.

It is because of the relatively greater impact of crime that makes the fear of crime among the aged so pervasive in our urban areas. Many older persons report that they rarely leave their apartments for fear of being victimized; others limit their activities to daylight hours, or when they can be accompanied by other persons.

I think the whole business of crime in the consciousness of older persons is acute. In my speaking engagements with senior citizens' clubs and organizations in Baltimore, particularly in East Baltimore and some of the other inner-city areas, it is not uncommon for whole groups of seniors to report that they had left a \$5 or \$10 bill on their kitchen tables, so that if someone does break into their homes, the victimizers will take that money and not tear the rest of the house apart. I think this says a great deal on the subject of the consciousness of crime.

And then of course, the elderly poor, as we know, who live in the closest proximity to their perpetrators of crime, live restricted life styles that are self-imposed.

The Area Agency in Baltimore City is located physically within the Waxter Center. A great many seniors report to our social service department, to our program and activity people within the center, that there are many crimes that go unreported.

Many seniors feel their credibility as a witness is under question, that they are viewed as being forgetful, or less observant, than other persons.

There are some that might say that the obvious infirmities and weaknesses of some senior citizens might be a shield for them against crime; I don't think there is anyone that really seriously believes that is true. If anything, many seniors report that they have been repeatedly victimized by the same offender, for many of the reasons that Commissioner Pomerleau elaborated on in some detail, plus the fact that the criminal is likely to return, in very short time, to the community from which he was removed, the very community from which he was victimizing persons to start with.

I would like to say just a word about an area of crime that takes a tremendous toll on older persons, and that is the area of fraud, flimflam, con games, and swindles of various forms. These take many, many shapes—everything from medical frauds to frauds revolving around "found" money, real estate, home repair, et cetera.

These crimes are very, very difficult to track down, and they often do not receive the kind of attention that they ought to.

The victim is often even unaware, at least at the outset, that he's being the victim of criminal activity. This past week I had occasion

to speak with bank officials in Maryland, in one of the large banks, which has, with their own resources, developed a crime-prevention program. This program is being offered statewide, for senior citizens, to alert them to the particular nature of flimflam, con games and the various swindles and schemes.

I think this says something about the nature and extent of the problem, even when our statistical reports are very difficult to gain.

In conclusion, I would say that the element of fear, among senior citizens, particularly in urban and inner-city areas, is a pervasive part of the life of urban aged, and that there are some seniors that are living in a state of virtual house arrest, with all the attendant mental and physical problems that result from such isolation.

Let me say that we applaud the fine efforts of your committee in holding these hearings, and I hope that our efforts together will result in alleviating some of the devastating consequences which we see befall seniors.

Senator BEALL. Thank you, Mr. Bartell.

To what extent does your area agency cooperate with the city police department in developing anticrime programs and combatting crime against senior citizens?

Mr. BARTELL. We work with Commissioner Pomerleau's people, and the mayor's coordinating council on criminal justice. The Baltimore City Commission on Aging, in developing a program—a preventive program, which will provide a series of educational packets that we intend to take to the high-impact crime areas throughout every part of the city, and we expect to reach several thousands of senior citizens within the next year, with that program.

We have a working relationship with the Community Relations Department and the ongoing educational programs that they have available.

Senator BEALL. What kind of assistance or direction do you need from the Federal Administration on Aging, or the State Agency on Aging to better enable you to deal with the problem of crime against the elderly?

Mr. BARTELL. I think one of the important areas is that many seniors feel bewildered in terms of approaching the criminal justice system. The need for legal services for seniors is very acute; that they have access to an attorney, to legal services, to—have access to a skilled person to review contracts, documents, and so forth.

So I think this is definitely an area.

There needs to be many more extensive programs of an ongoing nature; to alert and educate seniors concerning the things that they can do to avoid potentially dangerous situations, the kinds of precautions that they can take, to make their homes more burglar-proof, et cetera.

Senator BEALL. Thank you, Mr. Bartell.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Chairman, if we may, we have one more statement—it will be a brief one—by the Director of the Information Referral Service for the Health and Welfare Council of Baltimore City, Mrs. Rosemary Chappelle.

Senator BEALL. Mrs. Chappelle, you may proceed.

STATEMENT OF ROSEMARY CHAPPELLE, DIRECTOR, INFORMATION
AND REFERRAL SERVICE—BALTIMORE CITY

Mrs. CHAPPELLE. I will be quite brief, because I know that I wasn't expected to be on the panel, but I didn't want you to overlook one area that concerned the elderly victim of crime that I am afraid might be overlooked in your planning.

That is: some way to meet the needs that arise as a direct result of the crime itself. We, of course, are in the business of putting people who have needs in touch with the appropriate resources—not dealing with the crime itself.

All kinds of crimes can result in some rather devastating things that happen to the elderly; if, for instance, the person is flimflammed, or in some way defrauded of funds, whether it is a direct fraud, of the kind where they make them think they are going to make money, and they lose—as one woman did who called us about a month ago, as much as \$3,000, or whether it is someone who has said that they would provide some services and have received payment and not provided the services.

At any rate, the elderly person is out a considerable amount of money. This tends to be the person who has worked hard and saved their money; this is the bulwark against all of the things that may befall this elderly person in the last years of their lives. It is the source of their self-confidence, of their effectiveness in life, their feelings of independence, and when this is gone, there is a great deal of support that may be needed to help this person maintain their posture in the community, the posture that they felt they would be able to maintain all of their days.

Supportive counseling needs to be offered, but also, some very specific kinds of resources need to be made available, or where they are available, made known to the elderly person.

This person may not have been eligible for medical assistance, for food stamps, for a variety of support services, and therefore has no knowledge of how they can go about applying, or even what is available.

So there needs to be very specific resources, counseling resources, information resources, directed toward this person.

Not to be chauvanistic, I have to say that Baltimore City policemen are pretty hip group about services, and we work very closely with them, and we are very proud of the relationship that we have with them, and they make a number of referrals to us, all, I must say, quite difficult. But nevertheless, we are very glad to receive them, and we would like to see this kind of relationship spread in some way throughout all of Maryland, or throughout all of the country.

Where there is a very specific injury to an elderly person, there can be many drains on the individual's resources that are not noted.

For instance, one case that we had yesterday, as it happens, a woman who received a blow on the head, and her money was taken; the amount of money that was taken was very small. Her medicare takes care of most, but not all, of her medical expenses. She is not eligible for medical assistance in this State, so she has to pay for her own medicine.

But there are some other hidden expenses; when she was taken to the hospital, she called a neighbor, and she arranged for the neighbor's daughter—at a price—to come in and check on her apartment, to

feed the cat, and take care of things of that sort. That's money that she is out of pocket for.

No one has considered, and she didn't know to ask until yesterday, that she had transportation costs. She has to take a taxi back and forth to the doctor, to the clinic, for this wound that will not heal.

There are no specific resources allocated as such to take care of the needs that arise as a result of the crime. It has been mentioned, so I won't go into it here, and I think the Senator put it very well, that the people who don't go out of the house are no less victims than the ones who are, you know, actually hit on the head and mugged.

We see them as very real victims, because often, when they call us, they will not take advantage of resources that are being funded by the Federal Government, by the State government, by local governments, specifically for the elderly. But because they are afraid—even when sometimes there is transportation provided—they will not take advantage of these resources.

They won't take advantage, often, of resources that are provided for the general population, of which the elderly certainly are a large part. There doesn't always have to be specific resources for them.

So we see them as very real victims. We think that there are many things that can respond to this need, and perhaps one of the best things would be a massive kind of reeducation program. Many times the elderly are afraid without good reason, but simply because of what they have heard, what they have known may have happened to someone or to a friend of someone.

But educational programs do more than help the elderly to protect themselves against crime. They could heighten—raise the awareness of the general community, that needs to be concerned about what is happening to other people, so that we could all become a part of the protective system for the elderly.

Senator BEALL. Thank you, Mrs. Chappelle.

I might mention, because several witnesses have mentioned here today the importance of legal services to the elderly, that the Older Americans Act, which is now in committee conference between the House and Senate, substantially increases the amount of assistance available for legal services to senior citizens. I hope that this legislation will be enacted into law within the next month or month and a half.

That is one thing that is being done that should be of direct assistance to senior citizens in helping to ease this problem.

We thank the members of the panel for appearing here today.

We have two other panels, composed of area Agency on Aging officials and police officials from Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties. But our final panel was scheduled to be several senior citizen victims of crime. We have gone for a longer period of time than we had originally expected, and some of our senior citizens are diabetics who must have their lunch at the regularly scheduled time. With the indulgence of the two other panels in this group, we would like to receive the testimony of the senior citizens' panel at this time. Mrs. Cornelia "Neal" Smith, who is chairperson of the Tenants Club of Kaywood Gardens Apartments, Mrs. Mabel Wynant, Mrs. Evelyn Lammons, Mrs. Mary Spicer, and Mrs. Mary Ginella—if they would please come to the witness stand. We would be happy to hear from you at this time.

I appreciate your patience in remaining here this morning.

Mrs. Smith, are you the first witness?

STATEMENT OF CORNELIA "NEAL" SMITH, CHAIRPERSON, TENANTS CLUB OF KAYWOOD GARDENS APARTMENTS, ACCOMPANIED BY MABEL WYNANT, EVELYN LEMMONS, MARY SPICER, AND MARY GINELLA, A PANEL OF SENIOR CITIZENS

Mrs. SMITH. Do you want me to begin?

Senator BEALL. If you would like to begin, fine, and you may introduce the other panel members and proceed as you wish.

Mrs. SMITH. I am Mrs. Cornelia Smith, but the senior citizens know me as Neal Smith—I live in Kaywood Gardens; I came there 27 years ago, as a bride, and I am still living in that apartment.

I am concerned for all the senior citizens there. I am club person for the senior citizens at Kaywood, so they come to me with their problems, and we work along with our resident manager.

When we have problems, we ask him to come to our meetings, and he has done everything possible to cut down on the crime in Kaywood.

Our police department is not large enough to take care of it; Kaywood Gardens consist of about 900 units, and it is spread out, so it is very hard for policemen to come through there and take care of the crime that has been happening.

Now, as to the crime. I am not a victim, so far, but isn't it a crime to live in fear for others and be concerned for others? I think that's a crime, because I am concerned for others. I have always been; I was taught this when I was a child, to look out for other people, and I try to do that.

And I'll tell you some of the things that have happened that I know of. Right before I was getting ready to go up in western Maryland, my home—my sister was coming in from Texas and we meet about every 2 years—I heard a crash. And I thought: Gee! Don't tell me it was a mirror, and I have 7 years more bad luck. I looked and it was not the mirror, it was my bedroom window that had been broken. So immediately I called the police. My husband had not gotten home from work yet; it was just about 9:30 and it was time for him to come home.

The police got there right after my husband did. So I was not hurt, but I could have been, because a half hour or an hour later I was laying in that bed, right beside that window.

And then, while my husband was still on vacation, I was down in my basement washing my clothes. A policeman came through. He said: "Miss, you get up there in that apartment as fast as you can. There's just been an assault right near you," and he said: "You get in there and bolt your door."

And my husband was on vacation, so he was there.

I had heard about this lady who lived in back of me, who was disabled. I was asked if I wouldn't go and look in on her, it was all I could think of—her being there by herself. So I went over to visit her, and my husband said: "Neal, you're not going alone; I'm going with you."

So we went over to Marie's apartment, and she said: "Who is it?" and I said: "It's Neal Smith." I said: "I called you earlier and told you I'd come over to see you." So she let me in, and then she told me that a man had come to her door just previously, and had said:

"Is Bill there?" and she would not let him in.

And a few minutes later, she had heard this horrible scream right below her, and she called the police, and the girl who lived below her had been assaulted and raped.

We have had hundreds of purse snatchings, right in the buildings, as the senior citizens get out their keys to take in their packages, and there would be someone there and mug them. We have had so many friends move away from Kaywood Gardens—very dear friends, because they were afraid to live there any longer.

But it is so hard for senior citizens to give up stakes and move away; it costs money, and the senior citizens living there are living on fixed incomes. Even I cannot afford a \$200 apartment, because my husband is a salesman, and he only makes \$10,000 a year, and we just make it on that.

People going back and forth to the buses—senior citizens—have either been mugged or had their purses taken.

I know the neighbor who lives in the next building from me, her apartment has been broken into twice.

There's just so many, many things that have happened there, and the thing is, most people are really afraid to answer their door.

Senator BEALL. How many people live in this area?

Mrs. SMITH. I don't know just how many people live in this area, but I know there is around 900 units.

And most of these units consist of six apartments; some of them consist of four apartments. Where I live, most of them are four apartments to a unit. When we go down in the basement to do the wash we go down there in fear. When I first moved there, I thought I was the luckiest person in the world, to be living at Kaywood Gardens. It was a beautiful place, and it has turned into a disaster.

And I have been there 27 years.

And I have some recommendations I would like to read, and this is from our senior citizens BUS organization to which I belong, and thank God we have it. These recommendations are:

That LEAA funds be used in this area, because there is an extremely high density of senior citizens here; in fact, 10.4 percent of the Maryland senior citizen's population lives in Prince Georges County.

That security guards be employed in all heavily senior-citizen populated apartment projects, using LEAA funds if possible.

That the new motor scooters the County Police Department has gotten, to be used to patrol the senior citizen complexes, like Cottage City Towers, Kaywood Apartments, Queens Manor Apartments, Rolling Crest Apartments, Prospect Gardens, Queenstown Apartments.

We want to know just what you can do to initiate these ideas; we also are interested in obtaining from you any information you might have concerning specific grants or funding for protection of the elderly, and we would like to invite you to come to our Senate committee on Thursday, August 28, at 8 p.m. to hear what your constituents, both young and old, feel about the crime issue.

We hope that you will also, at that meeting, be able to give us an answer to the proposals we have placed before you today.

And I thank you, Senator Beall.

Senator BEALL. Thank you.

Mrs. Spicer.

Mrs. SPICER. Having lived in a slum area—namely, Brookville Avenue, off of Whitelock Street, in Baltimore—at the death of my husband, I moved into a very small apartment that met my needs: financially, transportation-wise, space-wise, and everything.

One evening, while sitting in my apartment, I noticed a large number of policemen, and I thought: "What in the world has happened?" In a few moments, a knock came on my door, saying: "Don't come out. Don't dare come down those steps."

I was scared to death. I finally found that they had murdered a man right in my stairway.

Well, I was scared to death, because the man—I don't know whether he lived on the first floor or whether he was a visitor, but I knew most of the people remained there. My first thought was: I have to get out of here.

And so I moved. I moved to another apartment down the street.

One evening when I came home from work, my apartment had been broken into. Television gone, the entire apartment in shambles. Radio gone; my winter coat lying in the kitchen. "Well, I have to move again, because I'm scared to death."

I was alone. I finally moved into the St. James Senior Apartments. I felt very secure there; I'm still there and I still do.

We do have security guards. But the transit bus will not stop at the corner of Arlington Avenue and Lafayette, so we have quite a distance to travel from the busline.

Many people have been victimized right at the door. One of our residents had her pocketbook snatched at the St. James' door while she was trying to get in. Others have also had their pocketbooks taken.

We live in constant fear. I have to go to work; I am afraid of everybody I meet on the street. I watch everybody, I trust nobody, because the children, as well as the grownups, are doing many, many things that we feel are unkind to people. I just felt that I would like you to know that the senior citizens of Baltimore, even though many of them might live in these secure apartments, they, too, live in fear.

Thank you.

Senator BEALL. Thank you, Mrs. Spicer. The St. James Apartments, for the benefit of the audience, is a high-rise apartment. Is that correct, Mrs. Spicer?

Mrs. SPICER. Yes; it is.

Senator BEALL. And there is controlled access to the apartment house. In other words, people cannot get in and out of your lobby without passing somebody who is in a guard capacity?

Mrs. SPICER. That is right. There is 24-hour supervision.

Senator BEALL. Has there been any effort made through the area Agency on Aging to get the bus stop moved, so the bus would stop closer to your building?

Mrs. SPICER. I am afraid that maybe the area agency has not been contacted.

Senator BEALL. It might be helpful if you could contact them. Maybe they could approach the appropriate officials to get the bus-stop moved. Thank you, Mrs. Spicer for your testimony.

Mrs. LEMMONS. I am Evelyn Lemmons and I too have been a victim of purse snatching. While I was still working I got off the bus

at Avondale in broad daylight—the sun was shining and I wanted to get a few groceries. When I came out of the store I was grabbed, my pocketbook taken, all of my credentials. I was working at the Department of Justice at the time. I could not get into the building without my credentials so I had to call the police and they came. They wrote down two pages of this, that, and the other thing and they went looking for the fellows who had grabbed my purse. Well we didn't find them but after I got back home a young gentleman called me he was a student at Howard University, and he said, Mrs. Lemmons, I have found your purse beside my car. If you would like to have your credentials I wish you could come up because I am at class.

So I called the police, and I said I would like to go up there but I would not go alone because I was afraid it might be a trap. You see, they had all my credentials, my papers, and so we went up to Howard University and met with this young student—he was a foreign student—and so I asked the police, would it be the right thing for me to offer him a reward because he had saved me at least a week of running around trying to get my papers together. And he said, yes, I think it would be all right. I still have the check at home that I made out to Mr. Brown for the purpose of returning my papers to me.

Crime is bad where we live. All around, it's not just in one place. It is everywhere. It's downtown, it's out of town, and so forth. We live close to the District, about 6 blocks over the District line, in Mount Rainier.

But I worked for 25 years for the Department of Justice, and I know a little bit about LEAA. All that money that we are going to get that's going to sift down is a lot of baloney. By the time it sifts down, we won't be able to see what it was we were supposed to get. Now, I have been in Government over 30 years, and I know what I am talking about.

So this we can forget about. So we had better get ready and work together with our own police department and our own politicians, who will be willing to represent us, and help us to do the things that we don't know how to do for ourselves. That is what we elect them to do for us.

Now, we had a great man in Congressman Hogan. Mr. Hogan helped my family a great deal when my brother had to retire on disability. That was my first encounter with having a politician help me.

And he was a great help to my brother. He had to go on disability which he never thought would ever happen to him. And for 3 months, he couldn't get a penny from anywhere. So Mr. Hogan did help him and showed him the right procedures to use, and he did get him \$100 a month through the Veterans Administration to tide him over until he did have enough money to live on.

Is there any question that you would like to ask me?

Senator BEALL. How much money were you robbed of?

Mrs. LEMMONS. I didn't have much money that day. It was the day before payday, and I only had \$11 and a Kennedy 50-cent piece. That is all I had in my purse plus all of my papers, as I told you. I had to show my purse to get into the building every day. I was in communications at Justice Department, and I had to be very closely scrutinized as I came and went.

Senator BEALL. You recovered everything but the money?

Mrs. LEMMONS. Everything but the money. Even got the purse back through the efforts of that nice college student who bothered to call me, and the police did help me.

I went to work the day after being knocked down and bounced up and down on the concrete about six times. I was black and blue for 1½ weeks because I am not very big. It went wham, wham, wham, wham, just like that.

And when I looked up and saw them—the three of them—I was of course, frightened. You can't scream; you can't do anything. You just stand there like a stick until they get through with you. But I was lucky they didn't try to kill me.

Our country can get ready and conscript boys and go to war and do this and do that, but when it comes to a little problem like cutting down on crime, they all say it can't be done. But there must be a way that we can do something about it.

Senator BEALL. I am sure there is. That is why we are having these hearings today.

Mrs. LEMMONS. We have got to put criminals under police guard, and we've got to keep them there more than overnight. We've got to have judges that are going to do more than just pat them on the wrist and say we're sorry you did not have a good job and we're sorry you are poor because that is not the bottom of the problem. It is deeper than that.

Senator BEALL. Thank you, Mrs. Lemmons. We appreciate your testimony.

Mrs. GINELLI. I am Mary Ginelli, and I represent the Queenstown Apartments which are garden apartments. I have been victimized before, and that is why I left the city—that is why I moved to Maryland 6 years ago.

I was knocked down by two boys who couldn't have been over 10 years old, in front of the Safeway, on a Friday, and it was crowded. I hit my head; they got no money, but I have lost the sight of one eye from hemorrhaging.

Senator BEALL. Where was this, Mrs. Ginelli?

Mrs. GINELLI. At Seventh and F Streets, Southwest. I lived on Capitol Hill for 18 years to be exact. I saw two boys around the door, but I thought they were just playing or waiting to carry groceries, but they came up behind and hit me, and I went down. I hit the telephone booth that is on the corner. And it caused me to lose the sight of my left eye.

Now I belong to the BUS Committee, which might be able to help a lot in this. We are trying to get more money from LEAA because I think we do need more police protection. I think the police we have are doing a good job. They have not been disappointing; I think we've got marvelous police.

But there are several apartment complexes like mine, which were built several years ago. We have got a lot of room, and they all have sidewalks in them.

We live on Chillum Road. The complex takes up about five blocks on both the north and south sides of Chillum Road and about four blocks back. We have 1,054 apartments; nine is the most apartments in any one building.

I think this motor scooter is a marvelous thing; you can take it

right on the sidewalk all through our complex. I think it would help if they went through once a day and these kids knew that somebody was patrolling.

I think it would be marvelous because the police can't see a thing patrolling from the street. There are only a very few of these apartments that are up on Queens Chapel Road that face the highway. All the others face the court.

Senator BEALL. Has there been many breaking and enterings in your neighborhood?

Mrs. GINELLI. Well, in 1974, we had much more. Of course, as I say, I was a victim. I stay in. I am scared to go out. I keep one of those little spray guns on a little table by my door, and I also have a whistle that the police gave me.

Senator BEALL. Is that one of those spray guns that immobilizes people?

Mrs. GINELLI. Yes. I accidentally got a little bit in my eyes, and I think if I ever put it out through the crack of the door, they wouldn't get very far.

I don't take the chain off the door for anybody. I look out, and if I don't know them, I don't answer. I do not go down and get my mail until I know that the people that work are home—before 5 o'clock, I don't go down alone.

Senator BEALL. You stay in your house all day?

Mrs. GINELLI. I stay in all day unless somebody will take me out and go with me. If I can go with somebody I go out. One of my neighbors who works in Mt. Rainier part time was coming home about a month or 6 weeks ago at about 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Right in front of the Thomas Stone School two kids walked up and snatched her pocketbook.

She did call the police. And she got the pocketbook back because all those kids wanted was the little bit of money that was in the pocketbook. Everybody is not that fortunate, and I have heard here today about the percentage of the senior citizens that are victimized. I think it is just a little more than that because they are afraid to report it.

I have a neighbor that last fall, was coming from the store, 6 o'clock in the evening, sun shining. She was ready to turn into the apartment when two young men—I have seen them because she pointed them out to me, they live in the neighborhood—took her pocketbook and walked away before she realized what was being done.

Senator BEALL. She didn't report that?

Mrs. GINELLI. She didn't report—she was scared to.

Senator BEALL. She knows who did it?

Mrs. GINELLI. Well they live there. I'll tell you how she knows that they live there. On the following Sunday, which was 2 days later, my grandson had taken me to church. He takes me to church and brings me home. We got out of the cab, and she was sitting there and talking to her daughter, who comes and gets her and takes her to church; she comes up here to St. Johns. I stopped to speak to her daughter. All of a sudden my neighbor jumped and turned her face around. I didn't know what was wrong. Two people passed, after they got way down the street a block she said to me, those are the two boys that took my pocketbook. They have got on the same clothes.

Senator BEALL. Why didn't she report it?

Mrs. GINELLI. She was scared to.

Senator BEALL. What was she scared of?

Mrs. GINELLI. They might do worse to her.

Senator BEALL. She was scared of them?

Mrs. GINELLI. She was scared of them.

Senator BEALL. Was she afraid that something would happen if she did report it?

Mrs. GINELLI. Well I'll tell you. The police—if they lock them up—it's just as I've heard here this morning. They go to court and the judge pats them on the hand and says don't be a bad boy any more. I had a policeman tell me that, that he puts them in the front door and the judge lets them out the back door.

Now I know of one party that was raped by a colored boy. And the boy that raped her was out on his own recognizance from another rape. Well now, I don't get that. Thank you.

Senator BEALL. Thank you Mrs. Ginelli.

Mrs. WYNANT. My name is Mabel Wynant. I live in Prospect Garden Apartments in Brentwood, Md.

I have not had any of these terrible things happen to me. But I am like Neal. I feel so sorry for the older people who are having these terrible things happen every day in our development. And you wish that you could see a little old lady living in a ground floor apartment, she is 90, and she is deaf.

They got in her apartment one evening when she was in bed. They stole her pocketbook and jewelry and they walked right out her door.

Now they have been back for the third time to this little lady. They know she is living alone. They know she is deaf. I don't know what more they are going to take except, please God, don't let them hurt her because they are waiting for a chance.

Now there have been other incidents in our development. There have also been many things happening through Brentwood, Mt. Rainier and other places. But we do not have police in Brentwood at all.

We do have Community police in Mt. Rainier, Hyattsville, and Cottage City. All of these developments around us have their own police, but not Brentwood.

Senator BEALL. Do the county police patrol your area regularly?

Mrs. WYNANT. The county police, I understand, do come through. But I don't know when. You hardly ever see them.

Senator BEALL. How do the people in your area travel to the marketplaces, and so forth? Is there good public transportation that comes through your area?

Mrs. WYNANT. Yes. We do have very good public transportation within a couple of blocks.

Senator BEALL. The buses run regularly?

Mrs. WYNANT. The buses do run fairly good. We also have our own senior citizen bus. And that is a very great pleasure.

Senator BEALL. That works on a regular schedule?

Mrs. WYNANT. Yes. And it's very good for our senior citizens who can get together and go to a shopping center because they are afraid to go alone.

Senator BEALL. Do you have a senior citizens center in your neighborhood?

Mrs. WYNANT. We certainly do. And we have NUP (Neighborhoods Uniting Project), we have the B. U. S. Committee and we are very proud of all of our senior citizens. You only see a very small part of our senior citizens here today. But I'll bet if you come out to our meeting they'll show up and you will be surprised how many we have in our communities.

Senator BEALL. It appears you get very good cooperation from the county aging agency.

Mrs. WYNANT. Yes, sir. I have no complaints about that but I do want a policeman for Brentwood.

Senator BEALL. Are a lot of elderly people staying in the houses and not going out because they are afraid to go out?

Mrs. WYNANT. The majority of our people in this one little complex are senior citizens, ladies living alone, and they are afraid to go out. Day or night we are afraid.

I will go out if somebody comes to my door and takes me out and comes home with me and waits until I get inside. When I get home I check the cupboards, I look in the bathroom, I look all over before I can quiet myself down to go to bed and go to sleep, because I am afraid.

I am a Washingtonian. I was born and raised here. I had lived in Maryland and raised my children in Maryland. And I am very proud to be in Maryland today. But I do think that we need some backup. Like this lady said, we're awfully tired of hearing, yes, next week, next week, and we wait.

Now we want to see can't we get some help now. We need it. Thank you.

Senator BEALL. Thank you ladies very much.

[Applause]

Senator BEALL. Now we will go back to Mr. Walker's second panel. Our next witnesses are from Montgomery County: Mr. Donald L. Wassman, the director of the Montgomery County Area Agency on Aging, and Capt. Richard R. Bowers, of the Montgomery County Police Department.

Mr. Walker, before you begin let me say to Captain Bowers, that people who are in the business of performing public service rarely get recognized when they do something right but I happened to get a compliment for your police department this morning as I was leaving my residence over on Western Avenue, just inside Montgomery County. A couple of weeks ago, one of my neighbors was accosted by a young man, who was intent on robbing him. Fortunately his wife was watching out the window and she called the emergency number. Before the young man could complete the attempted robbery the police were on the scene and chased him down the neighboring streets. Needless to say, this pleased the intended victim of the crime because it protected him from being robbed.

Today he told me that since that time he had been called by the Montgomery County police and asked to come down and try to identify pictures of some people that the department considered potential suspects. I know that you will be pleased to know that at least some of the people you serve are very pleased with the timely response of your department.

Captain BOWERS. Thank you.

Mr. WALKER. Mister Chairman, the Montgomery County panel, as you have noted, consists of Captain Richard Bowers of the Montgomery County Police Department and Donald Wassman, director of the Area Agency on Aging.

Captain Bowers is going to make a joint statement for both, and Mr. Wassman will follow up with a few remarks. Captain Bowers?

STATEMENT OF RICHARD R. BOWERS, CAPTAIN, MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT, ACCOMPANIED BY DONALD L. WASSMAN, DIRECTOR, MONTGOMERY COUNTY AREA AGENCY ON AGING

Captain BOWERS. Thank you. First, let me take this opportunity, on behalf of Colonel Watkins, our chief of police, to convey his appreciation for our opportunity to appear before your committee.

As you may be aware, the Maryland Governor's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice has awarded Federal funds to Montgomery County specifically for the development of a pilot program aimed at improving the delivery of criminal justice services to the county's elderly citizens.

It is the intention of all the agencies participating in these projects and the agencies, the police, the social service and the Area Agency for Aging, to obtain through their cooperative efforts the following objectives: first, to reduce the fear of crime through educational approaches, to establish the incident of reported crime within the target area and the target area is in the Silver Spring area, through the analysis of the 1974 statistics and to increase the reporting of crime within the target area by 10 percent over the 1974 level by the end of the first program year.

In terms of program implementation, there now exists within the Department of Police a crime prevention section whose goal is the prevention and reduction of commercial and residential burglaries within a carefully selected and very specific target area. The very same target area, generally speaking, as this program we're talking about here, that is the Silver Spring area.

This unit will be expanded by one officer with a specific responsibility for elderly victims of crime. Augmenting and supporting this officer will be a social worker assigned to the Department of Social Services in the Adult Services Division.

This person will be responsible to work in coordination with, and as a complement to the individual officer and the Department of Police. The Office of Human Resources, Area Agency on Aging in the person of Mr. Wassman, will be responsible for overall project coordination and evaluation.

A key element of this program is a criminal victimization response team. This team will be composed of the police officer and the social worker. Their major responsibility will be to insure the delivery of three major program components.

These components include an educational and public relations effort designed to reduce crime against the elderly, a capacity for responding immediately to the victim in ways which restore the victim to a level of functioning approximating their capacity to function prior to the

crime, and thirdly, an ability to research, analyze, measure team and program effectiveness in improving the delivery of criminal justice services to the elderly.

Perhaps the most effective means of preventing the commission of crime upon the elderly is to educate these persons in the methods most efficient and reasonable for discouraging the possibility of being offended.

In essence, what is to be done is to remove the elderly person from the potentially dangerous situation, through his or her own recognition of the existence of possible hazards.

I might say, involved in this educational process will be an awareness and sensitivity to the visual and hearing disabilities associated with the aging process.

Unique to this program will be the well-developed capacity of the response team to deal immediately with the elderly victim's need following the commission of a crime. The response team, and especially the social worker, will be highly trained and skilled to make careful and accurate assessments of needs.

Now, depending on the nature of the crime and its degree of personal violence upon the victim, these needs that I have talked about may vary from loss of cash, credit cards or medicare cards, to injuries requiring immediate medical attention and disorientation or trauma requiring counseling by trained social workers, psychologists, or psychiatrists.

Each member of the team—the police officer and the social worker—will be knowledgeable in the many public and private community resources available with which to link the victim. This, of course, is an essential phase of the response and restoration effort.

The response team will be responsible for development of this immediate response capability, and part of that development is a capability to respond even though they are not scheduled to work. They are going to develop a structure or a method of responding to the needs of the elderly, regardless of whether they are working or not at a particular time.

Now, the educational and response component of the project will be augmented by research efforts which will aid in the determination of the needs and the specifics of the target group—the elderly. The data acquired through this research will be continuously assessed and utilized to improve the educational and response components of the project, as well as the overall objectives.

This concludes my portion of the testimony.

Senator BEALL. Thank you, Captain Bowers.

Mr. WASSMAN. Senator Beall, Mr. Chairman, I am not going to add very much to what Captain Bowers has already said, other than to express my appreciation and our county executive's—Mr. Gleason's—appreciation, for the opportunity for Montgomery County to try to implement this pilot program—crime prevention for the elderly—which we hope is going to be an effective approach to a problem that each of us knows exists.

We have some facts, we have a lot of national figures, a lot of generalities; we hope that we can establish some realities to these figures, and do something—make an effective response. Hopefully we can accumulate the kind of data through the pilot program that

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will be of benefit to other jurisdictions in the State of Maryland who are launching similar programs that we have heard about this morning.

One thing I did want to mention, because I heard the Senator ask several times—have we had relationships with other departments, or have we related to AOA or human development? In the case of Montgomery County, this has been an effort of cooperation and coordination. About four departments have linked up together, because it's a real human problem—not a problem of the police department alone, it's not a problem of social services alone.

So this will be an effort—a joint effort, by the department of social services, the police department, the health department, because there will be many opportunities during, or after, the immediate assessment of the victim, that this person is going to need psychiatric treatment, perhaps, going to need some direct medical attention. So the health department will be involved in a linkage kind of a way.

We are particularly interested, in the Area Agency on Aging, to be involved in the implementation of this pilot program because we know that it serves our elderly in a way they need really to be served, and if we can derive the kind of information and data that will be of help to your Senate committee, then we certainly stand ready to supply whatever information we can.

Thank you very much.

Senator BEALL. I appreciate that, Mr. Wassman. It seems to me from the testimony that we have heard today that, in addition to being concerned about apprehending the criminal—the perpetrator of the crime, we must also do what is necessary to keep him from engaging in criminal activity at another time and another place. In addition we must try to remove the fear of crime that causes senior citizens to lock themselves in their houses and not venture out into the public. This is a horrible way for people to have to live; I think we have a major job on our hands in eliminating this fear. We must cause them to feel a little more assured that they are going to be safe when they venture outside their own doors.

I think your experiment can be a major effort in trying to alleviate this condition.

Mr. WASSMAN. We had a component in the initial program which was deleted because of some problems that we had not worked out yet.

We were proposing an escort service for the elderly, comprised of youth, which would be run by our Mental Health Association in Montgomery County. Until we work out some of the questions of liability, we are postponing the implementation of that component, and hopefully, next year, during our second year of operation, after having worked out some of the gimmicks, we can reinstate that segment, because I think that having the youth in the community work, and walk and escort and be with some of the elderly, reestablishes a sense of community, and it reestablishes a sense of relationship between the generations, which does not have to be always harmful and detrimental.

Senator BEALL. Captain, Commissioner Pomerleau was giving us statistics about the age of the perpetrators of crimes in Baltimore City. Are your findings in your statistics a similar pattern—are a majority of the crimes of the type that are affecting our senior citizens committed by young people?

Captain BOWERS. The majority of people who have committed these crimes—for instance, in 1974, the majority of people who committed crimes and were arrested for part 1 offenses were juveniles; 58 percent, as a matter of fact.

Senator BEALL. 58 percent were juveniles?

Captain BOWERS. Now, that is for all categories.

Senator BEALL. You characterize juveniles as under 18?

Captain BOWERS. Under 18; yes, sir.

And perhaps I can just go one step further; 53 percent of those arrested for all crimes—that is part 1, and part 2 offenses, were juveniles; 53 percent of all crimes, and 58 percent specifically for the part 1—the murder, the rape, the robbery, auto theft, larceny.

Senator BEALL. And how about recidivism?

Captain BOWERS. I can't answer that, sir.

Senator BEALL. Thank you all, very much.

Now, our final panel is composed of representatives from Prince Georges County: Mr. Magnum Pathik, the director of the Prince Georges County Area on Aging, Mrs. Bess Garcia, special assistant to the director of Prince Georges County Area Agency on Aging, Lt. Col. Wayne M. Milligan, Chief of Operations of the Prince Georges County Police Department, Corp. David Eyre, of the Planning and Research Division of Prince Georges County Police Department, Denny Husk, the Chief of Police of the city of Mount Rainier, and Charles J. Ross, assistant director of the Prince Georges County Housing Authority.

And at the outset, let me thank you all for your patience here this morning. You are the host county, and as many times happens to those who are hosts, it falls upon you to be the last witnesses.

Mr. Pathik, would you moderate this panel. Your panel may present their testimony in the manner that you see fit.

STATEMENT OF MAGNUM PATHIK, DIRECTOR, PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY AREA AGENCY ON AGING, ACCOMPANIED BY BESS GARCIA, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR, WAYNE M. MILLIGAN, LIEUTENANT COLONEL, CHIEF OF OPERATIONS, PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT, DAVID EYRE, CORPORAL, PLANNING AND RESEARCH DIVISION, PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT, DENNY HUSK, CHIEF OF POLICE, CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER, AND CHARLES J. ROSS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY, A PANEL OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY

Mr. PATHIK. Mr. Chairman, concerned citizens, and of course, senior citizens.

We have 53,000-plus senior citizens. They are very active; they would like to be more active. Unfortunately, circumstances—the services that we are providing, do not lend opportunities to seniors.

I would like to take up from what the seniors have said; there are basically three problems, and the specific data and statistics, and the specific nature of these crimes, will be presented by other members of this panel.

One of the big things that the Area Agency on Aging of Prince Georges is concerned with, is providing services—all kinds of services to senior citizens; housing, transportation, health, education—there are approximately 32 different types of services that we like to put together.

The problem we faced—and we are appreciative of this opportunity—the question of crime, unsafe streets, has a great deal of bearing on what we do in housing, transportation, health, education and other services. The impact of these services—when we say we provide safe and sound housing, a portion of that impact is because the person is really not feeling safe.

He can not go out; he has to lock himself in. It is an enormous amount of money that this Nation is spending on all kinds of services, having very little impact.

The second important thing is living in fear. We can list a number of cases, all kinds of crimes, and identify people who have not reported, but it is very difficult to pinpoint the number of seniors living in fear. We are not talking about just the judicial system, but we are talking about much more than a system—a comprehensive system of consumer education, protection, other services—supportive services.

The other factor that this area agency has given a great deal of importance to, and that is mainly because if we can not get rid of this fear, make use of the services available, the cost of certain services that deal with the mental and physical retardation, the conditions that seniors face, by locking themselves in their rooms, is a very, very costly affair.

And I think it is time for us to look into it, try to make safe our streets, because this has a great deal of bearing on how many people end up in nursing homes, in public housing, and really not feeling they are being given what they need, because they are living in fear, suffering from some emotional, physical and various other handicaps, examples of which seniors here already have demonstrated.

One of the goals of—the primary goal—of the Older Americans Act is to remove the socioeconomic and physical barriers and help seniors secure independence, dignity and social involvement.

With that goal in mind, we find it much harder for area agencies, which have been in operation only 9 months in this county, to put together any program that involves the transportation, housing, et cetera, because of the fear caused by the crime that seniors are faced with.

This county has put together a number of supportive services that will lend themselves to better communication, understanding and hopefully, take some of the fear out of the minds of people.

The information referral service is a 24-hour, 7-days-a-week operation, and has been just put together, and will be in operation, and people will have access to a system where they can contact us.

We also have a newspaper which is distributed to all the counties across the country, and with 15,000–20,000 subscribers, which will give us some space to provide seniors with information about how to save themselves.

In addition to that, we have outreach programs that we are putting together that will give us access to seniors who are awkward to talk about their problems, and issues related to crime.

In addition also, we have also put together a legal aid program, a small program—and unfortunately, all of these programs I am talking about are very small; they are only scratching the surface, including the one we want to talk about, the crime prevention program that will be developed, as proposed by the department of police in cooperation with the Area Agency on Aging.

I will stop here and let the police chief present what they are involved with and how they intend to deal with the question of crime.

Colonel MILLIGAN. Senator, our planning and research division put together a rather lengthy and comprehensive study—

Senator BEALL. Colonel, would you identify yourself, for the record, please?

Colonel MILLIGAN. Yes, sir; excuse me.

I am Lt. Col. Wayne Milligan, chief of operations, Prince Georges County Police.

As I indicated, we have this lengthy and comprehensive document prepared by our people; however, in the interest of time and in order to minimize redundancy, with your permission, I will just touch upon several of the subjects.

Can you hear me now?

Senator BEALL. Colonel, that is fine. You may be sure that the entire testimony will be placed in the record of these hearings.

Colonel MILLIGAN. Thank you, sir.

Until recently, there has been an absence of any substantial research related to crime and the elderly. The apparent problem is that while the offender profile has been a major concern, data has not been generally compiled on the victims of crime.

Even when available, statistical records usually lump everyone 50 years of age and older together, not allowing for easy study of this particular group. This and other factors make it difficult to identify age-specific relationships to criminal victimization of the senior citizen.

It has become apparent that more data on the elderly crime victim is necessary, and this need has generated changes in our reporting procedure to develop this information.

With victimization, we must look at crime from the relative impact on elderly persons. This impact can be looked at from three sides: economic resources, physical resources, and emotional reactions.

It is well known that many elderly persons live on limited and fixed incomes. A loss of \$25 can equate to roughly one-third to one-half a weekly income of a senior citizen; while the loss of \$25 may not be an inconvenience to many, it is apparent there can be serious implications for many elderly persons.

The fact that physical strength and resistance to injury decreases with age is also important here. Even though most crimes committed against the elderly are not of a violent nature, when violence is present it is quite possible that they in fact will have more serious implications for older persons than younger persons.

Emotional reactions are harder to identify, but nonetheless are very important. They, of course, vary with the individual, but far too often older persons react very negatively to a criminal victimization, or even to the fear of it.

The Prince Georges County Police Department has developed an increased awareness of the special needs of our elderly citizens. Specifically in the area of crime prevention. Our goal is to assure Prince Georges County senior citizens a right of freedom of choice in their environment without fear of crime, and to reduce crime against our senior citizens.

The police department has submitted a program: "Seniors Against a Fearful Environment"—SAFE—to the Governor's Commission on Law Enforcement, which we feel will enable us to more effectively deal with the real problems of crime prevention for the elderly in our county.

This program will consist of a police officer whose responsibility will be to present educational presentations to alert and inform the elderly of the community of the various preventive programs and methods, that may be employed to be—to avoid becoming the victims of street crimes, burglary, robbery, and bunko.

Scheduling of these programs will be coordinated with the Division of Aging Services and the Advisory Council on Aging. These presentations will be supplemented by printed matter and brochures specifically designed for the elderly.

Additionally, as in Montgomery County's program, a social worker, in a coordinated effort with the officer, will respond to the reported victims of criminal acts, to ascertain the needs of the victim and to make referrals to various agencies able to supply the aid necessary to provide for the deficiencies caused by the incident.

This response technique is also intended to provide assistance and advise those victims of ways to avoid further victimization.

The collection of more detailed and comprehensive data on the victims of crime—age-specific data—is extremely important in view of the relative impact of crime upon the elderly. On victimization patterns, common characteristics can be accurately identified; then we will be closer to more effective programing in dealing with crime as it relates to the elderly.

Solicitation of the opinions of elderly persons; how can we know what they consider to be problems if we don't ask? Also, the situation—often present—is that fear of crime is more of a problem than the actual occurrence of a victimization. This doesn't make crime any less real a problem, but it must be dealt with in a different manner.

To establish or enhance community-based efforts dealing with crime prevention, both for and by senior citizens, who can line up communication between law enforcement agencies and agencies on aging, and senior citizens, is essential to this. The benefits from the development of such efforts for all parties is potentially very great.

Thank you very much.

[The full text of Colonel Milligan's prepared remarks appears below:]

"CRIME AND THE ELDERLY"

Prince George's County Police Department

August 13, 1975

Presented to:

Senate Subcommittee on
Aging

Senator J. Glenn Beall
Chairman

Prepared by:

Planning and Research Division

CRIME AND THE ELDERLY

INTRODUCTION

In 1900, there were three million Americans aged 65 and over, comprising four percent of our population. Today, however, there are over twenty million Americans aged 65 and older, constituting ten percent of our population. Although our total population since 1900 has grown three hundred percent, our over 65 population has grown over seven hundred percent. This means that the number of older citizens is growing at a rate of nine hundred daily -- 330,000 a year.

In Prince George's County the 1970 census indicated a total county population of 660,567 with the elderly comprising 42,088 or 6.5 percent of the total population figure. In 1975 the total county population is 720,000 with the elderly comprising in excess of 50,000 or seven percent of the total population. It is anticipated that by 1980 the elderly will represent close to eight percent of the total county population of 750,000 plus (projected) or approximately 58,000 elderly residents.

Prince George's County is a rapidly developing urban county bordering the City of Washington, D.C. on its eastern portion. Population density is heaviest at this portion and decreases eastward to the outer borders of the County.

Currently the area within the Washington Beltway is the most developed and contains the largest portion of the total population. Approximately sixty-nine (69) percent of the elderly citizens reside in this area and the majority of crimes occur within this area.

Nature of the Problem ... V I C T I M I Z A T I O N

Until recently, there has been an absence of any substantial research related to Crime and the Elderly. The apparent problem is that while offender profile has been a major concern, data has not been generally compiled on the victims of crime. Even when available, statistical records usually lumped everyone fifty years of age and older together, not allowing for easy study of this particular group. This and other factors make it difficult to identify age specific relationships to criminal victimization, for the senior citizen. It has become apparent that more data on the elderly crime victim is necessary and this need has generated changes in our reporting procedures to develop this information.

With victimization information weak, we must look at crime from the relative impact upon elderly persons. This impact can be looked at from three sides: Economic Resources; Physical Resources and; Emotional Reactions.

It is well-known that many elderly persons live on limited and fixed incomes. The loss of twenty-five dollars can equate to roughly one-third to one-half of the weekly income of a senior citizen. While a loss of twenty-five dollars may not inconvenience many, it is apparent that it can have serious implications for many elderly persons.

The fact that physical strength and resistance to injury decreases with age is also an important relative factor. Even though most crimes committed against the elderly are not of a violent nature, when violence is present it will quite possibly have more serious implications for older persons than for younger persons.

Emotional reactions are hard to identify, but nonetheless are very important. They of course vary with the individual, but far too often, older persons react very negatively to a criminal victimization, or even to the fear of crime.

Any of the factors could be used to characterize the victimization of a person of any age, but when dealing with older persons and allowing for an age specific perspective, all are likely to be present.

The case of singling out the elderly victims from the general population for special attention may be summarized as follows:

- ***** There is a high incidence of reduced or low income among the elderly. Thus, the impact of any loss of economic resources is relatively greater. *****
- ***** Older people are more likely to be victimized repeatedly-- often the same crime and the same offender. *****

- ***** Older people are more likely to live alone. Social isolation increases vulnerability to crime. *****
- ***** Older people have diminished physical strength and stamina; hence they are less able to defend themselves or to escape from threatening situations. *****
- ***** Older people are far more likely to suffer from physical ailments such as loss of hearing or sight, arthritis and circulatory problems which increase the vulnerability. *****
- ***** Older people are physically more fragile and more easily hurt should they opt to defend themselves. For example, bones are more easily broken, and recovery is more difficult. Thus they are less likely to resist attackers. *****
- ***** Potential criminals are aware of the diminished physical capacity and the physical vulnerability of the elderly and are thus more likely to seek out an elderly target (whose age status is easily visible). *****
- ***** There is a greater likelihood that older people will live in high crime neighborhoods rather than in suburbia as a result of diminished income and of being rooted in central cities. Thus, they find themselves in close proximity to the groups most likely to victimize them -- the unemployed, teenage drop-outs. *****
- ***** The dates of receipt by mail of monthly pension and benefit checks (and hence the dates when older people are most likely to have cash on their person or in their dwelling) are widely known. *****
- ***** Dependency on walking or on public transportation is more likely among older people who, for physical, financial or other reasons, are likely not to drive or own a private automobile. *****
- ***** There is evidence that older people are particularly susceptible to fraud and confidence games. *****
- ***** Older people have the highest rates of the crime of personal larceny with contact (theft of purse, wallet or cash directly from the person of the victim, including attempted purse snatching). *****
- ***** Awareness of increased vulnerability to criminal behavior has a chilling effect upon the freedom of movement of older citizens. Fear of criminal victimization causes self-imposed "house arrest" among older people who may refuse to venture out of doors. Furthermore, even in those situations when the fear of being victimized may be somewhat exaggerated or unwarranted by local conditions, the effect on the older persons is just as severe as when the fears are justified. *****

- ***** Because of a loss of status and a decreased sense of personal efficacy associated in American culture with being old, older people may be less likely to process complaints through the criminal justice bureaucracy and to draw upon available community resources for protection and redress. *****

Crime Statistics

One must bear in mind that our statistical data is categorized, at this time, only by persons aged 55 and over. The 4.5 average that is indicated would be lessened, excluding from those statistics, persons aged 55 to 60, to approximately 2.5 percent, (refer to data on Summary of Offenses Statistics) while the elderly comprise approximately seven percent of the total county population. Thus two diversions to the threat of criminal victimization: the actual threat (as represented by the above figures) and the perceived threat. Both dimensions have a negative impact on the individual. The fear of being victimized can shape the daily life of an older person.

Solutions to the Problem

The Prince George's County Police Department has developed an increased awareness of the special needs of our elderly citizens, specifically in the area of Crime Prevention.

Our goal is to assure Prince George's County's senior citizens the right of freedom of choice in their environment without fear of crime; and to reduce crime against our senior citizens.

The Police Department has submitted a program "Seniors Against a Fearful Environment" (S.A.F.E.) to the Governor's Commission on Law Enforcement which we feel will enable us to deal more effectively with the problem of crime prevention for the elderly in our county.

This program will consist of a police officer whose responsibility will be to present educational presentations to alert and inform the elderly of the community of the various preventative methods that may be employed to avoid becoming the victims of street crime, burglary, robbery and bunco. Scheduling of these programs will be coordinated with the Division of Aging and Services and the Advisory Council on Aging. These presentations will be supplemented by printed matter and brochures specially designed for the elderly.

Additionally, a social worker, in a coordinated effort with the officer will respond to the reported victims of criminal acts to ascertain the needs of the victim and make referrals to the various agencies able to supply the aid necessary to provide for the deficiencies caused by the incident. This response technique is also intended to provide assistance and advise those victims of ways to avoid further victimization.

Prince George's County Police Department

SUMMARY OF OFFENSE STATISTICS

The below listed percentage figures are those affecting the elderly population of Prince George's County. The 4.5 average is based on a 7 percent population figure.

	1972	1973	1974
Murder			9.2
Neg. Manslaughter	21.0	8.5	3.8
Rape by Force	13.0	3.7	1.0
Attempted Rape	---	2.1	---
Armed Robbery	---	---	8.0
Strong Armed Robbery	8.0	8.3	16.5
Assault - Gun	14.0	12.8	2.2
Total:	2.0	2.4	4.6
	4.4	4.4	

Program Objectives

- ***** The collection of more detailed and comprehensive data on the victims of crime. Age specific data is extremely important in view of the relative impact of crime upon the elderly. When victimization patterns and common characteristics can be accurately identified, we will be closer to more effective programming in dealing with crime as it relates to the elderly. *****
- ***** The solicitation of the opinions of elderly persons. How can we know what they consider to be problems if we don't ask. Also, the situation often present is that the fear of crime is more of a problem than the actual occurrence of a victimization. This doesn't make crime any less real of a problem, but it must be dealt with in a different manner. *****
- ***** To establish or enhance community based efforts dealing with crime prevention, both for and by senior citizens. An open line of communication between law enforcement agencies and agencies on aging and senior citizens is essential to this. The benefits from the development of such efforts for all parties is potentially very great. *****

It is evident that senior citizens, and all citizens, are thoroughly disgusted with what they see happening today in their communities. One common opinion is that, "What good does it do to report a crime when they will just let the criminal loose in a couple of hours, anyway?" Resultant from feelings such as this is criticism of the system as well as evidence of frustration. One unfortunate aspect of this situation is that frequently, the police catch the brunt of the criticism, even when it is beyond their power to deal with the situation.

This often results in hostile feelings on the part of the public and defensive attitudes on the part of the police which only worsen the lack of communication. Ironically, there is evident within all these negative feelings a common concern which could be the thing which could draw these parties together and enhance relations rather than destroy them.

Many elderly persons and many members of the police community are upset with the criminal justice system, and sometimes blame each other out of frustration. What is really bothering both of these groups is that the practices of many courts and their interpretations of the laws apparently do nothing but put offenders back on the street.

If there is a common concern, the elderly and the police working cooperatively can bring pressure upon the system to change.

The benefit to be gained here is not only that by working together the Criminal Justice System can be changed, though this might be a positive product, but also that enhancing the communication between the elderly and police will likely foster community support to deal with whatever issue is at hand.

Senator BEALL. Thank you, Colonel. Mrs. Garcia?

Mrs. GARCIA. Mister Chairman and members of the Senate subcommittee, I am Mrs. Bess Garcia, special assistant to the director, Division of Services and Programs for the Aging, Prince Georges County.

I am very appreciative of having an opportunity of appearing before your subcommittee to briefly describe several crimes perpetrated against some of our seniors.

Because of my involvement in senior citizens' activities, and close contact with a large number of seniors, they contact me personally when a need arises as a result of a crime committed against them.

The first case that I was going to discuss, the victim was here, and I imagine she'll be back, so with your permission, I will go on to the second case.

The second case concerns the snatching of a pocketbook from the senior who resides in the 2700 block of Upshur Street, in Mount Rainier. All three of the cases involve people who live in apartment projects, and we are surrounded by apartment projects.

You will note from the incidences of the three cases that it doesn't matter whether they are home, or whether they are on the street, or whether it's morning or night; these people are subject to violence at any time.

This particular victim, a female, left her home at approximately 7:10 in the morning, on her way to work; she was walking up the street. The suspect came up from behind her and grabbed her pocketbook. The victim tried to hold on to her pocketbook, but the strap broke and with a violent shove she was knocked to the ground.

The suspect took her pocketbook and ran behind the apartment project which was in that particular vicinity. The victim did call the police, but she was not able to identify the suspect. She lost some money and all of her identification cards, which created quite a hardship.

That was the second case I was going to describe. Now that the victim of the first case has returned, I will discuss her case, and ask her to stand so you can all see her.

Sarah George, would you please stand?

As you can see, Sarah is physically handicapped; she can only go out of her apartment with the assistance of her kind neighbors.

She lives in an apartment project—Queens Chapel, I believe it is called. At 8 o'clock in the morning, she opened her apartment door to get her newspaper. A tall, black man stuck a gun in her face, pushed her back into the apartment building, and by pushing her, he knocked her off her balance.

Sarah cannot get up without help. The only way she can get back on her feet is to scoot across the floor and get hold of something solid to hold onto so that she can raise herself up.

The suspect was very profane, demanded that she get into her bedroom. Sarah was screaming and crying. Finally, when the suspect realized that she could not move without help, he asked her where her money was, and she pointed to a little bit of money on the table.

By this time her neighbors were around the corner from her apartment, pounding on the door; he became quite concerned about being apprehended, so he went out the living room window.

I think he got some money—that was about all he got, wasn't it? Two dollars? Well, \$2 to Sarah is like \$10 or \$20 to some of us.

Do you have anything to add to that, Sarah?

Mrs. GEORGE. Only that when I told him I couldn't get up, then he put the gun in his pocket and very gently—he was a different human being—he helped me walk across, he moved the table—I have a chair there, and he helped me to sit down.

Mrs. GARCIA. The last case that I am going to report on involves strong-arm robbery against a female, a senior citizen who resides in the 2900 block of Allison Street in Mt. Rainier.

This individual lived in the same apartment project that the victim of the second case lived in; Queens Chapel, I believe it's called, isn't it? Your apartment is Queens Chapel?

Mrs. GEORGE. No, no, no. We are Queens Manor Gardens.

Mrs. GARCIA. Queens Manor Gardens. We have Queens Chapel Apartments, Queens Manor Gardens, Prospect Gardens, and Mt. Rainier Apartments. A large number of senior citizens live in these apartment projects by themselves, and they are subject to crime attacks.

This third case was walking in front of the Mt. Rainier Junior High School on Queens Chapel Road, in broad daylight. The young man ran up behind her, grabbed her purse from her arm, pushed her, and he ran down the street. She never saw who he was.

Fortunately, she let go, or she probably would have been seriously injured.

Because of my involvement in community activities in the Mt. Rainier area, I could go on and on and on, and name a number of cases.

Most of the suspects are juveniles. An incident happened Saturday—well, several weeks ago; I have a small bungalow, and I am an outdoor person and I spend a lot of time on my porch.

Fortunately, this evening I was on my porch about 9:30, when a senior citizen walked down the street and was accosted by five young white males, who did not cross the street; they were on the other side, and threatened her with a: "Let's get that blankety-blank female!"

She instinctively raised her umbrella, and they were very profane, and said: "You can put that blankety-blank umbrella down; it's not going to do you a bit of good."

The individual fortunately walked back up to my porch—she was only about 75 feet away. I asked her to sit down and told her that we would take her home. I personally walked down to where the young men were but they quickly separated and left the area. I think the youngsters knew me and were afraid I could identify them.

Thank you for the opportunity—

Senator BEALL. How old were these young men, or how old did they appear to be?

Mrs. GARCIA. I have seen them in the neighborhood; I cannot identify them. I would say maybe ranging from 15 to 20 or 22; something like this. They were big—they were tall. But I've got a grandson who's 17, and he stands 6 feet 2 inches right now, so you can't tell from the size of them.

And they were long-haired, hippy-type of looking youngsters that stroll the streets around there at all hours of the night.

Have you any questions, Senator?

Senator BEALL. Thank you, Mrs. Garcia.

Mrs. GARCIA. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to appear.

Mr. PATHIK. Mr. Danny Husk.

Mr. HUSK. Thank you, Senator; I appreciate the opportunity of being here today, and as you can see, I am the chief of police of the city of Mt. Rainier, Md.

And if you listened to the witnesses today, you would swear I had a problem, but I hope it isn't as bad as the picture has looked from all the witnesses here coming from the general area of my jurisdiction.

The city of Mt. Rainier is located on the eastern portion of Washington, D.C., on one border—approximately seven-eighths of a mile, I would say—it is joined on Washington, D.C. The rest is bordered in Prince Georges County.

And in all instances other than the Washington, D.C., line, we are bordered and patrolled by the Prince Georges County Police Department.

I was lucky enough to serve 20 years with the Prince Georges County Police Department, and I have had no problem at all with cooperation from them, nor have I had any problem with cooperation with the Metropolitan Police Department of Washington, D.C.

We have 10 policemen; we operate 24 hours a day. I know 10 policemen is not enough; the population is 10,000 people, and by the time you figure scheduling, vacations and people calling in sick, you run short on the street, but we do the best we can with what we actually have, and overall, I think we do a good job. I am very proud of the police department I have.

In pulling some cases to bring here today, most of them have been testified to by the victims, the senior citizens, and also by Mrs. Bess Garcia.

However, out of 16 street robberies that were reported since the first of the year, there are only two of the victims that were under the age of 50 years of age, and there were more above 65 than below, and the last age was 84 years of age.

There have been six arrests made by the Police Department, all of the victims with the exception of one were white women. All the arrests have been black males; four of them resided in Washington, D.C., and two of them were from the State of Maryland, but not from the city of Mt. Rainier.

Of the 16 cases we know where arrests were not made, 6 of the suspects ran across Eastern Avenue, as observed by the witnesses or the victims of the crimes. By the time that we contact the Metropolitan Police Department by telephone, and they put the lookout on the radio, the suspects are safe and well into the District, and we do not pursue them, because we did not actually see them ourselves in the escape.

The city police department patrols the bus stops as often as possible—particularly during the peak hours when people are going to work and coming home—because statistics show that approximately 50 percent of street robberies are pulled off at bus stops or going to and from a bus stop.

The city has just undertaken a program with the Potomac Electric

Power Co. to install new vapor-type lighting systems throughout the city; it is completed now. It may give them some comfort a little later in the year, when it becomes dark at around 5:30 to 6 o'clock in the evening, but we find that crime does not pick an age of the person it is going to victimize.

It doesn't pick the time of day; you take statistics and you can cut them just about any way you want to, but we have had strong-arm robberies and pocketbook-snatching as early as 6 o'clock in the morning, and as late as 4 o'clock on the following morning.

I don't know where the answer lies. There is very poor respect for any authority among the younger generation; this I don't feel that I can change, and I don't know who can.

They have no respect whatsoever for law and order, very little respect for any authority, including this schoolhouse right here.

Possibly the answer might be in going back and starting when a child needs to be taught something, rather than wait until he's 15 or 16 years old and in the custody of the police department, and has to go before some juvenile court.

I don't know what the answer is. I don't know how you are going to find it, but I am sure, with the intelligence that we have in the State of Maryland and this United States, that we can come up with an answer. It may not be this year, it may not be next year, but I am sure that we can find an answer to reduce the crime that is occurring on the streets.

And any help that I can offer to your subcommittee or to any of the senior citizens' committees in the vicinity of Prince Georges County or in the State of Maryland, I will be more than glad to do so.

Thank you very much for having me here.

Senator BEALL. Thank you, Chief. Your most immediate problem, as I understand it, is one of manpower, or the lack of manpower?

Mr. HUSK. That's right, sir.

Senator BEALL. One other question.

Can you engage in hot pursuit across the District line?

Mr. HUSK. Yes, sir, but by the time someone's pocketbook is snatched, the police are called, you arrive, he has run across the line a minute, 2 minutes before, and we wouldn't pursue then.

Mr. PATHIK. Mr. Charles Ross.

STATEMENT OF CHARLES J. ROSS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

Mr. Ross. Charles Ross, Housing Authority, Prince Georges County, assistant director.

The Housing Authority of Prince Georges County has 485 apartment units for housing senior citizens. They are in 5 sites, ranging from 40 up to 192 units. There are two locations in Oxon Hill, one in District Heights, and one each in the Cottage City and Chillum areas.

Only one of these sites has been in operation for more than 4 years. The remainder have been open less than 2 years.

The authority's residents are quick to notify the authority of problems that affect them, so the authority is rather well-informed of most major incidents. We have reports of three purse snatchings by teenagers, with one of those occurring on authority property. No injuries were reported in the incidents.

Acts of random vandalism and thefts of property have taken place at various locations on varying frequency basis, with most incidents involving property loss of less than \$100 in value.

The major incidents involved a car theft, theft of a television set, smashed patio doors to an on-site recreational facility, and a bunco game victim.

The vandalism problem has been addressed by hardening the site with stronger or higher fences, better lighting, security devices on doors, the use of Lexan for glass replacement, advanced communications systems, and more frequent patrols by county or municipal police, private security agencies, and housing authority personnel.

Most studies done on public housing indicate that the fear of being a victim far exceeds the actual incidence of crime. The authority believes, however, that this fear is a serious problem, for how long can senior citizens, often suffering from chronic illnesses, maintain a high level of health in the face of constant anxiety and fear?

The housing authority's problem stems not so much from the external, but rather the internal environment at its sites. This results from expectation that authorities assume responsibilities for which they were never designed; that is, for housing the chronically ill, the alcoholic, mentally ill and the antisocial or asocial individuals who cannot find housing elsewhere.

In short, we are expected more and more to become the landlord of last resort.

This housing authority has had violent incidents at its sites which were generated internally; one involved an assault and battery by a deaf mute on another resident. Another incident of assault and battery took place on a social worker who was trying to assist a resident with serious emotional problems.

We have had one suicide and one suspected suicide from drug misuse.

There was one incident involving a knifing of one senior citizen by another. This involved a senior citizen who is an alcoholic and had been drinking.

There have been several other serious disruptions within the buildings resulting from the consumption of alcohol.

When public housing for senior citizens was proposed, these kinds of problems were most likely not considered seriously, but these problems are real, they do exist, and they will not cure themselves.

What the housing authority of Prince Georges County proposes to address these situations is a new type of housing program which is even more than the congregate eating and living facilities now being proposed. This type of housing would be more a cross between traditional housing and health facilities than any other concept.

Supportive staff would be wholly or heavily drawn from the health field, more so than from traditionally administrative fields.

We are proposing, in short, ambulatory care facilities with a new type of tenancy, based on health reasons for the ill, or constructive coercion in those cases involving those with alcohol, drug, or social problems.

Due to a change in HUD regulations, housing authorities will be permitted to reject applicants if it is believed they will have a detrimental effect on the health, safety, or welfare of other tenants or the physical or financial stability of the project.

Recent court cases have made it clear that landlords are being held liable not only for the actions of their employees, but also of their tenants and even visitors of their tenants. This does not change the fact, however, that almost all localities are devoid of any facilities that might be used to house such ill or antisocial individuals as were mentioned above.

Consequently, it is the housing authorities which continue to be expected to house such individuals, at possible risk to other tenants' physical safety or their rights to peaceful use of their household.

Our recommendation is simply that there must be an expansion of specialized housing programs, if all senior citizens are to enjoy safe, clean, and sanitary housing facilities. Specialized housing for the afflicted is a must, else the local housing agencies will continue to be expected to house or retain as residents those individuals who should be in such specialized facilities.

Thank you.

Senator BEALL. Thank you, Mr. Ross.

Our first witness, Mr. Work, talked about the research projects LEAA conducts, and he mentioned research into improvements in buildings, structures, and building design, to provide more protection for residents in these areas.

Are you aware, as a local housing administrator, of the kinds of research that is being done by LEAA?

Mr. Ross. Yes; we are, Senator. We have the most recent research that has been done by HUD today, and they have developed a concept of defensible space, which we have been using to date—defenses that are not designed to make a place look like the compound, but just to break traffic patterns, specialized fixtures such as lighting or safety devices, or call systems from lobbies to the apartments, which will allow people to identify themselves before being admitted.

Senator BEALL. Do you have mixed units? By that I mean senior citizens living with nonsenior citizens?

Mr. Ross. Yes. The strictly senior-citizen sites will house non-senior handicapped individuals. We have a multigenerational site in District Heights, which has been working out rather well, and I would hope to see the expansion of that type of facility.

But most of our problem, as I have said, comes from within, of the expectation that the housing authorities must house the alcoholic or somebody else who is getting out of a mental institution, and we don't have the staff, the specialization, to handle that kind of activity. And yet we are being pressured to do this more and more. We can't do it.

Mr. PATHIK. Cpl. David Eyre.

STATEMENT OF DAVID EYRE, CORPORAL, PLANNING AND RESEARCH DIVISION, PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Corporal EYRE. Cpl. Dave Eyre, with the Planning and Research Division of the County Police Department.

Senator, there is very little I can say at this point, after Colonel Milligan and all the other speakers and witnesses, who testified this morning on the impact of crime against the elderly.

The only thing I would like to add in response to Mrs. Smith's request this morning about where some of our funding is, and where some of our programs are, is that the program we have submitted goes before the Governor's commission for approval, I believe, on August 28, and if it is approved it will be implemented and should be operational by the first of the year (1976), and in implementing this program, we are going to seek, and need, the cooperation of Mrs. Smith, her panel, and the other agencies on aging in the county, to make it successful. Thank you.

Senator BEALL. Thank you, Mr. Eyre.

Mr. Pathik, as the director of the Area Agency on Aging what particular problems do you have, unrelated to crime in the administration of your program that might be of interest to the committee?

Mr. PATHIK. In the area of aging, in general?

Senator BEALL. Yes, sir.

Mr. PATHIK. Well, a number of them, and they start from politics, bureaucracy, to money.

The system seems to be so complicated that in order to get the amount of money designated to local agencies, which is of course very small, after it has been spent on research and planning, and staffing at the Federal and State level—we get a very small proportion of this, and after we get whatever we get, to process that money into programs, we cannot put together, for instance, one good legal aid program. That requires \$75,000 for us.

The allocation for the title III money is \$84,000 some, and we are talking about all kinds of services for the county, and we get all kinds of pressure, that this group be funded, and that group be funded—that comes mainly from the political groups.

Bureaucracy—the paperwork that we have to process; an example is manpower, a position that we were asked to make up had about 2 inches worth of documents that we had to keep and maintain, so that in order to get \$4,000, I figure that we need \$14,000 to supervise the programs.

And I did send that to Senator Swinehart requesting her to give me \$14,000 from her pocket so I can get \$4,000 from the Federal Government.

It is very difficult. One thing that we are concerned with, and I think we are in the right direction on, is involved with the senior citizens, and most of the programs that we have, including the public hearings that we are told by the Federal Government to hold, we generally do it openly, but we have not yet gone into really understanding the needs.

We have a difficult time understanding needs, because it is a very large area. The suburban section is a very large rural section, and we cannot provide services because each is tied up to some major long-term planning on transportation, for instance. If there are no roads, how can we provide transportation?

The sewer and water problems are large in that area, electricity, lack of hospitals, health services, and it is very difficult to really come up with a program with the amount of money and type of bureaucracy and politics we are faced with. And also, the program

is tied up with many other agencies; there is a real problem of co-ordination at the National, State and local levels, and more so at the national level.

We have human resources, social services, social security and other programs that are putting much larger amounts of money into senior programs, but they are not channeled through to us in any way. There is on that no formula by which to distribute these moneys; whosoever comes first gets the money first, and people who are asking for small—little transportation—you know, \$80,000 for crime protection services in a county of this size, the nature of crime and the area that this police department has to cover really is just a scratch on the back and hope that we can save four or five more people.

There are some serious things like this, I think, affecting more than personal feelings; it is enormous.

Senator BEALL. Colonel, what is the total budget of the Prince Georges County Police Department?

Colonel MILLIGAN. I have not seen the budget as approved this year, sir; I do not know.

Senator BEALL. You know what last year's budget was, offhand?

Colonel MILLIGAN. Approximately \$21 million to \$22 million.

Senator BEALL. \$22 million?

Colonel MILLIGAN. Yes, sir.

Senator BEALL. Thank you again, gentlemen. You are again vindicating what we hear so often, that the bureaucracy itself tends to be an impediment to the implementation of many of the programs that are designed to prevent—to benefit so many of our citizens.

Someday, maybe we will be able to do these things in a manner that doesn't require paper to be filed with everybody who has a desk somewhere, to get the people that which they expect to be entitled to and should be entitled to.

Thank you all for your patience.

If there are no other witnesses to be heard, that concludes our hearing; we thank you for attending, and the hearing is adjourned.

I order the statements of those who could not attend, and other pertinent material submitted for the record, printed at this point.

[The information referred to follows:]

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND 20742

DIVISION OF HUMAN AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
COLLEGE OF HUMAN ECOLOGY
COLLEGE OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION, RECREATION AND HEALTH
COLLEGE OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

301/454-4148

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE FIELD HEARING OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGING

TOPIC: CRIME AND THE ELDERLY
CHAIR: SENATOR J. GLENN BEALL, JR.

ROLLING CREST JR. HIGH SCHOOL, W. HYATTSVILLE, MD.

AUGUST 13, 1975

I am speaking today on behalf of the Center on Aging at the University of Maryland.

Established in the Fall of 1974, the Center provides educational services and technical assistance to those now working with the elderly, and to those developing policy and programs for the elderly.

We are pleased to have the opportunity to comment at today's timely hearing.

Crime and the fear of crime is one of the greatest deterrents to the socialization of the elderly and to their effective use of services and programs. This is particularly true of those people living in and around large metropolitan areas. We have seen numerous situations where people have said: "I can't come to that event because it is after dark", or, "I want to attend the meeting but can't because I am afraid to walk down the street", or, "I must sell my house which I have lived in for 20 years because it has been broken into 3 times." Unfortunately, many of the fears and anxieties are justified because the elderly are the group

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most vulnerable to acts of crime. Many are located in high crime areas because of being financially unable to change locations. In addition, limited mobility and sensory acuteness make the elderly easy targets for desperate persons.

There needs to be a recognition that crime against the elderly is a growing problem, so that money can be released to:

1. Increase protective services to reduce crime.
2. Increase services to the elderly that are the victims of crime.
3. Enable police departments to break down their crime statistics by age to provide a currently accurate picture.
4. Study new mechanisms for crime prevention.

The Center on Aging would be happy to assist in program development, evaluation and research pertaining to this important area.

Thank you.

Jill Moss Greenberg
Center on Aging

JMC:jlc
8/12/75

[Whereupon, at 1 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

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END

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