

LAW ENFORCEMENT PROBLEMS OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

The Council of State Governments, Mayflower Hotel

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Washington, D.C.

THE topic assigned me is that of "Law Enforcement Problems of National Defense", but I find it difficult to discuss these problems without in some measure involving the whole question of National Defense, and I trust it will be understood if some of my remarks deal generally with that subject. However, before undertaking to discuss the broad principles which, in my opinion, should govern the relationship of the States and the National Government in defense matters, it should be of interest to outline briefly just what the States have done and are doing to aid the National Government in law enforcement as applied to National Defense.

Under the sponsorship of the Department of Justice, the Federal-State conference was held here in Washington the early part of last August, the importance of the meeting being emphasized through the formal message of the President of the United States which described the gathering as "the first in the history of our Country to discuss common problems of National Defense". In association with other governors of the Country, I had the privilege of attending the conference and of presiding over one of the groups into which the conference was divided.

The meeting was called by the Council of State Governments, the Governors' Conference, the National Association of Attorneys General, and the Interstate Commission on Crime, in cooperation with the Department of Justice. It was attended by representatives of forty-six States, including fourteen Governors, twenty-six State Attorneys General, the Attorney General and the Solicitor General of the United States, representatives of the War, Navy, and Labor Departments, and of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and other State and Federal officials.

Attorney General Robert H. Jackson sounded the keynote of the conference in reminding those in attendance that the Country looked to its responsible public officials to handle the problems of Federal and State law enforcement in connection with the National Defense in an efficient and orderly manner. This justifiable statement constituted a challenge to the best thought and study of all in attendance.

The conference was divided into five sections, which dealt respectively with the protection of properties essential to National Defense: espionage, sedition, propaganda, mob violence, and civilian cooperation; treatment of aliens; cooperation between the States and the Federal Government in National Defense matters; and public education to secure the cooperation of all citizens in furthering the National Defense Program.