

## AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR CRIMINOLOGY

The annual Conference of the American Society for Criminology was held January 31 and February 1, 1958 at Los Angeles on the campus of the University of Southern California.

Following the meeting of the Executive Committee on the first day, a public forum on the subject of "Public vs. Police" paneled by President John P. Kenney (Chairman), James Fulton, Inspector from the Los Angeles Police Department (Police), Mrs. Hideo Kodani, Member National Commission on Community Organization, National Conference of Christians and Jews (Public), Omar Garrison, Science Editor, Mirror News (Press) and Samuel Haig Jameson, Consultant and Assistant Treasurer, California Taxpayers' Association (Psychological Factors) drew a large-sized public attendance.

"Research" was the theme of the formal presentations made on the following morning by Professor Arthur H. Sherry, Project Director, American Bar Foundation, who spoke on "Administration of Criminal Justice Survey," and Dr. Marcel Frym, Criminological Consultant, Hacker Psychiatric Clinic and Arbitrator, International Society of Criminology, who spoke on "Comparative Criminological Research."

At the regular business meeting homage was paid the late Dr. Douglas Kelley, former president of the Society.

Expressing a need for comprehensive study of academic programs in police and correctional fields, the Society authorized the Executive Committee to seek a grant to undertake such a study as soon as possible.

Officers elected for the coming year are:

President - John P. Kenney, University of Southern California  
Western Vice President - Clyde B. Vedder, University of Arizona  
Central Vice President - Richard A. Myren, Indiana University  
Southern Vice President - Vernon Fox, Florida State University  
Member-at-Large - Marcel Frym, Hacker Psychiatric Foundation  
Beverly Hills  
Secretary-Treasurer - William Dienstein, Fresno State College

The Society was honored by the presence of John D. Holstrom, President, International Association of Chiefs of Police, who contributed to the success of the Conference.

The Conference closed with a banquet highlighted by the address of Henry Reining, Jr., President, American Society for Public Administration who spoke on "A Responsible Professional Organization."

The American Society for Criminology is organized to coordinate education and research in the police and correctional fields and composed of persons engaged in teaching, research, and administration in these fields. The Society invites all persons dedicated to improvement of the police and correctional fields to apply for membership to Professor William Dienstein, Secretary-Treasurer, American Society for Criminology, Fresno State College, Fresno, California.

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"Public vs. Police," professionally dealt with by the panelists, started the formal program of the Conference off on a high plain. To attempt to deal adequately in a few words with the presentations would be presumptive but a few highlights from each of the talks indicate the tenor set for the lively discussion which followed.

In the words of Sir Robert Peel in a declaration of police principles, James Fulton, Inspector in the Los Angeles Police Department, viewed the police position by stating, "The police are the public and the public are the police, the police being only members of the public who are paid to give full time attention to duties which are incumbent upon every citizen in the interest of community welfare and assistance." Jim developed the responsibilities of the police and the public in this relationship, identifying problem areas as well as offering some suggestions for solutions.

Mrs. Kodani, representing the public view, stated, "Any community problem is a problem of the police just as any police problem is a problem of the community. They . . . are not only partners but an integral part of each other and of the structure of civilized society." Of particular interest was her "unscientific research" of the public based on the simple question, "Do you think that problems of conflict exist between police and community?" The result, "Without exception there were emphatic affirmations, but no definite knowledge about the nature or cause of any specific problem of conflict." Her conclusion that there perhaps exist many myths about problems which in actuality are non-existent but nevertheless contribute to an ongoing conflict.

Mr. Garrison, viewing the problem from the standpoint of the press, took a philosophical approach in challenging the police to take advantage of the scientific developments available to them in this day and age. He was particularly emphatic in his view of the need for acceptance of progress made by the social sciences and application of the results of social science research to police relationships. He pointed out conflicts which of necessity exist between reporters and police officials in determining what and when news should be printed, basically a conflict in values. However, he was most complimentary of the fine relationships which generally exist between the police and the press throughout the world, citing numerous personal experiences with foreign as well as local police.

Psychological factors influencing police-public relationships was ably dealt with by Samuel Haig Jameson. His closing remarks, "Public standards of conduct mould the police standards, and high professional police deeds encourage public sympathy and pride in police performances. 'He who is without sin, let him cast the first stone' in this arena of social interactions between the police and the public," capped the elucidating discussions.

Considerable discussion from the floor followed the panel presentations. Of particular note was the concern expressed over "social guilt" vs. "legal guilt" of persons arrested by the police. Time did not permit delving deeply into this important problem.

Professor Arthur Sherry, Director of the American Bar Foundation Study of the Administration of Criminal Justice, dwelled on methodology of the project since the study is not complete and the preliminary formal report has not as yet been released. He pointed out that in the many studies on the subject which have been made, not one has previously dealt with methodology in the final report. The inter-disciplinary approach to the study was deemed significant emphasized by the consultant staff drawn from the several fields of the social sciences, law and administration.

The status of the project, Professor Sherry pointed out, is nearing completion of the pilot phase. Completion of the study awaits receipt of more funds, and if forthcoming looks forward to obtaining significant facts from which objective decisions in the matter of criminal justice may be made, wide dissemination of the facts, and development of plans of action by the Bar Association and other concerned groups.

Marcel Frym attacked the problem of Comparative Criminological Research by stating that, "Not only ballistic missiles are intercontinental, but so are social problems." He identified topics which are in need of comparative research:

1. Laws of Arrest, Search and Seizure.
2. The Bail System.
3. Heavy fines as a Cause of Jail Overcrowding.
4. Publication of Facts Pertaining to the Private Life of a Person, Even if True.
5. Technological Devices for Use in Investigations and their Legal Status.
6. Registration of Criminals.
7. The concept of Criminal Responsibility.
8. Detention of Juveniles.

He enumerated the contributions to improved police work which the U.S. has made:

1. High educational level of policemen.
2. Technical equipment.
3. Training, especially in the field of juvenile control.
4. Probation and parole, a model for the world.
5. Improved institutional programs for corrections.

His closing remarks that "criminology as a coordinating science, applying all scientific discoveries and developments to a better understanding of crime and its proper treatment, where fear, resulting hatred and the need for vengeance obscure our vision, the sciences are shedding their penetrating light. Their beams are reaching out across the oceans. They are our only protection in the darkness of ignorance" provides us all with a goal for our future work.

Our banquet speaker, Henry Reining, Jr., President of the American Society of Public Administration, speaking about "A Responsible Professional Organization" outlined the steps necessary for an organization to mature and to take its rightful place of leadership in its field of concern. In doing so he paid tribute to the late great August Vollmer for his important contribution in the police field and his farsightedness in establishing important goals for the American Society of Criminology. Dean Reining directed our attention to the real need for research and development of the police and corrections field as definite disciplines, an important concern for progress of the Society.

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ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING  
MINUTES - February 1, 1958

The annual business meeting of the American Society of Criminology convened at 1:45 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 1, 1958, in the President's Conference Room, Bovard Administration Building, USC Campus, Los Angeles, California. President John P. Kenney presided. Present were:

John P. Kenney, University of Southern California  
William Dienst, Fresno State College  
Marcel Frym, Criminological Consultant  
David Dressler, Long Beach State College  
Nick Massaro, Long Beach State College  
Richard A. Myren, Indiana University  
Samuel H. Jameson, California Taxpayers' Association  
A. C. Germann, Long Beach State College  
Ray Galvin, University of Southern California  
Clyde Vedder, University of Arizona  
John B. Fink, University of California at Los Angeles  
Edward A. Farris, College of the Sequoias, Visalia, California  
Arthur A. Sherry, University of California, Berkeley  
John D. Holstrom, President, IACP