

Death Penalty Urged for Child Molesters

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Governor's Conference Calls for Drastic Laws

SACRAMENTO, Dec. 7 (AP)—Law enforcement officers and other delegates to Gov. Warren's one-day sex crime conference today urged passage of laws making it easier for courts to mete out the death sentence for sex crimes against children.

But the conferees did not confine their suggestions to legal remedies. They urged use of psychiatric treatment, screening of sex deviates before any crime is committed, and the use of drugs in some cases to curb the sex urge.

More than 70 of the State's foremost enforcement officers and medical authorities attended the parley which was presided over by Alameda County Sheriff H. P. Gleason.

Two Resolutions

Shortly after Warren finished his opening address asking for effective ideas to combat sex crimes, the meeting adopted two resolutions, offered by Los Angeles Dist. Atty. Simpson. The resolutions urged that laws be passed so that:

1—Premeditation need not be proved to get a first degree murder conviction against anyone guilty of killing a child under 14 during a sex attack.

2—Sex crimes against children be placed under the provisions of the State Antikidnaping Law, making possible the death penalty or life imprisonment without parole. Also that this penal provision apply to forcible attack.

More Proposals

The session closed with this statement from the Governor:

"We've had a fruitful conference. I think it will serve a real purpose in the life of our State."

Warren called for concentration on "just plain garden variety of law enforcement" to meet the problem.

The conferees also passed resolutions calling for:

Appropriation by the Legislature of money to build a State institution, near Vacaville, for the treatment of the criminally insane and sexual psychopaths.

The acquiring of unneeded na-

val facilities on Terminal Island off San Pedro for temporary hospital headquarters for treatment of the insane and psychopathic.

Same Penalties

Provision of the same penalties for an attempted sex crime as those now provided for perpetration.

Provision in court procedure that testimony of previous sex crimes may be heard against an accused sex offender—to establish a behavior pattern.

Provision of money by the Legislature to finance medical research on the cause and prevention of sex offenses.

Fingerprinting of all persons convicted of sex offenses.

Increasing the maximum penalty for sodomy to 20 years.

Fingerprinting of all applicants for teaching credentials.

The development of child guidance programs in schools.

'Terrible Crimes'

Warren, in opening the conference, called attention to "the few terrible crimes that have recently been committed."

The problem's solution is difficult, he said, because:

"We know so little about the human mind."

Warren told the conferees that the public is aroused and that it has a right to expect action. He asked for special consideration of ways of halting attacks on little children.

Enforcement Effort

The Governor spoke against what he said is the practice of sending a sex offender out of one community into another.

The reticence of parents to have children become witnesses against those charged with sex offenses does not help in prosecution, he said.

Warren called for the dovetailing of all law-enforcement agencies to control sex crimes and re-

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CRIME CONFERENCE

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marked that in the past there has been "a great void there."

There were many suggestions, facts and figures from conferees.

Advocates of castration and death penalties for sex crime offenders would be the first to ask for leniency, said Los Angeles Police Capt. Robert Foley, with the involvement of "some pillar of society, some grandfather, some churchman."

He said the answer won't be found in imprisonment.

Said George H. Brereton, chief of the criminal identification and investigation division of the State Department of Corrections:

"There hasn't been as great an increase in sex crimes as I'm sure, the public believes, due to the concentrated interest that has developed."

Only 719 Sign Up

He said the 1947 law requiring persons convicted of sex offenses to register with the Chief of Police or Sheriff has been "almost inoperative." He estimated that at least 4300 persons should be registered, while only 719 were signed up before last November.

A program of prevention, control and treatment was recommended by Richard McGee, head of the Corrections Department. He advocated early action by the Legislature to provide money for construction of an institution for the treatment of the criminally-insane and sexual psychopaths. Until it can be built—on a site already bought near Vacaville—he proposed that the State take over abandoned Navy facilities on Terminal Island off San Pedro for use as temporary quarters for such a hospital staff.

Medical Research

McGee also asked for a legislative appropriation of \$50,000 to finance medical research to make it possible to act with more knowledge. The 1949 Legislature refused to approve such a fund.

Michael Riordan, representing Atty. Gen. Howser—who was not present—warned against "hasty legislation." He said the law requiring registration of sometime convicted sex offenders is unworkable, because it relies upon voluntary action.

"Good laws," he said, "have to harmonize with human nature as much as possible."

The psychiatric profession, represented by Drs. Charles Tranter and Walter Bromberg, both of Reno and San Francisco, had ideas to present too.

Prospective Offenders

Tranter said the task is to catch sex perverts before they commit a sex crime. He said

many could be intercepted in city jails. People who are brought in for some other crime are more likely to be prospective sex offenders than average citizens, he declared.

Put these perverts under treatment by a State agency, offered Dr. Tranter, on a sort of indefinite probation status.

Dr. Bromberg, one-time psychiatric service head at New York's Bellevue Hospital, recommended scuttling the words "sex psychopaths." Those words, he said, leave the implication that nothing can be cured. The contrary is true, he said.

Early Maladjustment

Development of child guidance programs in schools to correct early-life maladjustments was recommended by Dr. Frank Tallman, Mental Hygiene Department director. He said that in most sex crime cases such maladjustments are responsible. Dr. Tallman supported the recommendation for medical research funds.

Dr. Tallman suggested broadening of the 1949 law making it possible for an individual to turn himself in to officials for treatment of abnormalities. The law also provides that a relative may also make the surrender for an individual and Dr. Tallman called for the law's extension to make it possible for any interested individual to take the initiative.