

Crime

by Phillip W. Weiss

Of all the social problems confronting society, none instills more fear, consternation and terror than crime. Crime poses a direct threat one's personal safety. Crime forces every person to acknowledge their personal vulnerability to forces beyond their control and question the nature of society itself. Indeed, crime is a form of terrorism, but of a kind that is even more frightening than the terror associated with political causes, because while political terrorism is linked to some kind of rationale, albeit twisted, perverted and corrupt, that renders it at least explainable, violent street crime is like a pestilence that defies explanation and predictability. Crime can and does happen anytime, anywhere and without warning. Because of its unpredictability and lethal nature, crime poses a direct threat to public safety and national security. It sows fear which demoralizes the people and erodes confidence in the ability of government to protect society. This erosion of confidence weakens all of our institutions, especially those on which society depends for its defense. The criminal is an outlaw. Criminals flaunt society's rules and by doing so declare war on society. Criminals act with impunity and without restraint, thus rendering them dangerous. They are dangerous because they inflict pain and suffering on others and disrupt the operations of society. Although the percentage of persons prone to violence is low, the havoc they cause is immense. One out-of-control criminal can literally

terrorize an entire community, thus transforming the criminal into a warlord who can impose control through brute force. Due process means nothing to a criminal. A criminal has no interest in playing by the rules. For the criminal, rules are made to be broken, all to satisfy an immediate need, no matter who gets hurt in the process.

Violent crime is a violation of the fundamental human right to live free from fear. On January 6, 1941, in his state of the union address to Congress, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, a Democrat, designated Freedom from Fear as an essential human freedom.

The fourth is freedom from fear—which, translated into world terms, means a world-wide reduction of armaments to such a point and in such a thorough fashion that no nation will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbor — anywhere in the world.

Roosevelt spelled out the problem in no uncertain terms. No one should EVER be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbor - anywhere in the world. Yet today, crime is as rampant as ever. Criminals are murdering, raping and robbing at accelerating rates, leaving in their wake VICTIMS. Whether this surging crime problem can be brought under control and resolved is the great challenge confronting all of us today. At stake is the very survival of society. Either we solve the crime problem or it will destroy us. The choice is ours. Without law and order, there is no justice. Without law and order, there is NOTHING.