

MEMORANDUM

TO: JUDGE BELL  
FROM: JOHN RECTOR  
DATE: January 6, 1977  
RE: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Attached are several documents elucidating the development and current status of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. The Act will expire at the conclusion of fiscal year 1977 and thus its reauthorization will be considered early on in the 95th Congress. In fact, under the 1974 Budget Act, the reauthorization bill must be reported to the Senate by May 15, 1977.

Salient issues raised by the reauthorization include the following:

1. Period of Extension and Authorization Levels

The Congress is likely to prefer a three year extension authorizing \$150 million, \$175 million and \$200 million respectfully for fiscal years 1978, 1979, and 1980.

2. Citizen Involvement

Citizens and non-governmental involvement in the juvenile justice system is the cornerstone of the 1974 Act and it is likely that it will be expanded.

3. Compliance with Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders Requirement

A key aspect of the 1974 Act mandate is that participating states remove status offenders from jails, training schools or reformatories and correctional facilities. It is likely that the current compliance date will be extended from two to four or five years.

4. Renewed Emphasis on Violent Youths

It is likely that the discretionary aspect of the program (Special Emphasis) will be modified to encourage initiatives to help states and local communities to address the special problems of school violence and vandalism as well as the statistically modest percentage of youths involved in multiple violent crimes.

5. Reduced Emphasis on Research and Development

It is likely that the Juvenile Justice Institute's role will be clarified and limited to evaluation of funded programs, training and providing a clearinghouse for available program information, including the promulgation of juvenile justice standards in cooperation with the ABA Task Force.

The major task, as we see it, is to actually implement the 1974 Act as envisioned by the Congress, while also perfecting and narrowing its focus to reflect what we have discerned since its passage in the summer of 1974.

I have given my home telephone number (703-823-2088) and my office number (202-224-2951) to John Harmond and Fred Baron and stand ready to respond to any questions to the Act and the IFAA program.