

characterize as "a shelter to the guilty," which "has no place in the jurisprudence of civilized and free countries outside the domain of the common law and it is nowhere observed among our own people in the search of truth outside the administration of the law" or as "the privilege of crime."

Ex-President William H. Taft in his address before the Civic Forum of New York City on April 28, 1908, said:

"And now, what has been the result of the lax administration of criminal law in this country? Criminal statistics are exceedingly difficult to obtain. The number of homicides one can note from the daily newspapers, the number of lynchings and the number of executions, but the number of indictments, trials, convictions, acquittals, or mistrials it is hard to find. Since 1885 in the United States there have been 131,951 murders and homicides, and there have been 2,286 executions. In 1885 the number of murders was 1,808. In 1904 it has increased to 8,482. The number of executions in 1885 was 108. In 1904 it was 116. This startling increase in the number of murders and homicides as compared with the number of executions tells the story. As murder is on the increase, so are all offences of the felony class, and there can be no doubt that they will continue to increase unless the criminal laws are enforced with more certainty, more severity than they now are."

The criminal statistics referred to by ex-President Taft are those published by the *Chicago Tribune* either on New Year's Day or else on the last day of each year since 1885, showing the number of homicides and executions in the United States for each year.

The *Chicago Tribune* gives the number of homicides (including manslaughters) in the United States in 1912 as 9,152; the number of executions in 1912 as 145; it gives the number of homicides (including manslaughters) in 1913 as 8,902; the number of executions in 1913 as 88; it gives the number of homicides (and manslaughters) in 1914 as 8,251; the number of executions in 1914 (including 2 for another felony) as 74; it gives the number of homicides (and manslaughters) in 1915 as 9,230; the number of executions in 1915 (including 8 for another felony) as 119.