

Kansas City's Shame

It is hard to arouse public indignation by quoting statistics, but those in the report of the United States department of justice showing Kansas City to be the worst crime ridden of the twenty-nine major cities of the country ought to jar the complacency of even the most apathetic citizen.

Aside from the direct menace to life and property, the conditions revealed by the survey affect the lives of every man, woman and child in the community by increasing the cost of living.

The heavy toll taken by crime is reflected in the cost of doing business and in higher taxes. In the end these increases are passed on to, and absorbed by, the rank and file of the people.

In addition, persons who might otherwise visit Kansas City and spend their money here are kept away through fear, and business institutions, which know only too well the cost of crime, are kept from locating here.

But these things have only to do with the material effect of Kansas City's crime record. There is the more important moral side of the situation.

Do the parents of Kansas City want to rear their children in an atmosphere of crime—in surroundings calculated to breed contempt for government, if they do not actually encourage law violations?

The Journal-Post does not believe they do. It does not believe the people will sanction conditions which permit Capone-dominated Chicago to point its finger this way and say:

"Why pick on us? Look at Kansas City. Despite our record of machine gunnings, the city at the mouth of the Kaw last year was the scene of murders to the number of .21 for every 1,000 persons in the community while the rate in Chicago was only .15. Kansas City's rating in all crimes committed per 1,000 population was 22.48, as against an average of 17.67 for the twenty-nine cities studied."

The Journal-Post begins today a campaign, of which this is the opening gun, to change these conditions. It purposes to keep it up in season and out until the crime rate in Kansas City is reduced to at least the average for the larger cities of the country. It believes it will have the support of all decent citizens. The other kind had better get out of the way.