

consequences of each of the many kinds of possible actions that might be taken to control them.

The work of our Science and Technology Task Force identified some of the basic questions in a form that now makes them amenable to research.

In some of our early discussions, we wondered about what portion of our society is ever arrested. By analysis of various data on arrests and on arrest records we calculated that approximately one-half of the boys in the United States today will be arrested some time in their lives for a nontraffic offense. This estimate may not be exactly correct, and in any event, is not a literal prediction of the future.

Rather, it is a projection based on current trends—changes in the future could well reverse these trends. Perhaps even more shocking than the the figures itself, however, is the fact that so fundamental a question had not been explored previously.

Furthermore, when the answer to so basic a question is surprising to so many, we can only conclude that much too little is known about what is going on in the criminal justice system.

Mr. DADDARIO. How can you predict that this 50-percent figure will hold up if, in fact, you do not know some of the answers to these questions? How do you reach that particular point, and then say we do not know what the problems really are? I don't follow that logic.

Dr. BLUMSTEIN. First, let me say that it is not a prediction, but a projection, and I make that distinction.

Mr. DADDARIO. Going up to a certain point you take these—

Dr. BLUMSTEIN. If we use current arrest rates rather than projecting their trend—the trend has been increasing—and if we project population trends into the future, then we can estimate the chance that a boy will be arrested at any age.

Mr. DADDARIO. At any rate, the point is that you are arriving at this figure in a statistical way?

Dr. BLUMSTEIN. Yes, sir.

Mr. DADDARIO. Then, the other problem is getting to the heart of the problem; why this is so?

Dr. BLUMSTEIN. That is right. Once the issue becomes one of concern, then you ask why it is so. And no one knows why. Some of the possibilities are derived from increasing urbanization, leading to people having less knowledge of each other, with more frequent resort to a formal system for the resolution of problems.

Mr. DADDARIO. If we have better answers to our social and economic problems, and we attack them in the right way, they might have the effect of turning these statistics of yours downward?

Dr. BLUMSTEIN. That is right.

Mr. DADDARIO. And if not that, 50 percent could perhaps become a low figure?

Dr. BLUMSTEIN. That is right.

Mr. DADDARIO. It is important that we come to some realization of the nature of these problems.

Dr. BLUMSTEIN. We need figures like that to highlight where the critical issues are. For example, it may be that we are spreading the criminal sanction too thin and so that when you arrest many people, there maybe less concern about being arrested in the future. One of the things that prevents me from committing crime is the fact that