

Constitution 3-19-69

# City Seen Loser In Crime Grants

By DUANE RINER

Constitution Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON—Atlanta was cited Tuesday by the National League of Cities (NLC) as an example of how federal planning funds provided under the omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 are not being channeled in the proper direction.

The funds are funneled by the Justice department to the states and thence to area planning agencies.

Allen Pritchard, assistant NLC executive director, said the Atlanta metropolitan area accounts for 60 per cent of the street crime in Georgia and 30 per cent of the state's population but received only 15 per cent of the safe-street planning grant allocated to Georgia.

"Our point has been that in 24 of the 31 states we surveyed, they had set up over 200 area-wide planning operations, and the money for planning was being spread around without regard to capability to do criminal justice planning or intensity of crime in the area covered," Pritchard declared at a news conference.

Under the present system, it is impossible to "really get into the problem in any significant way at all," Pritchard maintained.

Pointing to an area planning agency in one state that received only \$850, Pritchard said the intent of Congress in passing the Safe Streets Act was "to get at areas of high-crime incidence, and not just to plan universally."

Pritchard noted, however, that Georgia's area planning and development commissions "are established, have some staffing and rather extensive involvement by local government officials." He said it was "not quite as difficult as in some states where they set up an organization arbitrarily for safe street planning that doesn't represent anybody."

The National League of Cities said it was not advocating that the Justice department dictate how states should use their Safe Streets Act grants but called upon the department to tighten surveillance "to see that it will actually produce plans, and focus money in high-crime areas."

Georgia's Safe Streets Act grant is administered by the State Planning Bureau, a division of the governor's office.

Journal 3-19-69 4-25

# State Anticrime Fund Distribution Criticized

Atlanta Journal Washington Bureau  
647 National Press Building

WASHINGTON—The Georgia Planning Bureau has been criticized by the National League of Cities for its handling of federal funds under the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968.

At a Tuesday press conference here, Allen Pritchard, assistant director of the NLC, cited Georgia as a bad example of the way the funds are being handled, pointing out the Atlanta metropolitan area has 30 per cent of the state's population and 60 per cent of its street crime, yet received only 15 per cent of the initial planning grant funds allocated to the state under the 1968 act.

The State Planning Bureau,

which distributes the federal money to regional planning groups, gave the Atlanta area only \$33,750 of a total state grant of \$403,750. The grants are intended to establish initial local crime-control planning.

Pritchard blasted Georgia along with 23 other recently surveyed states for spreading initial planning money "without regard to capability to do criminal justice planning or considering the intensity of crime in the area covered."

But it was noted Georgia's area planning and development commissions "are established, have some staffing and rather extensive involvement by local government officials."

The NLC official called upon the U.S. Justice Department for

closer surveillance on states to see that they actually produce crime-fighting programs and concentrate in high crime areas.