

PROHIBITION KILLINGS

The Hoover crime commission's probe of liquor law killings struck a snag when the Department of Justice professed inability to determine the number of civilians and officers who have met death in prohibition enforcement and thereupon abandoned its inquiry. Atty. Gen. Mitchell explains that many states and municipalities cannot furnish a record of such deaths. Naturally the probers will not accept the highly conflicting estimates made by wets and dries.

The government's failure to obtain figures on those killed would indicate that many tear ducts opened by recent shootings were regulated by the viewpoint. The sensational way killings are played up by the respective sides is passing example of the art of propaganda. However, unwarranted shootings are back of Prohibition Commissioner Doran's ban against the use of rifles by federal dry agents except in sparsely settled or mountainous sections. Records at the Prohibition Bureau list **142 civilians killed by prohibition agents** as against **55 enforcement officers slain by rum runners**.

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U.S. Urban Homicide Rate: 1929 - 1936

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CITY	1929		1930		1931		1932		1933		1934		1935		1936**
	Homi- cide Total	Rate per 100,000	Homi- cide Total	Rate per 100,000	Homi- cide Total	Rate per 100,000	Homi- cide Total	Rate per 100,000	Homi- cide Total	Rate per 100,000	Homi- cide Total	Rate per 100,000	Homi- cide Total	Rate per 100,000	Homi- cide Total
New York City	425	6.2	494	7.1	586	8.3	580	8.0	541	7.4	458	6.1	447	5.9	279
Chicago	401	12.1	489	14.4	489	14.1	452	12.8	510	14.2	487	13.3	351	9.4	162
Boston	23	3.0	15	1.9	28	3.6	20	2.5	32	4.0	29	3.6	32	4.0	9
Philadelphia	173	8.9	150	7.7	141	7.2	154	7.8	133	6.7	97	4.8	121	6.0	81
Cleveland	120	13.4	153	17.0	121	13.3	125	13.5	144	15.4	120	12.7	103	10.8	64
Detroit	257	16.9	209	13.3	177	10.8	162	9.6	130	7.4	102	5.6	105	5.6	49
Milwaukee	17	3.0	23	4.0	21	3.5	18	3.0	13	2.1	10	1.6	4	0.6	8
Seattle	23	6.4	23	6.3	18	4.8	24	6.4	22	5.8	21	5.4	24	6.1	11
San Francisco	40	6.4	41	6.4	52	8.0	46	6.9	43	6.4	51	7.4	30	4.3	13
Los Angeles	77	6.5	83	6.6	92	7.0	116	8.4	110	7.6	93	6.2	111	7.0	52
Denver	24	8.4	27	9.4	18	6.2	30	10.2	24	8.1	18	6.0	25	8.2	26
St. Louis	97	12.8	138	16.8	131	15.8	119	14.3	141	16.8	130	15.4	103	12.1	60
Kansas City, Mo.	105	24.6	91	22.7	96	23.5	85	20.4	89	21.0	89	20.6	101	22.9	63
New Orleans	124	27.4	106	23.0	123	26.3	100	21.1	96	19.9	105	21.6	114	23.1	43
Memphis	127	51.6	150	58.8	138	52.2	148	54.2	143	52.8	164	56.5	147	49.1	43
Macon, Ga.	16	29.8	17	31.6	24	44.5	18	33.3	24	44.4	36	66.7	29	53.5	37
Nashville	333	21.9	58	37.6	58	36.7	33	20.4	60	36.4	81	48.0	84	48.8	37
Montgomery					29	42.8	30	43.6	29	41.5	35	49.2	32	45.6	54
Atlanta	130	49.1	143	52.6	144	49.5	122	39.7	154	47.6	178	52.3	162	45.2	78
Dallas	39	15.4	62	23.6	66	24.2	81	29.7	64	22.7	92	31.4	32	44.5	23
Mobile	21	31.1	21	30.7	24	34.7	25	35.8	24	34.0	27	37.9	32	44.3	23
Jacksonville, Fla.	66	52.1	45	34.5	65	48.5	72	52.2	67	47.4	72	49.6	66	44.3	23
National Total	9,989	8.5	10,617	9.0	11,134	9.4	11,035	9.2	12,123	9.6	12,055	9.5	12,000	8.1

*Approximate

Prepared by Dr. Frederick L. Hoffman for The Spectator

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