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STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE ACT

HON. RAYMOND J. McGRATH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 1984

● Mr. McGRATH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the creation of a State Justice Institute to aid State and local governments in strengthening and improving their judicial systems. As the National Institute of Corrections now provides assistance to State and local correctional facilities, so would the State Justice Institute assist the improvement of State court systems.

The responsibility of protecting the rights of all citizens under the Constitution is shared by State and Federal courts. Creation of a State Justice Institute would assist State courts in meeting their increasing obligations under both State and Federal law by providing funds for necessary technical assistance, education research and training. This will encourage the modernization of State court systems with respect to efficient management of caseloads, budgeting, and development of reliable statistical data. Establishment of a State Justice Institute would place responsibility for improvement of State court systems directly on the judicial officials charged with this responsibility under their own Constitutions and laws, thus respecting the principles of separation of powers and federalism.

It is important for us to remove the competition between State judiciaries and State executive agencies for Federal assistance. A national program of assistance specifically for the improvement of State courts will create a beneficial environment for the administration of State court systems. In addition, a State Justice Institute would fill a current void by representing State courts in future national policy decisions that will affect the Nation's total justice system.

Legislation to create a State Justice Institute, H.R. 4145, is pending in the House Judiciary Committee. I look forward to the favorable consideration of this measure at the committee level and on the House floor.●