

'There Should Be No Free Crimes'

A retired judge on a growing problem with the U.S. criminal-justice system.

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Police in Manhattan, N.Y., April 11.

PHOTO: SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

It's Time to Enforce the Law

“America’s Shoplifting Epidemic” is real (Review & Outlook, April 9), but it doesn’t call for additional laws. Let’s enforce the laws we already have. Prosecutors must file charges. Police must make arrests. Judges must treat misdemeanors as the serious crimes that they are. There should be no free crimes without prosecutions below a certain dollar amount. Every crime is an opportunity to intervene with consequences and assistance.

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Mr. Hyman was a judge of the Superior Court of California.