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AN ADDRESS BY REP. GERALD R. FORD, R-MICH.  
AT GRADUATION EXERCISES OF THE GRAND RAPIDS, MICH., POLICE ACADEMY  
AT UNION HIGH SCHOOL  
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN  
8 P.M. FRIDAY, JULY 17, 1970

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY

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The members of this graduating class have completed a course of rigorous training. They are now equipped to begin an important and arduous task -- that of protecting the public safety.

In the words of the ancient Romans, "The people's safety is the highest law." In my view, there is no job more vital than that of being a guardian of the people's safety. It is a most important trust.

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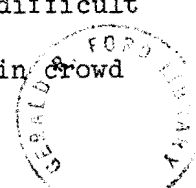
The Virginia Bill of Rights declared: "Government is, or ought to be, instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security of the people, nation or community; of all the various modes and forms of government, that is best which is capable of producing the greatest degree of happiness and safety, and is most effectually secured against the danger of maladministration."

We in America are concerned about safeguards against corruption and oppression in government, and we have legislated to the end that the people shall be protected against such maladministration. We are also concerned, and rightfully so, with the public safety and the proper administration of justice.

The members of this graduating class will assist in the achievement of one of government's most vital functions -- that of attaining the highest possible degree of public safety.

The lot of the policeman has always been hard. It is particularly difficult today when social forces are at work that increasingly involve the police in crowd

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control and in peace-keeping. This subjects officers of the law to a wide variety of verbal and physical abuse.

As you go about your peace-keeping tasks, please remember that for every detractor and revolutionary who shouts foul names at you there are thousands of supporters who are grateful for your efforts and thank God that there are still men today who are courageous enough to stand between the constructive law-abiding citizen and outright anarchy.

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are creating situations which could lead to the very oppression they falsely complain of.

Members of the Congress are anxious to help strengthen local law enforcement. At the same time, they are taking every precaution against the creation of a national police force.

That is the reason Congress approved the Law Enforcement Assistance Act, which provides Federal aid to the states and local communities on the basis of comprehensive state plans for fighting crime.

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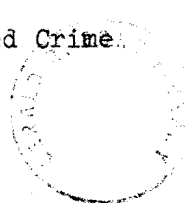
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There has been a marked upturn in indictments and prosecutions of key syndicate figures. There have been dramatic developments in the war against dope -- such as the recent nationwide raid in which 139 persons in 10 different cities were arrested. That was the largest Federal narcotics raid in the history of this country. It is estimated that the ring involved handled 30 per cent of all heroin sales in this country and 75 to 80 per cent of all cocaine sales.

This progress is being made despite the failure of Congress to date to pass such vital anti-crime legislation as the Organized Crime Control Act. We could make greater gains if such legislation were enacted, and I personally believe that the pressure of public opinion will bring about the passage of the Organized Crime

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You will make our communities safe and guard our liberty against the invasions of anarchy and the invasions of central power.

As you discharge your duties, there are some among our citizenry who will call you names.

I feel sure you will not lose your cool when you consider that what the letters P, I, and G really stand for are Pride, Integrity and Guts.

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I think I speak for the entire community when I say you have our active support and our respect. We know that you will serve faithfully in your duty posts. We know that you will give the people of this community the kind of service of which you and they can be proud. I, for one, am grateful -- and on behalf of all of the people of Grand Rapids, I thank you. Congratulations!

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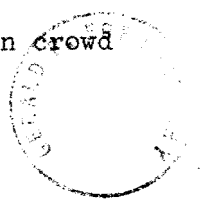
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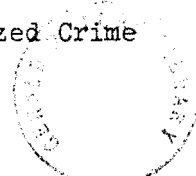
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Provide for stiffer-than-usual sentences -- up to 30 years in prison -- in cases of continuing felonious activity, a proposal aimed at leaders of organized crime and other professional lawbreakers.

So help is on the way. We at the national level are determined to do everything in our power to supplement the efforts of local law enforcement agencies in the war against crime.

But no matter how many laws we in the Congress pass, the basic job of keeping the peace rests with you men.

You will make our communities safe and guard our liberty against the invasions of anarchy and the invasions of central power.

As you discharge your duties, there are some among our citizenry who will call you names.

I feel sure you will not lose your cool when you consider that what the letters P, I, and G really stand for are Pride, Integrity and Guts.

You are professionals now -- far more so than in the old days when the role of the law enforcement officer was simply to preserve the peace, prevent crime and apprehend the criminal. Now, in addition to the demands of his inherent role as a law enforcement officer, the policeman finds himself involved in the delicate

(more)

fields of human relations and community relations. I personally feel that we in Grand Rapids can rely on your judgment and discretion.

I think I speak for the entire community when I say you have our active support and our respect. We know that you will serve faithfully in your duty posts. We know that you will give the people of this community the kind of service of which you and they can be proud. I, for one, am grateful -- and on behalf of all of the people of Grand Rapids, I thank you. Congratulations!

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