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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AT FORT WORTH/

TARRANT COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON

APRIL 28, 1976

- Thank you , Richard-Lee
 - Senator Tower
 - John Lawrence / Bill David and Loren Hansen
 - Judge Brown and Members of the Judiciary
 - Ladies and Gentlemen
-
- at the outset , let me especially thank the Southwest High School Band and the Castleberry High School Concert Choir

IT IS A GREAT HONOR FOR ME TO BE HERE THIS AFTERNOON

BEFORE THE DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE FORT WORTH-TARRANT

COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION, THE FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION,) AND

THE FORT WORTH- TARRANT COUNTY YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION.

IT IS A SPECIAL PRIVILEGE FOR ME TO BE SPEAKING TO

YOU JUST TWO DAYS BEFORE WE CELEBRATE LAW DAY ALL ACROSS

THE UNITED STATES.

THE RULE OF LAW IS THE VERY FOUNDATION OF ANY

RATIONAL SOCIETY• AND THE RULE OF LAWS CREATED BY

THE PEOPLE, WHICH THE PEOPLE WILLINGLY OBEY, IS CENTRAL

TO A FREE AND DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY•

IN OUR BICENTENNIAL YEAR, LAW DAY TAKES ON

SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE. FOR OUR FOUNDING FATHERS, IN

ESTABLISHING THIS COUNTRY, DARED TO PUT THE ULTIMATE

AUTHORITY INTO THE HANDS OF THOSE DESCRIBED IN THE FIRST

THREE WORDS OF THE CONSTITUTION: WE, THE PEOPLE.

NOT ALL MEN ACCEPTED THIS IDEA.

THOMAS JEFFERSON, IN HIS FIRST INAUGURAL ADDRESS,

RECOGNIZED THAT SOME HONEST MEN FEARED A REPUBLICAN

GOVERNMENT COULD NOT BE STRONG.

JEFFERSON TOUCHED THE VERY HEART OF OUR NATIONAL

FAITH. HE SAID HISTORY WOULD TELL WHETHER MEN COULD

BE TRUSTED TO GOVERN THEMSELVES. AND HISTORY HAS

ITS ANSWER. TWO CENTURIES LATER, THE UNITED STATES OF

AMERICA IS STILL A COUNTRY WHERE THE PEOPLE MAKE THE LAWS,

AND THE PEOPLE OBEY THEM.

AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA STILL HAS THE

STRONGEST AND FREEST FORM OF GOVERNMENT ON EARTH,

AND THAT'S WHY WE CAN SAY -- WE ARE PROUD TO BE

AMERICANS.

NOW WE ARE ON THE THRESHOLD OF OUR THIRD

CENTURY. I SEE THIS AS THE CENTURY OF INDIVIDUAL

FREEDOM, IN WHICH INDIVIDUALS WILL INCREASINGLY

FULFILL THEMSELVES AND ACHIEVE THEIR NATURAL POTENTIAL.

FOR THIS TO BE THE CENTURY OF INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM,

IT MUST BE THE CENTURY OF INDIVIDUAL SECURITY.

FOR THE LAW TO PROVIDE THAT SECURITY, WE MUST HAVE

LAWS THAT ARE RESPECTED.

WE MUST KEEP THE LAW ALIVE

BY MAKING SURE THAT IT CHANGES TO MEET THE CHANGING NEEDS

OF OUR SOCIETY.

WHILE PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF THE ACCUSED,

OUR EMPHASIS MUST ALWAYS BE ON PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF

THE VICTIM. THE VICTIM MUST BE OUR PRIMARY CONCERN,

AND THE LAW MUST BE OUR MEANS OF FULFILLING THE PROMISE

IN OUR CONSTITUTION: TO ENSURE DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY.

WE MUST CONTINUE WORKING TO IDENTIFY AND SOLVE

THOSE SOCIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL PROBLEMS WHICH CAUSE

CRIME IN THE FIRST PLACE. BUT THERE ARE ALSO NEW

EFFORTS WE CAN MAKE, AND HAVE BEEN MAKING, TO FIGHT

CRIME BY IMPROVING THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

WE MUST ENSURE THAT THE LAW IS ADMINISTERED FAIRLY,

SWIFTLY AND SURELY.

ONE OF MY EARLIEST CONCERNS AS PRESIDENT WAS

TO SEEK SOME CURES FOR OUR CRIME PROBLEM - A PROBLEM

WHICH HAS BEEN GROWING FOR MORE THAN FIFTY YEARS.

I PUT CRIME CONTROL AMONG THE TOP ITEMS ON OUR NATIONAL

AGENDA. IN 1975 WE SAW THE RATE OF INCREASE IN

CRIME DROP SUBSTANTIALLY, FROM 17 PERCENT IN 1974

TO 9 PERCENT.

AND WE HAVE FOUND SOME PRODUCTIVE WAYS TO
DEAL WITH CRIME BY PROVIDING IDEAS AND FEDERAL SEED
MONEY TO THE STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES WHO HAVE THE
RESPONSIBILITY FOR MOST CRIMINAL PROSECUTION.

HERE IN TARRANT COUNTY, FOR EXAMPLE, THE

LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION WILL HAVE

PROVIDED ALMOST 2 MILLION DOLLARS IN AID TO THE

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FROM 1973 TO 1978.

THE MONEY HAS BEEN USED IMAGINATIVELY BY YOUR

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO SERVE MANY PURPOSES.

IT HAS HELPED YOUR ATTORNEYS TO USE THEIR TIME AND TALENTS

MORE EFFECTIVELY, BY PROVIDING ADMINISTRATIVE HELP,

CONTINUOUS TRAINING, AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS SUCH

AS COMPUTERS.

ONE VERY IMPORTANT FUNCTION IT HAS SERVED HAS

BEEN TO PUT PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS IN DIRECT AND IMMEDIATE

CONTACT WITH POLICE OFFICERS.

BY SCREENING THE CASES AS THEY ARE BROUGHT IN, PROSECUTION
HAS BEEN MADE MORE EFFECTIVE. THIS HAS HELPED TO
RELIEVE OVERCROWDING IN THE COURTS, WHICH ALL TOO OFTEN
LETS CRIMINALS HIDE BEHIND THE LOGJAM.

WE MUST CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL
TO HELP LOCAL AUTHORITIES IMPROVE THEIR ADMINISTRATION OF
JUSTICE. THAT IS WHY I HAVE RECOMMENDED THAT FUNDING FOR
THE LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION BE EXTENDED
THROUGH 1981, SO THAT PROGRAMS LIKE THESE MAY CONTINUE, AND
SO THAT WE CAN CONFRONT SPECIAL CRIME PROBLEMS.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE L.E.A.A., LAST YEAR FINISHED
A REPORT ON RAPE AND ITS VICTIMS, AND IS CURRENTLY
SPONSORING A MAJOR NATIONAL SURVEY ON THAT SUBJECT.

THE STUDIES WILL HELP LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO DEAL MORE

SENSITIVELY WITH RAPE VICTIMS, AND WILL AID IN THE

PROSECUTION OF RAPISTS. OVER 18 MILLION DOLLARS OF

L.E.A.A. FUNDS HAVE BEEN USED BY STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

TO FIND MORE EFFECTIVE WAYS OF DEALING WITH RAPE.

IN ANOTHER AREA, I AM PLEASED TO NOTE THAT TODAY

THE L.E.A.A. AND THE ADMINISTRATION ON THE AGING ARE

SIGNING AN AGREEMENT WHICH WILL HELP TO TARGET LAW

ENFORCEMENT RESOURCES ON THE CRIMINAL THREAT TO THE

ELDERLY.

STILL ANOTHER PROGRAM WITH SPECIAL PROMISE WAS
INSTITUTED AT MY DIRECTION, SHORTLY AFTER I TOOK OFFICE.

IN SEPTEMBER OF 1974, I DIRECTED THE JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT TO UNDERTAKE, IN CONNECTION WITH STATE AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENT, A CAREER CRIMINAL IMPACT PROGRAM.

THE CAREER CRIMINAL PROGRAM IS FOUNDED ON A

VERY BASIC TRUTH: MOST AMERICANS ARE LAW-ABIDING,

AND THE VAST MAJORITY OF SERIOUS CRIMES IN THIS COUNTRY

ARE COMMITTED BY A SMALL MINORITY OF HABITUAL OFFENDERS.

THIS SMALL MINORITY HAS CHOSEN TO PLACE ITSELF

OUTSIDE SOCIETY, COMMITTING CRIMINAL ACTS NOT ONCE BUT

AGAIN AND AGAIN. THEY ARE A CHRONIC THREAT TO OUR

SECURITY. WE MUST IDENTIFY THEM, BRING THEM TO

JUSTICE, AND MAKE THEIR PUNISHMENT SWIFT AND CERTAIN.

HERE IN TEXAS, TWO CAREER CRIMINAL PROGRAMS

ARE UNDERWAY. IN HOUSTON, ONE PROGRAM BEGAN IN

JULY OF LAST YEAR. AND TODAY THE AVERAGE TIME FROM

ARREST TO INDICTMENT IS NINE DAYS FOR THOSE IDENTIFIED AS

CAREER CRIMINALS, VERSUS 42 DAYS FOR OTHER CRIMINAL

CASES.

THE TIME FROM ARREST TO TRIAL FOR CAREER CRIMINAL DEFENDANTS

IS A MONTH LESS THAN FOR OTHER CRIMINAL DEFENDANTS.

SENTENCES HAVE AVERAGED 25.8 YEARS.

AND -- MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL -- SINCE THIS
PROGRAM GOT UNDERWAY IN HOUSTON, THERE HAS BEEN A
SIGNIFICANT DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ARMED ROBBERIES
COMPARED TO THE YEAR BEFORE.

NOT FAR FROM HERE, IN DALLAS, ANOTHER CAREER

CRIMINAL PROGRAM HAS BEEN IN EFFECT FOR THE LAST SIX

MONTHS. IN THAT BRIEF TIME IT HAS ZEROED IN ON 23

THIRD TIME OFFENDERS.

IT HAS SHOWN THE CAREER CRIMINAL WHAT AWAITS

HIM. OF THOSE 23, | 20 HAVE RECEIVED LIFE SENTENCES,

AND THREE RECEIVED 40- YEAR SENTENCES.

LET ME MAKE CLEAR THAT WE DO NOT PURSUE THIS

SWIFT JUSTICE AND THESE HEAVY SENTENCES OUT OF VINDICTIVENESS.

I BELIEVE THAT IN GENERAL WE MUST DO EVERYTHING WE

CAN TO REHABILITATE THOSE WHO HAVE COMMITTED CRIMES, AND

TO HELP THEM REGAIN THEIR PLACE IN SOCIETY.

BUT FOR THESE CAREER CRIMINALS, REHABILITATION

HAS OBVIOUSLY FAILED. THESE INDIVIDUALS HAVE ALL BEEN

TO CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS BEFORE, AND THEY HAVE

DEMONSTRATED THAT FOR THEM, AT LEAST, REHABILITATION

PROGRAMS HAVE SERVED NO USEFUL PURPOSE.

THEREFORE, OUR DUTY IS TO PROTECT THEIR INNOCENT

VICTIMS - AND POTENTIAL VICTIMS - BY SEPARATING

THESE CAREER CRIMINALS FROM SOCIETY, AND BY KEEPING

THEM CONFINED FOR A LONGER PERIOD OF TIME.

THROUGH PROGRAMS SUCH AS THIS, WE CAN HELP

RELIEVE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE OF A TERRIBLE THREAT TO THEIR

LIVES AND SAFETY.

BY COMBATTING CRIME, WE REAFFIRM

THE RIGHT OF EVERY AMERICAN TO ENJOY LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE

PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS.

WE MUST NOT BE CONTENT UNTIL THE POTENTIAL

CRIMINAL FACES ARREST SO CERTAIN, PUNISHMENT SO HEAVY

THAT HE WILL LOSE HIS TASTE FOR ACTS OF CRIME AND VIOLENCE.

LET ME SUMMARIZE THE ACTIONS I HAVE TAKEN TO

REDUCE CRIME IN AMERICA. IN ADDITION TO INSTITUTING

THE CAREER CRIMINAL PROGRAM, AND RECOMMENDING THE

EXTENSION OF FUNDS FOR THE LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE

ADMINISTRATION:

-- MY BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 1977 PROVIDES

FUNDS FOR FOUR NEW FEDERAL PRISONS;

directed

-- I HAVE ~~ASKED~~ THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO

DEVELOP NEW PROGRAMS TO PROTECT AND ASSIST ALL

WITNESSES IN FEDERAL CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS;

fully
↑

-- WHILE SUPPORTING THE RIGHT OF LAW ABIDING

CITIZENS TO OWN FIREARMS, I HAVE RECOMMENDED LEGISLATION

WHICH WOULD MAKE MANDATORY SENTENCES FOR THOSE WHO

USE A GUN IN THE COMMISSION OF A FEDERAL CRIME.

-- I HAVE INTENSIFIED THE FIGHT AGAINST HARD
DRUGS, WHICH WE ALL KNOW ARE CONNECTED WITH CRIME.
JUST YESTERDAY, I SENT TO THE CONGRESS A SPECIAL MESSAGE
ON DRUG ABUSE CALLING FOR MANDATORY MINIMUM PRISON
SENTENCES FOR THOSE CONVICTED OF TRAFFICKING IN HARD DRUGS.

I HAVE CONSULTED WITH THE LEADERS OF MEXICO,
COLOMBIA AND TURKEY TO URGE STRONGER ACTION BY THEM
IN COOPERATING WITH US TO HALT THE FLOW OF HARD DRUGS INTO
THE UNITED STATES. AND I HAVE RECOMMENDED THAT THE
CONGRESS INCREASE FEDERAL FUNDS TO GET DRUG ADDICTS INTO
TREATMENT AND OUT OF CRIME.

WE ARE SPENDING TEN TIMES MORE FEDERAL FUNDS ON DRUG

PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION THIS YEAR THAN

WE SPENT JUST SEVEN YEARS AGO.

-- IN ADDITION TO MANDATORY MINIMUM SENTENCES

FOR DRUG TRAFFICKERS AND FOR FEDERAL CRIMES INVOLVING THE

USE OF DANGEROUS WEAPONS, I HAVE RECOMMENDED TO THE

CONGRESS MANDATORY MINIMUM SENTENCES FOR REPEAT

OFFENDERS WHO COMMIT VIOLENT CRIMES, AND FOR CRIMINALS

GUILTY OF GRAVE OFFENSES SUCH AS AIRCRAFT HIJACKING AND

KIDNAPPING•

ALL OUR EFFORTS IN THESE MANY AREAS HAVE BEEN
AIMED AT ENSURING DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY AND THE RULE OF
LAW.

BUT LET US REMEMBER THAT CRIME IS JUST ONE THREAT
TO THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF ALL AMERICANS. AT THE
FEDERAL LEVEL, WE MUST FULFILL OUR OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE
NATIONAL SECURITY AS WELL AS PERSONAL SECURITY.

UNTIL WE CAN ACHIEVE THE RULE OF LAW IN THE
GLOBAL SENSE, A STRONG MILITARY CAPABILITY IS ESSENTIAL.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE MUST BE KEPT SECURE AND

FREE FROM THE THREAT OF OUTSIDE ATTACK. THIS MEANS

WE MUST MAINTAIN OUR HIGH STATE OF MILITARY READINESS --

AND WE WILL. WE WILL CONTINUE TO ENSURE THAT THE UNITED

STATES OF AMERICA IS UNSURPASSED IN MILITARY CAPABILITY.

HERE IN TEXAS, YOU PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN

MAINTAINING OUR NATIONAL SECURITY. YOUR AEROSPACE

INDUSTRY KEEPS US STRONG, HELPS US IN THE SEARCH

FOR NEW WAYS TO DETER AGGRESSION, AND I SALUTE YOU FOR

IT.

THE DEFENSE PROGRAM I AM PROPOSING WILL MEAN

THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL REMAIN UNSURPASSED FOR YEARS

TO COME.

-- JUST ABOUT THREE WEEKS AGO WE LAID THE KEEL

FOR THE FIRST OF A NEW CLASS OF NUCLEAR SUBMARINES

TO BE ARMED WITH THE MOST ACCURATE SUBMARINE BALLISTIC

MISSILES IN THE WORLD. THIS TRIDENT MISSILE FLEET WILL

BE THE FOUNDATION FOR A FORMIDABLE, TECHNOLOGICALLY

SUPERIOR FORCE THROUGH THE 1980's.

-- WE ARE NOW COMPLETING FINAL TESTING

ON THE WORLD'S MOST MODERN AND CAPABLE STRATEGIC BOMBER,

THE B-1. AND I HAVE BUDGETED OVER ONE AND A HALF BILLION

DOLLARS FOR ITS PRODUCTION IN FISCAL YEAR 1977.

-- WE ARE ACCELERATING WORK ON A NEW INTERCONTINENTAL

BALLISTIC MISSILE FOR THE 1980's;

-- WE ARE DEVELOPING A NEW CRUISE MISSILE FOR OUR

AIR AND NAVAL FORCES.

-- NOR DOES OUR EFFORT STOP WITH WEAPONS, FOR

WE ARE ALSO EXPANDING OUR ARMY FROM 13 TO 16 COMBAT

DIVISIONS.

I PLEDGE THAT WE WILL KEEP AMERICA STRONG.

NOT STRONG FOR THE SAKE OF WAR -- BUT STRONG FOR THE

SAKE OF PEACE. WE WILL CONTINUE OUR POLICY OF

PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH. AND AT THE SAME TIME, WE

WILL MAINTAIN OUR ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP,

NEGOTIATING WHEREVER POSSIBLE TO REDUCE THE LEVEL OF

TENSIONS IN THE WORLD.

THERE ARE NO EASY ANSWERS, NO SIMPLE SOLUTIONS
TO THE COMPLEX PROBLEMS OF PERSONAL AND NATIONAL SECURITY.
BUT OUR DETERMINATION TO SOLVE THESE PROBLEMS IS IN
ITSELF A SOURCE OF STRENGTH.

