

**The original documents are located in Box 33, “5/24/76 - Remarks at the Annual Convention of the California Peace Officers Association, Anaheim, CA” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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- THANK YOU, EV (YOUNGER INTRODUCES YOU)
- CONGRESSMAN CHUCK WIGGINS
- SHERIFF LARY GILLICH (PRES CPOA)
- MEMBERS AND GUESTS OF THE CALIFORNIA PEACE OFFICERS ASSN.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...<sup>4</sup>

REMARKS AT CALIFORNIA PEACE OFFICERS CONVENTION

ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA

MONDAY, MAY 24, 1976

I AM HONORED TO ADDRESS THIS CONVENTION OF THE

PEACE OFFICERS OF CALIFORNIA. YOUR DAILY STRUGGLE TO KEEP

THE PEACE AND TO COMBAT CRIME IN THIS STATE HAS WON THE

WELL-DESERVED PRAISE OF THE PEOPLE OF CALIFORNIA.

I AM DELIGHTED TO ADD MY WORD OF SUPPORT AND GRATITUDE,

~~AS WELL.~~

IN A SPECIAL SENSE, THE GOAL OF YOUR SERVICE

AND MINE IS THE SAME:

TO MAKE LIFE SECURE FOR OUR

FELLOW CITIZENS.

AS PRESIDENT, FOR THE LAST 21 MONTHS,

I HAVE BEEN WORKING AT HOME AND ABROAD TO LAY DOWN A SOLID

AND SECURE FOUNDATION FOR AMERICA AS OUR NATION ENTERS

ITS THIRD CENTURY. THAT WILL BE A CENTURY FOR INDIVIDUAL

ACHIEVEMENT AND SELF-FULFILLMENT. I SEE IT AS A CENTURY

IN WHICH AMERICANS WILL BUILD ON ALL THE GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

OF OUR FIRST 200 YEARS.

BUT TO DO THAT, AMERICANS MUST BE SECURE --

IN THEIR HOMES AND ON THEIR STREETS -- IN THEIR JOBS --

AND IN A PEACEFUL WORLD. IT MUST BE A CENTURY OF SECURITY

FOR ALL AMERICANS.

CONSIDER, ~~FOR A MOMENT~~, THE VERY REAL CONCERN

OF SO MANY AMERICANS ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF CRIME.

LET US START WITH THE GREAT PREAMBLE OF OUR CONSTITUTION

WHICH SEEKS "TO INSURE DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY."

LAW MAKES HUMAN SOCIETY POSSIBLE.

IT PLEDGES

SAFETY TO EVERY MEMBER SO THAT THE COMPANY OF FELLOW

HUMAN BEINGS CAN BE A BLESSING INSTEAD OF A THREAT.

DO WE PROVIDE THAT DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY WHICH

THE CONSTITUTION SEEKS?

IF WE TAKE THE CRIME RATES

AS AN INDICATION, THE ANSWER HAS TO BE NO.

VIOLENT CRIMES ON OUR STREETS AND IN OUR HOMES

MAKES FEAR PERVASIVE.

THEY STRIKE AT THE ROOTS OF

COMMUNITY LIFE.

THEY MAKE CITIZENS FEAR EACH OTHER.

THE TIME HAS COME FOR SOCIETY TO ACT IN ITS

OWN SELF-DEFENSE.

AS AN IMPORTANT FIRST STEP, I FAVOR THE USE  
OF THE DEATH PENALTY IN THE FEDERAL CRIMINAL SYSTEM IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH PROPER CONSTITUTIONAL STANDARDS.

THE DEATH PENALTY IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD BE IMPOSED  
UPON THE CONVICTION OF SABOTAGE, MURDER, ESPIONAGE  
AND TREASON.

IN MURDERS INVOLVING SUBSTANTIAL DANGER TO  
THE NATIONAL SECURITY, OR WHEN THE DEFENDANT IS A COLDBLOODED  
HIRED KILLER, THE USE OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IS FULLY  
JUSTIFIED.

THE HARSH FACT IS THAT PASSIVITY AND

PERMISSIVENESS INVITE CRIME AND THAT THE CERTAINTY OF

PUNISHMENT PREVENTS CRIME, ~~AND~~ I MEAN POSITIVE, SWIFT

AND JUST PUNISHMENT. BUT THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

NEED NOT BE VINDICTIVE TO BE EFFECTIVE.

AS PRESIDENT, I WILL GIVE NO COMFORT TO THOSE  
WHO MAKE FALSE ALLEGATIONS OF POLICE BRUTALITY, ~~NOT~~ EXCUSE  
THE REAL BRUTALITY THAT EXISTS IN AMERICA TODAY, THE  
BRUTALITY OF HOODLUMS IN THE STREETS OF OUR CITIES  
THROUGHOUT AMERICA.

*2 will not*

MILLIONS OF OUR CITIZENS, INCLUDING THE ELDERLY  
AND POOR, LOCK THEMSELVES UP IN THEIR HOMES, FEARING  
VIOLENCE. I WOULD INSTEAD LOCK UP THE CRIMINALS  
WHO MAKE THEM AFRAID.

A LEGAL SYSTEM THAT IS EXPLOITED BY THE CRIMINAL  
BUT IGNORES HIS VICTIM IS SADLY OUT OF BALANCE. I ASK  
YOUR HELP AND THAT OF ALL AMERICANS IN RESTORING THAT BALANCE.

THE GREAT MAJORITY OF CRIMES CONSTITUTE VIOLATIONS

OF STATE LAWS AND THEREFORE, UNDER OUR CONSTITUTION

THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEALING WITH THEM RESTS PRIMARILY

WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER,

CAN SERVE AS A MODEL BY FIRMLY AND JUSTLY ENFORCING

ITS OWN LAWS AND BY IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF THE FEDERAL

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

WE RECALL IN THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR THAT OUR

FOUNDING FATHERS ADHERED TO THE DICTUM OF JOHN LOCKE:

"WHERE THERE IS NO LAW, THERE IS NO FREEDOM."

THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF AMERICANS ARE LAW-ABIDING

CITIZENS. IT IS A SMALL, HARD CORE OF LAW-BREAKERS

WHO COMMIT A VERY LARGE PROPORTION OF ALL CRIMES.

A RECENT STUDY IN ONE MAJOR METROPOLITAN AREA

~~RECENTLY~~ SHOWED THAT WITHIN ONE SINGLE YEAR MORE THAN

200 BURGLARIES, 60 RAPES AND 14 MURDERS WERE COMMITTED

BY ONLY TEN INDIVIDUALS.

A GREAT MANY SERIOUS CRIMES ARE COMMITTED BY REPEATERS.

SUCH CRIMINALS DULY TRIED AND CONVICTED MUST BE REMOVED

FROM OUR SOCIETY FOR A DEFINITE PERIOD OF TIME.

A LAW-ABIDING MAJORITY ~~AND~~ HAS ITS RIGHTS

AND THOSE RIGHTS SHOULD BE GIVEN FULL WEIGHT ON THE SCALES

OF JUSTICE IN AMERICA.

WITH VERY FEW EXCEPTIONS, I STRONGLY ADVOCATE

MANDATORY MINIMUM SENTENCES FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO COMMITTED

CRIMES OR OFFENSES INVOLVING THE USE OF A DANGEROUS WEAPON

OR WHO COMMIT SUCH GRAVE OFFENSES AS AIRCRAFT HIJACKING,

KIDNAPPING AND DEALING IN HARD DRUGS, AND FOR REPEATED

OFFENDERS WHO COMMIT FEDERAL CRIMES THAT HARM OR ENDANGER

OTHERS.

THE WAY TO REDUCE CRIMINAL USE OF HANDGUNS

IS NOT TO DISARM LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS. I AM OPPOSED

TO THE REGISTRATION OF GUNS AND GUN OWNERS. THE WAY

TO REDUCE CRIMINAL USE OF HANDGUNS IS TO IMPOSE MANDATORY

SENTENCES FOR GUN CRIMES, / TO PROHIBIT THE MANUFACTURE AND

SALE OF "SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIALS" / AND TO CONCENTRATE OUR

RESOURCES FOR ENFORCEMENT IN HIGH CRIME AREAS.

LAST JULY, I RECOMMENDED TO THE CONGRESS A BILL  
TO ACHIEVE THESE OBJECTIVES, AND I URGE AND STRONGLY ADVOCATE  
ACTION BY THE CONGRESS TO ACT IMMEDIATELY AND WITHOUT  
HARASSING THE LAWFUL GUN OWNER.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT CAUSE OF THE VIOLENT CRIME  
THAT PLAGUES AMERICANS AND A MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO THE  
SOARING CRIME RATE IS DRUG ABUSE.

THE TIME HAS COME TO STEP UP OUR FIGHT, SHARPEN

THE WEAPONS IN OUR ARSENAL AND LAUNCH A NEW AND FAR MORE

AGGRESSIVE ATTACK AGAINST THIS INSIDIOUS ENEMY•

THE COST OF DRUG ABUSE TO THIS NATION IS STAGGERING•

EVERY YEAR MORE THAN 5,000 AMERICANS DIE

FROM DIRECT DRUG-RELATED CAUSES. EVERY YEAR MORE THAN

170,000 INJURIES CAN BE DIRECTLY TRACED TO DRUGS.

EVERY YEAR THE PROBLEM OF DRUG ABUSE COSTS UP TO

17 BILLION DOLLARS.

SIGNIFICANTLY, THE GREATEST BULK OF THIS

17 BILLION DOLLARS IS MONEY LOST THROUGH CRIME.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS ESTIMATE THAT UP TO ONE-HALF

OF ROBBERIES, MUGGINGS, BURGLARIES AND OTHER FORMS OF

PROPERTY CRIMES ARE COMMITTED BY ADDICTS TO SUPPORT THEIR

EXPENSIVE AND DEBILITATING HABIT.

AND I PLEDGE TO YOU TODAY THAT WE WILL SPARE

NO EFFORT TO CRUSH THE MENACE OF DRUG ABUSE.

CLEARLY, AS WE LOOK AT THE PICTURE TODAY,

OUR FIRST DEFENSE MUST BE DIRECTED AT OUR OWN BORDERS TO

CLAMP DOWN ON THE ILLEGAL FLOW OF DRUGS FROM FOREIGN SOURCES.

~~AND~~ SINCE 80 TO 90 PERCENT OF THE CURRENT FLOW OF HEROIN

COMES ACROSS THE MEXICAN BORDER, WE MUST <sup>expand</sup> ~~BEGIN~~ OUR

CRACKDOWN THERE.

~~SEE~~, OUR EFFORTS MUST NOT STOP THERE.

WE MUST ALSO ACCELERATE OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

THROUGHOUT OUR OWN COUNTRY.

~~FRANKLY~~, DESPITE ALL THE RHETORIC OF RECENT YEARS,

I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE YET SUCCEEDED IN MAKING IT TOUGH

ENOUGH FOR DRUG TRAFFICKERS.

~~AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED,~~ THE PEOPLE WHO TRAFFIC  
IN HARD DRUGS ARE NOTHING LESS THAN MERCHANTS OF DEATH AND  
SHOULD BE PUT BEHIND BARS FOR A LONG, LONG, LONG TIME.

~~THE~~ JUSTICE DEPARTMENT STUDIES SHOW THAT MORE  
THAN A QUARTER OF THOSE CONVICTED OF NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING  
DO NOT SPEND A SINGLE DAY IN JAIL.

THE EXTRAORDINARY LAXITY THAT SOMETIMES EXISTS WAS  
ILLUSTRATED RECENTLY IN A CASE WHEN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS  
ARRESTED 31 PEOPLE, MOST OF WHOM WERE MAJOR VIOLATORS  
RESPONSIBLE FOR VERY LARGE SHIPMENTS OF HEROIN INTO THE  
UNITED STATES, 19 OF THOSE ARRESTED WERE IMMEDIATELY FREED ON  
A 500 DOLLAR PERSONAL RECOGNIZANT BOND, EVEN THOUGH  
THEIR OFFENSES WERE PUNISHABLE BY 15 YEARS IN JAIL.

ALL BUT TWO OF THE 19 HAD LONG, LONG ARREST  
RECORDS, AND ONE WAS ON PAROLE FOR A NARCOTICS OFFENSE•

THIS IS UNFORGIVEABLE, COMPLETELY INDEFENSIBLE•

WE HAVE TO CLOSE LEGAL LOOPHOLES THAT PERMIT

TRAFFICKERS TO ESCAPE THE FEDERAL PENITENTIARY• THOSE WHO

LIVE OFF THE MISERY OF OTHERS MUST PAY THE PRICE, AND THE

HIGHER THE PRICE, THE BETTER•

ABOVE ALL, WE MUST ALWAYS REMEMBER

THAT LAW ENFORCEMENT ALONE CANNOT WIN THE WAR ON CRIME.

~~IN FACT,~~ THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT,

STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES WILL BE OF LITTLE USE UNLESS

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE RALLY TO FIGHT THE SCOURGE OF CRIME

WITHIN THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES.

I AM PARTICULARLY ENCOURAGED BY THE CITIZEN COALITIONS

AGAINST CRIME THAT ARE CROPPING UP ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.

HERE, AS IN OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AREAS, CALIFORNIA IS

IN THE FOREFRONT.

THE 50,000 VOLUNTEERS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES, FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE BEEN ABLE

TO CUT CRIME SUBSTANTIALLY - AND IN VALLEJO (Val-lay-ho)

NOT A SINGLE MEMBER OF THE CITY'S HOME ALERT PROGRAM

HAD THEIR HOME BURGLARIZED DURING ALL OF 1975.

AMERICANS HAVE ALWAYS STOOD UNITED AND STRONG

AGAINST ALL ENEMIES. CRIME AND DRUG ABUSE ARE ENEMIES

THAT WE CAN OVERCOME BUT THERE MUST BE A PERSONAL

AND A NATIONAL DEDICATION TO THE GOAL.

IF I HAD TO SUM UP THE RECORD OF MY ADMINISTRATION  
IN JUST A FEW WORDS, IT WOULD BE PEACE, PROSPERITY AND TRUST  
IN AMERICA.

TODAY AMERICA IS AT PEACE. YOUR SONS ARE NOT  
BEING DRAFTED, THEY ARE NOT DYING ON ANY BATTLEFIELD.

I WANT TO MAINTAIN THE PEACE, ADVANCE PEACE  
AMONG ALL NATIONS, SECURE THAT PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH  
AND PERSEVERANCE AND LEAVE THAT LEGACY OF PEACE  
FOR OUR CHILDREN AND THEIR CHILDREN.

I WILL CONTINUE MY POLICIES OF CUTTING YOUR TAXES,

EXPANDING THE PRIVATE ECONOMY, REDUCING BUREAUCRACY

AND USELESS REGULATION, AND RESTRAINING <sup>Federal</sup> SPENDING.

MY POLICIES HAVE BROUGHT US FROM THE DEPTHS OF RECESSION

TO A SUSTAINED RECOVERY, AND WILL ENSURE THAT RUNAWAY

INFLATION NEVER AGAIN ROBS US OR OUR LOVED ONES

OF THE REWARDS OF HONEST WORK AND LIFETIME SAVINGS.

I WANT TO PURSUE THE STEADY COURSE THAT LED

FROM WAR TO PEACE, FROM RECESSION TO RECOVERY, FROM  
CYNICISM TO CONFIDENCE, FROM FEAR TO FAITH.

FINALLY, I WANT TO FINISH MY MOST IMPORTANT

JOB, RESTORATION OF TRUST IN THE PRESIDENCY ITSELF.

AS YOUR PRESIDENT, I WILL PROMISE NO MORE  
THAN I CAN DELIVER \ AND I WILL DELIVER EVERYTHING THAT I PROMISE.

THE REASON I AM IN THIS RACE TO STAY IS  
TO ENSURE PEACE, PROSPERITY AND TRUST FOR THE FUTURE.

THE FUTURE BELONGS TO THOSE WHO COME AFTER US.

WE AMERICANS HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN THAT LIFE

WILL BE BETTER FOR OUR CHILDREN THAT IT WAS FOR US.

BECAUSE LIFE FOR US HAS BEEN BETTER THAN IT WAS FOR OUR PARENTS.

WHAT DO I SEE AHEAD FOR THIS WONDERFUL COUNTRY

OF OURS?

I SEE A STRONG AND CONFIDENT AMERICA,

SECURE IN A STRENGTH THAT CANNOT ALONE BE COUNTED IN MEGATONS

*a nation*

AND REJOICING IN RICHES THAT CANNOT BE ERODED BY INFLATION

OR TAXATION.

I SEE AN AMERICA WHERE LIFE IS VALUED FOR ITS QUALITY  
AS WELL AS ITS COMFORT, WHERE THE INDIVIDUAL IS INVIOLATE  
IN HIS CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS, WHERE THE GOVERNMENT SERVES  
AND THE PEOPLE RULE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT