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

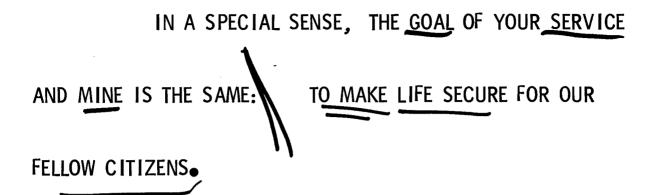
REMARKS AT CALIFORNIA PEACE OFFICERS CONVENTION

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



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 $-\sqrt{\text{IN THEIR JOBS}}$ 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 COMP ANY 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

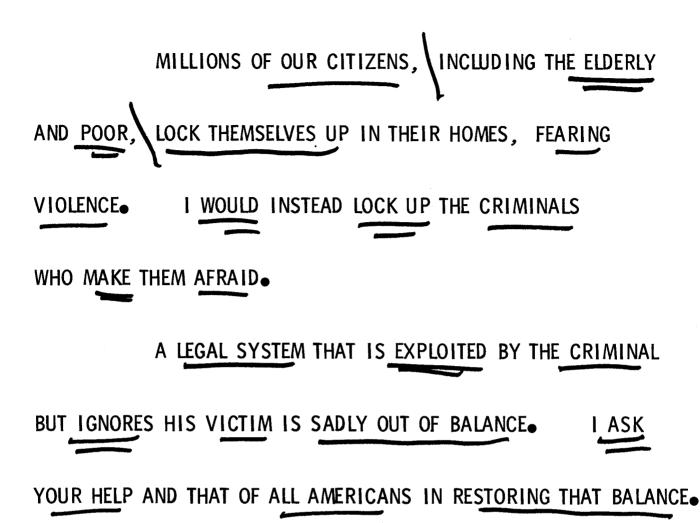
THE NATIONAL SECURITY, OR WHEN THE DEFENDANT IS A COLD BLOODED

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, BUT EXCUSE THE REAL BRUTALITY THAT EXISTS IN AMERICA TODAY, THE BRUTALITY OF HOODLUMS IN THE STREETS OF OUR CITIES

THROUGHOUT AMERICA.



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.

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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 <u>GREAT MANY SERIOUS CRIMES ARE COMMITTED BY REPEATERS.</u> SUCH CRIMINALS DULY TRIED AND <u>CONVICTED</u> MUST BE <u>REMOVED</u> FROM OUR SOCIETY FOR A DEFINITE PERIOD OF TIME.

A LAW-ABIDING MAJORITY AND HAS ITS RIGHTS

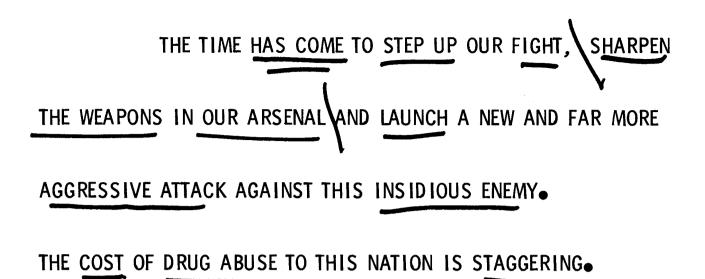
AND THOSE RIGHTS SHOULD BE GIVEN FULL WEIGHT ON THE SCALES

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. -19-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.

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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 <u>BILLION DOLLARS IS MONEY LOST THROUGH CRIME</u> 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.

CRACKDOWN THERE

ALL, OUR EFFORTS MUST NOT STOP THERE.

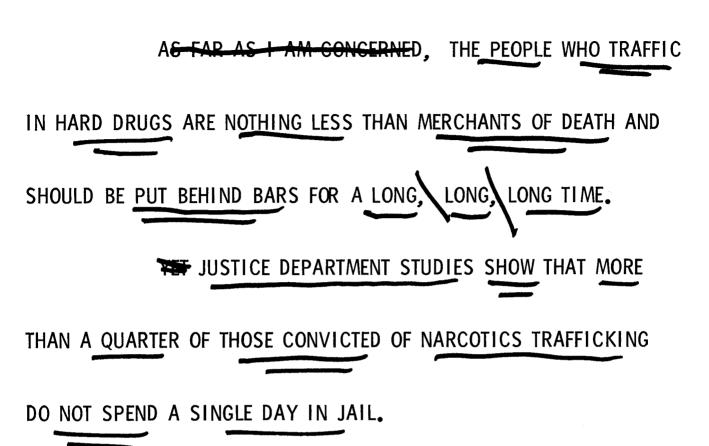
WE MUST ALSO ACCELERATE OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

THROUGHOUT OUR OWN COUNTRY.

ERANKEY, DESPITE ALL THE RHETORIC OF RECENT YEARS,

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

ENOUGH FOR DRUG TRAFFICKERS.



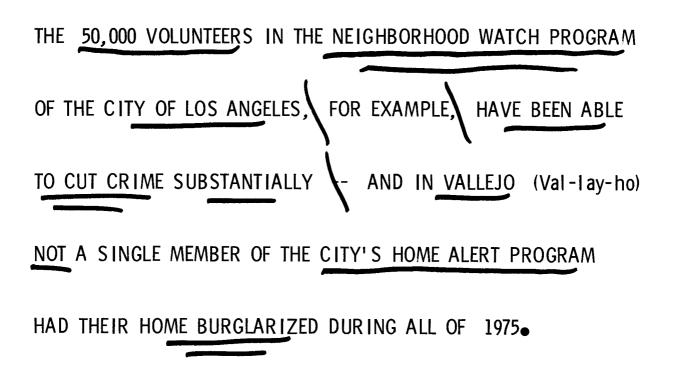
THE EXTRAORDINARY LAXITY THAT SOMETIMES EXISTS WAS ILLUSTRATED RECENTLY IN A CASE WHEN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ARRESTED 31 PEOPLE, MOST OF WHOM WERE MAJOR VIOLATORS RESPONSIBLE FOR VERY LARGE SHIPMENTS OF HEROIN INTO THE UNITED STATES, 19 OF THOSE ARRESTED WERE IMMEDIATELY FREED ON A 500 DOLLAR PERSONAL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

I AM PARTICULARLY ENCOURAGED BY THE CITIZEN COALITIONS

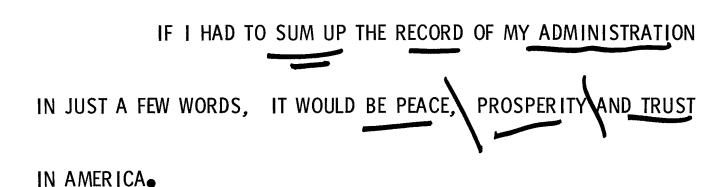
AGAINST CRIME THAT ARE CROPPING UP ALL OVER THE COUNTRY. HERE, AS IN OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AREAS, CALIFORNIA IS IN THE FOREFRONT.



AMERICANS HAVE ALWAYS STOOD UNITED AND STRONG

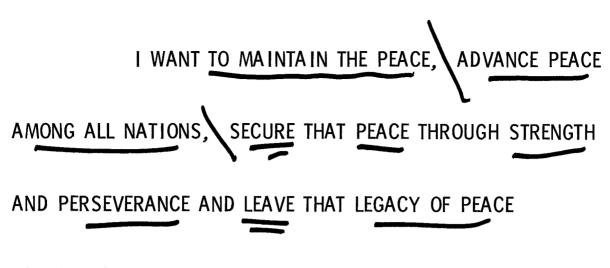
AGAINST ALL ENEMIES. CRIME AND DRUG ABUSE ARE ENEMIES THAT WE CAN OVERCOME BUT THERE MUST BE A PERSONAL

AND A NATIONAL DEDICATION TO THE GOAL.

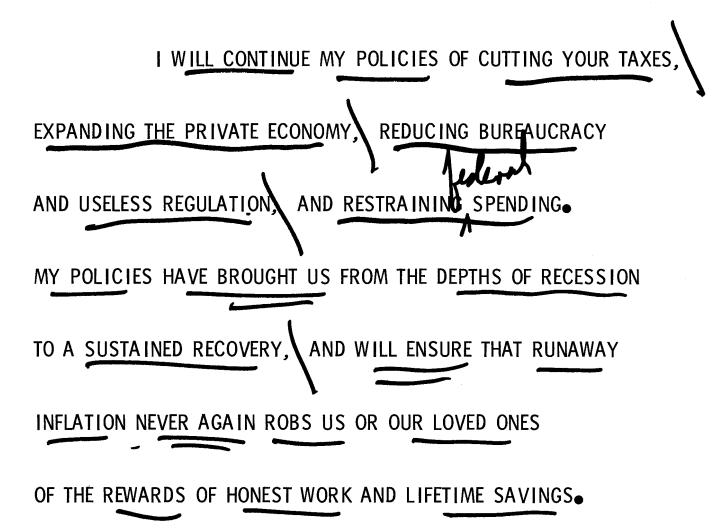


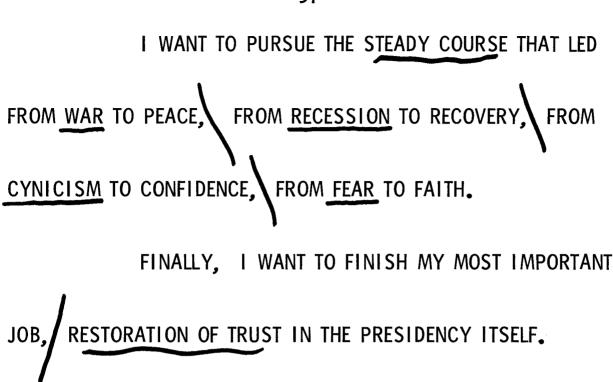
TODAY AMERICA IS AT PEACE. YOUR SONS ARE NOT

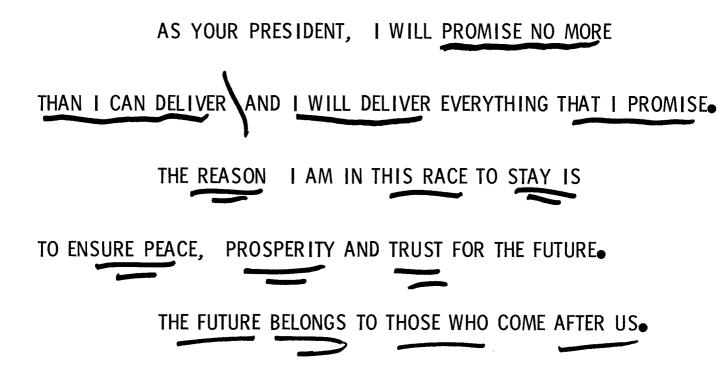
BEING DRAFTED, THEY ARE NOT DYING ON ANY BATTLEFIELD.



FOR OUR CHILDREN AND THEIR CHILDREN.







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.

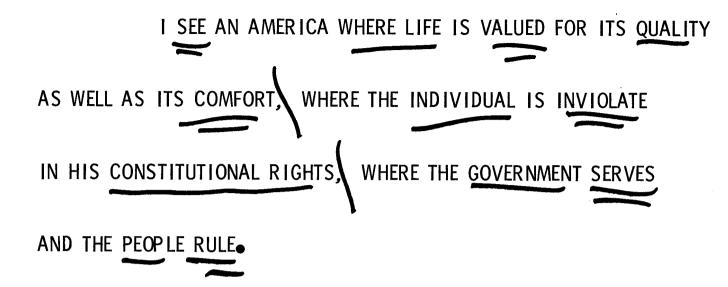
WHAT DO I SEE AHEAD FOR THIS WONDERFUL COUNTRY

OF OURS?

I SEE A STRONG AND CONFIDENT AMERICA,

SECURE IN A STRENGTH THAT CANNOT ALONE BE COUNTED IN MEGATONS

OR TAXATION.



THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT