

The original documents are located in Box 38, “9/27/76 - Remarks at the 83rd Annual Conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Miami, Florida” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS TO THE CONFERENCE OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE,
SEPTEMBER 27, 1976

- CHIEF CLEMENT

- DIRECTOR KELLEY

- MAYOR ROSEN (D-Miami Beach)

- OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

- REVEREND CLERGY

- LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

NO PAUSE



I AM GREATLY HONORED TO BE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE. I CONGRATULATE
CHIEF ED DAVIS OF LOS ANGELES, YOUR NEW PRESIDENT. /

LATER THIS WEEK I WILL SIGN LEGISLATION THAT REFLECTS
THE WILL OF A GRATEFUL PEOPLE AND THEIR GOVERNMENT. /

NO PAUSE

-2-

IT WILL DEMONSTRATE THE ESTEEM OF A FREE SOCIETY FOR
ITS 600 THOUSAND SWORN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND OTHERS
ENTRUSTED WITH OUR PUBLIC SAFETY. I REFER TO ^{legislation} HR. 366,
THE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS' BENEFITS ACT OF 1976, WHICH WILL
PAY 50 THOUSAND DOLLARS TO THE SURVIVORS OF ANY PUBLIC
SAFETY OFFICER WHO LOSES HIS OR HER LIFE IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

NO AMOUNT OF MONEY CAN FILL THE VOID LEFT BY THE

Courageous

~~BRAVE~~ OFFICERS WHO MAKE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE.

What we

~~THE LEAST~~

will do

~~WE CAN DO~~ IS TO ASSURE THEIR NEXT OF KIN OF APPROPRIATE

BENEFITS.

AS YOUR PRESIDENT I WILL SIGN THIS LAW ON BEHALF OF

EVERY AMERICAN.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA SALUTES ALL THE MEN AND
WOMEN WHO SO DEVOTEDLY SERVE THEIR NATION AND THEIR
FELLOW CITIZENS. /

WE MUST RESPOND TO THE SUFFERING OF ALL THE
VICTIMS OF CRIME IN OUR SOCIETY. CONSIDERING THE
GREAT EMPHASIS NOW PLACED ON THE RIGHTS OF THE ACCUSED,
WE MUST PAY MORE ATTENTION TO THE RIGHTS OF THE VICTIM.

I AM SHOCKED AND ANGERED THAT OUR OLDER AND
LEAST ADVANTAGED CITIZENS ARE TOO OFTEN BRUTALLY
VICTIMIZED•

IT IS EQUALLY SHOCKING THAT THE CONGRESS HAS
FAILED TO ACT ON MY PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE COMPENSATION
FOR THE VICTIMS OF ^{*Federal*} CRIME•

NO PAUSE

I HAVE URGED THAT SIMILAR ACTION BE TAKEN BY STATE

GOVERNMENTS. ~~[AND AM PLEASED TO NOTE THAT]~~ 17 STATES HAVE

ENACTED CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION LEGISLATION -- AND

A NUMBER OF OTHERS ARE CONSIDERING SUCH STATUTES.

NO PAUSE

NO PRESIDENT AND NO POLICE CHIEF CAN PRESERVE
DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY WITHOUT COOPERATION /-- THE
COOPERATION OF AMERICA'S CITIZENS, AMERICA'S NEIGHBORHOODS
AND AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES. THAT IS WHY I ADDRESS
MYSELF TODAY TO ALL AMERICANS WHO ARE DETERMINED TO ACT
AGAINST CRIME.

NO PAUSE

THE COST OF CRIME IN AMERICA HAS BEEN ESTIMATED

AT 97 BILLION DOLLARS A YEAR -- ALMOST AS MUCH AS THE

ENTIRE U.S. DEFENSE BUDGET. BUT EVEN THAT FIGURE,

HIGH AS IT IS, DOES NOT TAKE INTO FULL ACCOUNT THE TERRIBLE

IMPACT OF CRIME ON OUR SOCIETY.

NO PAUSE

WE CANNOT COUNT IN DOLLARS AND CENTS THE LOSS OF
A SINGLE CITIZEN WHO IS MURDERED, THE HUMILIATION OF ONE
WHO IS RAPED, THE PAIN OF ONE WHO IS ASSAULTED.

WE CANNOT CALCULATE THE COST TO A FREE SOCIETY WHEN
PEOPLE ARE FORCED TO BARRICADE THEMSELVES IN THEIR OWN HOMES.

NO PAUSE

IT IS TIME TO GIVE THE STREETS BACK TO LAW-ABIDING
CITIZENS, AND TO PUT THE CRIMINALS BEHIND BARS•

STUDY AFTER STUDY HAS SHOWN THAT CRIME IS NOT
THE WORK OF MANY OFFENDERS, BUT OF A RELATIVELY SMALL
NUMBER OF CHRONIC LAW-BREAKERS WHO HAVE CHOSEN CRIME
AS A CAREER•

THE CAREER CRIMINAL IS A ONE-MAN CRIME WAVE•

HE COMMITS BETWEEN 50 AND 80 PERCENT OF ALL SERIOUS
OFFENSES•

IN WASHINGTON, D.C., ONE MAN RECENTLY CONFESSED TO
50 RAPES, 80 BURGLARIES, 10 ARMED ROBBERIES, AND MORE
STOLEN CARS THAN HE COULD REMEMBER•

NO PAUSE

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THE LEAA HAS REPORTED THAT FORTY-NINE CRIMINALS, ACTING

INDIVIDUALLY, COMMITTED OVER 10 THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED

CRIMES.

IF WE CAN BRING THE CAREER CRIMINAL TO A SPEEDY TRIAL,

TRY HIM FOR HIS MOST SERIOUS RATHER THAN LEAST SERIOUS

OFFENSE, AND MAKE SURE THAT, IF FOUND GUILTY HE IS SENT TO

PRISON, WE CAN GIVE THE STREETS BACK TO THE PEOPLE.

NO PAUSE



I DO NOT ADVOCATE VIGILANTEE ACTION.

BUT I DO

ADVOCATE SWIFT AND CERTAIN JUSTICE.

YOU KNOW THESE CRIMINALS.

THEIR NAMES APPEAR

ON POLICE BLOTTERS AND COURT DOCKETS DAY AFTER DAY.

THEY HAVE BEEN ON PROBATION,

IN HALFWAY HOUSES,

AND ON PAROLE.

THEY HAD EVERY CHANCE FOR REHABILITATION. BUT

NOTHING HAS WORKED.

NO PAUSE

IT IS NO ENCROACHMENT ON THE PRESUMPTION OF INNOCENCE

TO IDENTIFY THOSE WHOSE BUSINESS IS CRIME. OUR JOB IS TO

PUT THEM OUT OF BUSINESS.

TWO YEARS AGO, I OUTLINED TO THIS ASSOCIATION

A "CAREER CRIMINAL" PROGRAM.

NO PAUSE

WE TARGETED 12 JURISDICTIONS FOR AN INITIAL

DEMONSTRATION. IN THE LAST SIXTEEN MONTHS, THOSE

2,000

JURISDICTIONS HAVE SINGLED OUT MORE THAN TWO THOUSAND

CAREER CRIMINALS, WITH AN AVERAGE OF FIVE PRIOR

CONVICTIONS A PIECE - NOT FIVE ARRESTS, BUT FIVE

CONVICTIONS - A PIECE.

NEW CASES INVOLVING THESE HABITUAL OFFENDERS

WERE ASSIGNED TO SPECIAL UNITS OF THE DISTRICT

ATTORNEYS' OFFICES.

EVERY RIGHT OF THE ACCUSED WAS PROTECTED, INCLUDING THE RIGHT

TO A SPEEDY TRIAL. WITH ABSOLUTELY NO "PLEA BARGAINING"

FOR LESSER OFFENSES, THE PROSECUTORS ACHIEVED DRAMATIC

RESULTS.

STRAIGHT THROUGH

OF THOSE 2 THOUSAND DEFENDANTS, 95 PERCENT WERE

CONVICTED. THE AVERAGE TIME BETWEEN ARREST AND

FINAL SENTENCING WAS ONLY 84 DAYS. THE AVERAGE

SENTENCE FOR THOSE CONVICTED WAS 20 YEARS IN PRISON.

IN MOST AREAS THE CRIME RATE DEMONSTRABLY WENT DOWN.

NO PAUSE

I HAVE DIRECTED THE LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE

ADMINISTRATION TO SIGNIFICANTLY EXPAND THE SCOPE OF THIS

PROGRAM, TO INCLUDE NOT ONLY MORE PROSECUTORS' OFFICES BUT

POLICE AND CORRECTIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AS WELL. / IN THE

NEXT FISCAL YEAR THE NUMBER OF FEDERALLY-FUNDED CAREER CRIMINAL

JURISDICTIONS WILL BE AT LEAST DOUBLED. I URGE STATE AND

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO START ~~SUCH~~ ^{and expand the effective} PROGRAMS WITH THEIR OWN

^{money}
RESOURCES.

NO PAUSE

THE NATIONAL TREND IS THAT LESS THAN TEN PERCENT OF
THOSE CONVICTED SPEND ANY TIME ~~AT ALL~~ IN JAIL. THIS IS
INTOLERABLE.

Out

~~THE~~ CONSTITUTION RESERVES JURISDICTION OVER MOST
CRIMES TO STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

NO PAUSE

BUT IN OFFENSES WHERE THE CONSTITUTION GIVES JURISDICTION TO

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND, THEREFORE, GIVES THE PRESIDENT

SOME SAY IN THE MATTER - KIDNAPPING, HIJACKING,

TRAFFICKING IN HARD DRUGS, AND FEDERAL CRIMES INVOLVING

USE OF DANGEROUS WEAPONS - I HAVE PROPOSED MANDATORY

SENTENCES.

If convicted they go to jail.

We're going to

WE MUST STOP LETTING CONVICTED CRIMINALS GO

That's

FREE.

THAT IS THE WAY TO DETER CRIME.

NO PAUSE

~~FBI~~ LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS HAVE THE PRIMARY

RESPONSIBILITY FOR FIGHTING VIOLENT CRIME. BUT CRIME IS SO

PERVASIVE IT CAN BE BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL ONLY BY CONCERTED

ACTION AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT / -- FEDERAL, STATE AND

LOCAL / - AND BY THE COOPERATION OF LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS

police volunteers
AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS.

NO PAUSE

I AM GREATLY ENCOURAGED BY THE REVIVAL OF PUBLIC

COOPERATION WITH THE POLICE AND THE CONFIDENCE YOU HAVE

INSTILLED IN EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD OF YOUR COMMUNITIES.

THE POLICE OFFICER HAS BECOME A CATALYST FOR RESPONSIBLE

GOVERNMENT.

KEEP MOVING → →

NO PAUSE

TWO YEARS AGO I PLEDGED TO YOU, THE POLICE CHIEFS,

THAT A HIGH PRIORITY OF MY ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE THE

CONTROL OF CRIME . . . ESPECIALLY VIOLENT CRIME.

SINCE 1974, WE HAVE BEEN MAKING PROGRESS. IN 1974

THE CRIME RATE HAD INCREASED BY A STAGGERING 18 PERCENT OVER

THE PREVIOUS YEAR. BY 1975, WE HAD CUT THE RATE OF

INCREASE IN HALF -- TO 9 PERCENT.

No pause

STATISTICS FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR

SHOW THE INCREASE IN THE RATE OF CRIME REDUCED TO ABOUT

THREE PERCENT. / EVEN BETTER, THE NEW FIGURES REVEAL

THAT THE RATE OF VIOLENT CRIME HAS ACTUALLY DECREASED

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY YEARS. / THE VIOLENT CRIMES

OF MURDER, FORCIBLE RAPE, ROBBERY, AND AGGRAVATED

ASSAULT DECREASED 6 PERCENT DURING THE FIRST 6 MONTHS

OF 1976.

There is a new attitude in America.

AMERICANS WHO HAVE REVERENCE FOR THE LAW ARE

FIGHTING BACK.

WE MUST NOT STOP UNTIL WE TEAR AWAY THE SHROUD OF

FEAR FROM EVERY CORNER OF AMERICA TO CONTROL RURAL AND

SUBURBAN CRIMES AS WELL AS THOSE OF THE BIG CITIES.

~~BUT~~ THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM CANNOT BY ITSELF

CONTROL CRIME. FURTHER REDUCTION OF THE CRIME RATE

REQUIRES THE INVOLVEMENT OF ALL AMERICANS.

No pause

THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND THE FAMILY ARE OUR BEST

DEFENSES AGAINST CRIME.

FAMILY RESPONSIBILITY

NOT GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

IS THE BEST WAY TO MAKE SURE

CHILDREN ARE PROPERLY NURTURED,

THE ELDERLY ARE CARED FOR,

OUR CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL HERITAGE PRESERVED AND OUR LAWS

RESPECTED.

THE POLICE CAN DO LITTLE TO CURB JUVENILE

DELINQUENCY WITHOUT THE FAMILY'S COOPERATION.

KEEP PACE

NO PAUSE

WE HEAR MORE ABOUT THE RIGHTS OF JUVENILE

OFFENDERS THAN ABOUT THE RIGHTS OF THEIR VICTIMS.

FORTY-FIVE PERCENT OF ALL VIOLENT CRIME IS NOW

PERPETRATED BY JUVENILES. IF THEY ARE BIG ENOUGH

TO COMMIT VICIOUS CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY, THEY

ARE BIG ENOUGH TO BE PUNISHED BY SOCIETY.

NO PAUSE

TOO MANY VIOLENT AND STREET-WISE JUVENILES

ARE USING THEIR AGE AS A CLOAK OF IMMUNITY•

DETENTION MAY NOT HELP THE JUVENILE• BUT IT WILL

CERTAINLY HELP HIS POTENTIAL VICTIMS•

GENUINE JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

PROVIDE AN ALTERNATIVE TO CRIME. *We are making progress in this area & will do better as our economy continues to improve.*

N.P.

IF REHABILITATION IS TO BECOME A REALITY, INSTEAD OF
THE PRETENSE IT IS TODAY, THE PRIVATE SECTOR MUST
PROVIDE MORE JOBS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DEBT
TO SOCIETY.

IN MY CRIME MESSAGE TO THE CONGRESS, I CALLED
FOR A COMPREHENSIVE FEDERAL CRIMINAL CODE TO SERVE
AS A MODEL FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

N.P.
I CALLED FOR MANDATORY MINIMUM SENTENCES FOR CERTAIN
FEDERAL CRIMES AND FOR VIOLENT REPEAT OFFENDERS.

I CALLED FOR LEGISLATION INCREASING THE NUMBER
OF FEDERAL JUDGES.

AND I CALLED FOR COMPENSATION OF THE VICTIMS OF
FEDERAL CRIMES.

N.P. X

IN RESPONSE TO MY REQUESTS, THE CONGRESS HAS DONE

NOTHING. TOO MANY POLITICIANS TODAY ARE UNDERESTIMATING

THE PUBLIC'S CONCERN ABOUT CRIME! JUST AS THE POLICE

IDENTIFY CAREER CRIMINALS, AMERICAN VOTERS WILL EXAMINE

THEIR BALLOTS IN NOVEMBER AND IDENTIFY THOSE CANDIDATES

WHO HAVE DEMONSTRATED INDIFFERENCE OR PERMISSIVENESS

TOWARD CRIME.

N.P.

I SERVE NOTICE TODAY THAT A TOP PRIORITY OF THE FIRST

100 DAYS BEGINNING WITH INAUGURATION DAY FOR THE

FORD ADMINISTRATION NEXT JANUARY WILL BE THE RALLYING OF

AMERICA BEHIND FEDERAL ANTI-CRIME LEGISLATION.

2

~~WILL~~ ASK EVERY POLICE CHIEF IN AMERICA --

AND EVERY CITIZEN -- TO JOIN IN THAT CRUSADE.

2

NP

~~I WILL~~ RECOMMEND STRICT CONTROLS AND MORE STRINGENT

PENALTIES TO STAMP OUT THE THREAT OF POLITICAL TERRORISM

WHICH IS TOTALLY ALIEN TO AMERICAN IDEALS.

I ASK ALL ATHLETES, AMATEUR AND PROFESSIONAL, TO HELP

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE. ATHLETES CAN SCORE HIGH BY PROVIDING

YOUTH WITH ALTERNATIVES TO CRIME.

~~If young~~
football,

Kids who are playing, baseball, basketball,
and tennis are not kids committing crimes.

HEROES OF SPORTS INSTEAD OF CRIMINALS ARE THE MODELS

look-up to.

FOR YOUNGSTERS TO EMULATE.

I HAVE DIRECTED MY

COUNCIL ON PHYSICAL FITNESS AND SPORTS, IN PARTNERSHIP

WITH STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS,

TO PROMOTE TEAM PLAY RATHER THAN FOUL PLAY.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHARES DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY

FOR ORGANIZED CRIME, WHITE COLLAR CRIME AND OFFICIAL

CORRUPTION. THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HAS MADE

GREAT STRIDES IN COMBATTING THIS KIND OF CRIME.

TO ENSURE THAT THIS FEDERAL EFFORT IS FULLY

COORDINATED, I WILL ESTABLISH AN INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON

CRIME. IT WILL INCLUDE THE HEADS OF ALL FEDERAL AGENCIES

OPERATING PROGRAMS INVOLVED WITH CRIME. IT WILL BE

directed

CHAIRED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

ONE OF THE FIRST JOBS OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE TO REVIEW

THE POLICIES OF MAJOR DOMESTIC AGENCIES AND RECOMMEND

CHANGES TO LOWER THE CRIME RATE.

THE COUNCIL WILL ~~ALSO~~

DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOR CRIME CONTROL

AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE FEDERAL

GOVERNMENT.

AS MUCH AS ONE-HALF OF ALL STREET CRIME IS COMMITTED
BY DRUG ADDICTS TO SUPPORT THEIR HABIT.

SINCE TAKING OFFICE:

-- I HAVE REORGANIZED OUR PROGRAMS AND PRIORITIES
TO MAKE MAXIMUM USE OF ANTI-DRUG RESOURCES.

-- I MET WITH THE HEADS OF STATE OF MEXICO, TURKEY
AND COLOMBIA TO SECURE THEIR COOPERATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL
WAR ON DRUGS.

-- I PROPOSED LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD CLOSE THE
LOOPHOLES THAT PERMIT DRUG TRAFFICKERS TO PREY ON THE YOUNG.

-- I DIRECTED THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE TO
REINSTITUTE AND EMPHASIZE A TAX ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

AIMED AT HIGH-LEVEL DRUG TRAFFICKERS. / SINCE THEN THE

I.R.S., AIDED BY THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION, HAS

IDENTIFIED ^{over} ~~SOME~~ 375 SUSPECTED BIG TIME DRUG PUSHERS FOR

INTENSIVE INVESTIGATION.

-- AND I CALLED FOR MORE THAN THREE-QUARTERS OF
A BILLION DOLLARS A YEAR TO FINANCE THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUG
ABUSE.

FOR EVERY YOUNG PERSON WHO DIES OF A DRUG OVERDOSE --
AND THERE WERE ALMOST FIVE THOUSAND OF THEM LAST YEAR --
THERE ARE THOUSANDS MORE WHO DO NOT DIE BUT CAN ONLY GO
THROUGH THE MOTIONS OF LIVING.

WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS.

TOTAL FEDERAL SEIZURES

OF DRUGS AND ARRESTS OF DRUG TRAFFICKERS ARE UP SHARPLY

OVER PREVIOUS YEARS.

COOPERATION AMONG FEDERAL

AGENCIES IS FAR BETTER.

BUT OUR ABILITY TO DEAL WITH DRUGS DEPENDS TO

A LARGE EXTENT ON THE WILLINGNESS OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS

TO WORK WITH US.

N.P
↑
↓

BECAUSE MEXICO IS THE MAJOR SOURCE OF HEROIN

ENTERING THE UNITED STATES, THE FIRST FOREIGN HEAD OF STATE

WITH WHOM I DISCUSSED NARCOTIC CONTROL COOPERATION WAS

THE PRESIDENT OF MEXICO.

~~ONLY~~

LAST FRIDAY WITH THE

2 met
1

NEW PRESIDENT-ELECT OF MEXICO.

HE HAS ASSURED ME OF HIS

FULL COOPERATION.

WITH THE CONTINUING SUPPORT OF MEXICO, WE CAN DRASTICALLY

CURTAIN THIS SOURCE OF DRUGS IN LESS THAN A YEAR.

I CALL UPON STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ~~NOT TO BACK~~

~~AWAY FROM THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS AREA BUT~~ TO MOVE
with us

FORWARD UNTIL WE BRING THE DRUG TRAFFIC UNDER CONTROL.

CRIME IS A TERRIBLE ENEMY.

BUT WE CAN BEAT IT

AND WE ARE BEATING IT.

VICTORY REQUIRES A CONTINUED CLEAR AND PREDICTABLE

POLICY.

IT REQUIRES REAL REVERENCE FOR THE LAW.

I KNOW I CAN COUNT ON YOU AND MILLIONS OF OTHER

LAW-ABIDING AMERICANS WHO BELIEVE WITH US THAT BY FIGHTING

CRIME WE ARE BUILDING FREEDOM.

I THANK YOU.

END OF TEXT