

The original documents are located in Box D30, folder “Graduation Exercises, Police Academy, Grand Rapids, MI, July 17, 1970” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. The Council donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Distribution: 10 copies to Mr. Ford only M Office Copy

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

Mr. Superintendent, members of the 1970 graduating class of the Grand Rapids Police Academy, their families and friends:

As we meet here tonight we are all filled with a feeling of pride. It is a most natural feeling, a justifiable feeling, one that traces to a knowledge of accomplishment and of prospective community betterment.

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.

We have in our national constitution a Bill of Rights, the first ten constitutional amendments, which became effective Dec. 15, 1789. Nearly 13 years earlier the State of Virginia adopted a Bill of Rights which is the father of all American bills of rights.

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

(more)



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.

The overwhelming majority of the 200 millions of people in the United States admire you and are keenly aware of the dignity of your work.

They know your work is meaningful and that you are dedicated to serving the community. They know there is no greater service a man can render than to save the life of another.

This is why I said at the outset that there is and should be a natural feeling of pride here tonight. I personally am delighted to be here to tell you men how very proud I am of you.

You graduates, as you begin your chosen work, can be proud in the knowledge that except for you your fellow citizens of Grand Rapids would be in greater danger and might very well suffer or die. You can be proud in the knowledge that you are select men, men selected because of your special qualifications, men who have volunteered to risk your lives for others.

The public safety. Another way to say it is peace in the streets.

We hear a lot about peace these days. But what peace is more important to the American citizen than peace in his own back yard and peace out on the street in front of his home? You are the keepers of the peace. There is no job more important.

You know it constantly amazes me that there are some Americans, badly misguided Americans, who call policemen fascists.

The truth is that fascism will only come to America if there is a complete breakdown of law and order, with the American people demanding a tight and brutal centralization of governmental authority in order to ensure their own bodily safety. So you will be serving as front line troops against fascism.

Fascism is hateful. It is the complete antithesis of democracy. It is synonymous with the creation of a national police force.

To the extent that local citizens help their local policeman do his job they are erecting a barrier against fascism -- against the creation of a national police force. And the ridiculous revolutionaries who pelt police with rocks and bottles

(more)

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.

Michigan is receiving an increasingly large slice of Federal funds under this Law Enforcement Assistance Act. In fiscal 1969 our allocation was \$1,732,820. It grew to \$8,580,000 in fiscal 1970 and will climb to an estimated \$15,521,000 in fiscal 1971.

So we are roughly doubling the amount of Federal assistance for local law enforcement this year. And we should also remember that the Law Enforcement Assistance Act requires the states and local communities to match Federal grants with additional funds of their own. The result is that new resources for crime-fighting are increased by large increments but the basic responsibility for protecting the public safety remains where it belongs -- at the local level.

The Law Enforcement Assistance Act offers a real opportunity for improvement in local crime-fighting -- for new ideas, new techniques and new equipment. In the final analysis, the success of the program will depend upon how well local police, the courts, the correction agencies and state and local governments respond to the opportunity.

There are still other opportunities to step up and improve the war against crime. There currently is a drive in progress to move 13 major anti-crime bills sponsored by the Administration through the Congress of the United States.

I personally will not give up the effort to enact this legislation until these bills have passed the House of Representatives, have received the final approval of both the House and Senate, and have been sent to the President for his signature.

The Congress in this session must act affirmatively on bills which would give the Department of Justice new legislative tools to go after organized crime and a better legislative vehicle for dealing with the problem of narcotics. These are matters of the highest priority for this Congress.

I am a co-sponsor of these bills but it is not from pride of sponsorship that I speak. I firmly believe that this legislation is a matter of the greatest urgency.

(more)

Crime control is a complex affair. As you very well know, the job does not end with an arrest. What is involved is a highly complicated process, including prosecution, trial, sentencing and, hopefully, rehabilitation in prison.

We are making progress in one legislative area. We are all aware that the crime crisis has caused a virtual breakdown of criminal justice in America. Nationwide our courts are clogged with criminal cases, and the backlog has grown to mountainous proportions.

I am pleased to point out that on June 2 Congress cleared legislation which provided for 58 new permanent Federal judgeships and three temporary judgeships. This should help eliminate some of the large backlog of pending Federal cases.

Nationally the backlog of criminal cases more than doubled in the last decade although the number of cases filed remained relatively stable. The main reason was the new emphasis on rights of defendants, flowing from U.S. Supreme Court decisions. This lengthened the time needed to handle the average case.

I personally agree with Justice Hugo L. Black that the Supreme Court in the last several years has hobbled law enforcement by insisting upon justice-defeating procedures which unduly favor accused criminals.

We must attach far more importance to convicting the lawbreaker than to assisting his efforts to "beat the rap." Fortunately the tenor of Supreme Court decisions in recent months has changed for the better with the changed makeup of the court.

We have also made great progress in our efforts to move against organized crime. You may recall that the President recommended the creation of 20 Strike Forces of prosecutors and investigators to wage all-out war against organized crime. Thirteen of those Strike Forces now are on duty at strategic locations throughout the country and the other seven will be established soon.

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

(more)



Control Act before Congress adjourns this year.

In large measure, organized crime flourishes because its members can too seldom be brought to justice. The Organized Crime Control Act will help in bringing the chieftains of organized crime to book.

I expect Congress to approve measures which will:

Give the Justice Department authority to enter any community and shut down illegal gambling operations.

Prevent racketeers from using illegally obtained money to invest in or take over legitimate businesses operating interstate and allow the use of such antitrust weapons as forfeiture of financial interest in case of violations.

Make it a Federal crime for local law enforcement officials to protect gambling operations.

Elicit more testimony from arrested racketeers by providing for immunity from prosecution -- thereby making the Fifth Amendment plea against self-incrimination inapplicable -- where the information would do more to hurt organized crime than would the prosecution of the individual.

Allow for the use in evidence of written statements from persons who might otherwise refuse to give information for fear of their lives.

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!

#

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

H. Stangor

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY

Mr. Superintendent, members of the 1970 graduating class of the Grand Rapids Police Academy, their families and friends:

As we meet here tonight we are all filled with a feeling of pride. It is a ~~most~~ natural feeling, a justifiable feeling, one that traces to a knowledge of accomplishment/and of prospective community betterment.

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.

We have in our national constitution a Bill of Rights, the first ten constitutional amendments, which became effective Dec. 15, 1789. Nearly 13 years earlier the State of Virginia adopted a Bill of Rights which is the father of all American bills of rights.

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

(more)

Reputably 2-

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.

The overwhelming majority of the 200 millions of people in the United States admire you and are keenly aware of the dignity of your work.

They know your work is meaningful and that you are dedicated to serving the community. They know there is no greater service a man can render than to save the life of another.

This is why I said at the outset that there is and should be a natural feeling of pride here tonight. I personally am delighted to be here to tell you ~~how~~ how very proud I am of you.

You graduates, as you begin your chosen work, can be proud in the knowledge that except for you your fellow citizens of Grand Rapids would be in greater danger and might very well suffer or die. You can be proud in the knowledge that you are select men, men selected because of your special qualifications, men who have volunteered to risk your lives for others.

The public safety. Another way to say it is peace in the streets.

We hear a lot about peace these days. But what peace is more important to the American citizen than peace in his own back yard and peace out on the street in front of his home? You are the keepers of the peace. There is no job more important.

You know it constantly amazes me that there are some Americans, badly misguided Americans, who call policemen fascists.

The truth is that fascism will only come to America if there is a complete breakdown of law and order, with the American people demanding a tight and brutal centralization of governmental authority in order to ensure their own bodily safety. So you will be serving as front line troops against fascism.

Fascism is hateful. It is the complete opposite ~~antithesis~~ of democracy. It is synonymous with the creation of a national police force.

To the extent that local citizens help their local policeman do his job they are erecting a barrier against fascism -- against the creation of a national police force. And the ridiculous revolutionaries who pelt police with rocks and bottles

(more)

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.

Michigan is receiving an increasingly large slice of Federal funds under this Law Enforcement Assistance Act. In fiscal 1969 our allocation was \$1,732,820. It grew to \$8,580,000 in fiscal 1970 and will climb to an estimated \$15,521,000 in fiscal 1971.

So we are roughly doubling the amount of Federal assistance for local law enforcement this year. And we should also remember that the Law Enforcement Assistance Act requires the states and local communities to match Federal grants with additional funds of their own. The result is that new resources for crime-fighting are increased by large increments but the basic responsibility for protecting the public safety remains where it belongs -- at the local level.

The ^{federal} Law Enforcement Assistance Act offers a real opportunity for improvement in local crime-fighting -- for new ideas, new techniques and new equipment. In the final analysis, the success of the program will depend upon how well local police, the courts, the correction agencies and state and local governments respond to the opportunity.

There are still other opportunities to step up and improve the war against crime. There currently is a drive in progress to move 13 major anti-crime bills sponsored by the Administration through the Congress of the United States.

I personally will not give up the effort to enact this legislation until these bills have passed the House of Representatives, have received the final approval of both the House and Senate, and have been sent to the President for his signature.

The Congress in this session must act affirmatively on bills which would give the Department of Justice new legislative tools to go after organized crime and a better legislative vehicle for dealing with the problem of narcotics. These are matters of the highest priority for this Congress. **LINKLETTER**

I am a co-sponsor of these bills but it is not from pride of sponsorship that I speak. I firmly believe that this legislation is a matter of the greatest urgency.

(more)

Crime control is a complex affair. As you very well know, the job does not end with an arrest. What is involved is a highly complicated process, including prosecution, trial, sentencing and, hopefully, rehabilitation in prison.

We are making progress in one legislative area. We are all aware that the crime crisis has caused a virtual breakdown of criminal justice in America. Nationwide our courts are clogged with criminal cases, and the backlog has grown to mountainous proportions.

I am pleased to point out that on June 2 Congress cleared legislation which provided for 58 new permanent Federal judgeships and three temporary judgeships. This should help eliminate some of the large backlog of pending Federal cases.

D.C. Crime Bill
Nationally the backlog of criminal cases more than doubled in the last decade although the number of cases filed remained relatively stable. The main reason was the new emphasis on rights of defendants, flowing from U.S. Supreme Court decisions. This lengthened the time needed to handle the average case.

I personally agree with Justice Hugo L. Black that the Supreme Court in the last several years has hobbled law enforcement by insisting upon justice-defeating procedures which unduly favor accused criminals.

We must attach far more importance to convicting the lawbreaker than to assisting his efforts to "beat the rap." Fortunately the tenor of Supreme Court decisions in recent months has changed for the better with the changed makeup of the court.

We have also made great progress in our efforts to move against organized crime. You may recall that the President recommended the creation of 20 Strike Forces of prosecutors and investigators to wage all-out war against organized crime. Thirteen of those Strike Forces now are on duty at strategic locations throughout the country and the other seven will be established soon.

made over
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

(more)

Control Act before Congress adjourns this year.

In large measure, organized crime flourishes because its members can too seldom be brought to justice. The Organized Crime Control Act will help in bringing the chieftains of organized crime to book.

I expect Congress to approve measures which will:

Give the Justice Department authority to enter any community and shut down illegal gambling operations.

Prevent racketeers from using illegally obtained money to invest in or take over legitimate businesses operating interstate and allow the use of such antitrust weapons as forfeiture of financial interest in case of violations.

Make it a Federal crime for local law enforcement officials to protect gambling operations.

Elicit more testimony from arrested racketeers by providing for immunity from prosecution -- thereby making the Fifth Amendment plea against self-incrimination inapplicable -- where the information would do more to hurt organized crime than would the prosecution of the individual.

Allow for the use in evidence of written statements from persons who might otherwise refuse to give information for fear of their lives.

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 ^{each of you}.

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.

You are broadly trained in
① *THE LAW*
② *PEOPLE TO PEOPLE relations*

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!

#

10 copies to Mr. Ford only

Office Copy

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

Mr. Superintendent, members of the 1970 graduating class of the Grand Rapids Police Academy, their families and friends:

As we meet here tonight we are all filled with a feeling of pride. It is a most natural feeling, a justifiable feeling, one that traces to a knowledge of accomplishment and of prospective community betterment.

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.

We have in our national constitution a Bill of Rights, the first ten constitutional amendments, which became effective Dec. 15, 1789. Nearly 13 years earlier the State of Virginia adopted a Bill of Rights which is the father of all American bills of rights.

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

(more)



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.

The overwhelming majority of the 200 millions of people in the United States admire you and are keenly aware of the dignity of your work.

They know your work is meaningful and that you are dedicated to serving the community. They know there is no greater service a man can render than to save the life of another.

This is why I said at the outset that there is and should be a natural feeling of pride here tonight. I personally am delighted to be here to tell you men how very proud I am of you.

You graduates, as you begin your chosen work, can be proud in the knowledge that except for you your fellow citizens of Grand Rapids would be in greater danger and might very well suffer or die. You can be proud in the knowledge that you are select men, men selected because of your special qualifications, men who have volunteered to risk your lives for others.

The public safety. Another way to say it is peace in the streets.

We hear a lot about peace these days. But what peace is more important to the American citizen than peace in his own back yard and peace out on the street in front of his home? You are the keepers of the peace. There is no job more important.

You know it constantly amazes me that there are some Americans, badly misguided Americans, who call policemen fascists.

The truth is that fascism will only come to America if there is a complete breakdown of law and order, with the American people demanding a tight and brutal centralization of governmental authority in order to ensure their own bodily safety. So you will be serving as front line troops against fascism.

Fascism is hateful. It is the complete antithesis of democracy. It is synonymous with the creation of a national police force.

To the extent that local citizens help their local policeman do his job they are erecting a barrier against fascism -- against the creation of a national police force. And the ridiculous revolutionaries who pelt police with rocks and bottles

(more)

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.

Michigan is receiving an increasingly large slice of Federal funds under this Law Enforcement Assistance Act. In fiscal 1969 our allocation was \$1,732,820. It grew to \$8,580,000 in fiscal 1970 and will climb to an estimated \$15,521,000 in fiscal 1971.

So we are roughly doubling the amount of Federal assistance for local law enforcement this year. And we should also remember that the Law Enforcement Assistance Act requires the states and local communities to match Federal grants with additional funds of their own. The result is that new resources for crime-fighting are increased by large increments but the basic responsibility for protecting the public safety remains where it belongs -- at the local level.

The Law Enforcement Assistance Act offers a real opportunity for improvement in local crime-fighting -- for new ideas, new techniques and new equipment. In the final analysis, the success of the program will depend upon how well local police, the courts, the correction agencies and state and local governments respond to the opportunity.

There are still other opportunities to step up and improve the war against crime. There currently is a drive in progress to move 13 major anti-crime bills sponsored by the Administration through the Congress of the United States.

I personally will not give up the effort to enact this legislation until these bills have passed the House of Representatives, have received the final approval of both the House and Senate, and have been sent to the President for his signature.

The Congress in this session must act affirmatively on bills which would give the Department of Justice new legislative tools to go after organized crime and a better legislative vehicle for dealing with the problem of narcotics. These are matters of the highest priority for this Congress.

I am a co-sponsor of these bills but it is not from pride of sponsorship that I speak. I firmly believe that this legislation is a matter of the greatest urgency.

(more)

Crime control is a complex affair. As you very well know, the job does not end with an arrest. What is involved is a highly complicated process, including prosecution, trial, sentencing and, hopefully, rehabilitation in prison.

We are making progress in one legislative area. We are all aware that the crime crisis has caused a virtual breakdown of criminal justice in America. Nationwide our courts are clogged with criminal cases, and the backlog has grown to mountainous proportions.

I am pleased to point out that on June 2 Congress cleared legislation which provided for 58 new permanent Federal judgeships and three temporary judgeships. This should help eliminate some of the large backlog of pending Federal cases.

Nationally the backlog of criminal cases more than doubled in the last decade although the number of cases filed remained relatively stable. The main reason was the new emphasis on rights of defendants, flowing from U.S. Supreme Court decisions. This lengthened the time needed to handle the average case.

I personally agree with Justice Hugo L. Black that the Supreme Court in the last several years has hobbled law enforcement by insisting upon justice-defeating procedures which unduly favor accused criminals.

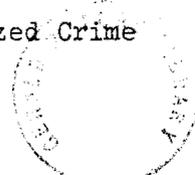
We must attach far more importance to convicting the lawbreaker than to assisting his efforts to "beat the rap." Fortunately the tenor of Supreme Court decisions in recent months has changed for the better with the changed makeup of the court.

We have also made great progress in our efforts to move against organized crime. You may recall that the President recommended the creation of 20 Strike Forces of prosecutors and investigators to wage all-out war against organized crime. Thirteen of those Strike Forces now are on duty at strategic locations throughout the country and the other seven will be established soon.

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

(more)



Control Act before Congress adjourns this year.

In large measure, organized crime flourishes because its members can too seldom be brought to justice. The Organized Crime Control Act will help in bringing the chieftains of organized crime to book.

I expect Congress to approve measures which will:

Give the Justice Department authority to enter any community and shut down illegal gambling operations.

Prevent racketeers from using illegally obtained money to invest in or take over legitimate businesses operating interstate and allow the use of such antitrust weapons as forfeiture of financial interest in case of violations.

Make it a Federal crime for local law enforcement officials to protect gambling operations.

Elicit more testimony from arrested racketeers by providing for immunity from prosecution -- thereby making the Fifth Amendment plea against self-incrimination inapplicable -- where the information would do more to hurt organized crime than would the prosecution of the individual.

Allow for the use in evidence of written statements from persons who might otherwise refuse to give information for fear of their lives.

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!

#