



# Department of Justice

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REMARKS BY

DICK THORNBURGH  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

BEFORE THE

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE CONFERENCE

PORTLAND MEMORIAL COLISEUM  
PORTLAND, OREGON  
OCTOBER 17, 1988

NOTE: Because Mr. Thornburgh often speaks from notes, the speech as delivered may vary from the text. However, he stands behind this speech as printed.

THANK YOU, JOE. IT'S A PLEASURE TO BE HERE TODAY. AND IT'S GOOD TO BE JOINED BY SO MANY OF MY COLLEAGUES FROM THE ADMINISTRATION: BILL SESSIONS FROM THE F.B.I., JACK LAWN FROM D.E.A., AL NELSON FROM I.N.S., STAN MORRIS FROM THE U.S. MARSHALS, JOHN SIMPSON FROM THE SECRET SERVICE, AND DIANE STEED FROM THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY ADMINISTRATION.

I FEEL A REAL KINSHIP WITH THE I.A.C.P. AND WITH YOUR MEMBERS; AND IT'S AN HONOR TO BE ABLE TO SPEAK TO ALL OF YOU -- PEERS IN THE LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY.

AS YOU CAN IMAGINE, I'VE HAD A LOT OF MEETINGS THIS PAST MONTH OR SO -- FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, TO PROGRAM DIRECTORS, TO OUR U.S. ATTORNEYS, TO MEETINGS WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF GROUPS LIKE YOURS -- AND IN EACH CASE, I'VE REMINDED THEM THAT NO MATTER HOW DIFFICULT OUR JOBS GET, OR HOW BIG OUR CHALLENGES BECOME...WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER. THAT WE ARE ALL STRIVING FOR THE SAME GOALS, AND THAT WE ALL SHARE EACH OTHERS WINS, AS WELL AS EACH OTHERS SETBACKS.

TODAY, I AM HERE TO SAY THE SAME TO YOU: WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER. FROM EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM, TO EVERYONE IN THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT; FROM EVERY U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, TO EVERY PATROLMAN EACH OF YOU PROUDLY PLACED ON THE STREET; WE STAND TOGETHER...ALL OF US -- AND I AM PROUD TO STAND WITH YOU.

THAT'S NOT JUST TALK FROM A FEDERAL BUREAUCRAT. THAT'S THE SINCERE BELIEF OF DICK THORNBURGH THE FORMER U.S. ATTORNEY, AND FORMER HEAD OF THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT'S CRIMINAL DIVISION. AND THE BELIEF OF DICK THORNBURGH THE FORMER GOVERNOR...AND DICK THORNBURGH THE CURRENT ATTORNEY GENERAL.

IT IS MY SINCERE BELIEF AND IT HAS COME FROM MY DEALING DIRECTLY WITH FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OVER A LONG PERIOD OF TIME; A SINCERE BELIEF BASED NOT ON LAW ENFORCEMENT THEORY BUT ON LAW ENFORCEMENT REALITY; AND A SINCERE BELIEF THAT IS A VITAL PART OF THE WAY I INTEND TO CONDUCT THE BUSINESS OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

IN OTHER WORDS, I'VE BEEN THERE. I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE. I KNOW WHAT THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME ENTAILS. AND I KNOW WHAT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED.

AS I SAID WHEN I WAS GOVERNOR OF PENNSYLVANIA: THE PHRASE, 'SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL POLICE' HAS TO BE MORE THAN A SLOGAN ON A BUMPER STICKER. IT MUST BE A COMMITMENT TO WORKING WITH THE POLICE, AND FOR THE POLICE, TO ENSURE THAT YOU CAN DO YOUR JOBS, BECAUSE WE'RE DOING OURS.

THAT'S THE LAW ENFORCEMENT REALITY I SPOKE OF A MOMENT AGO. IT'S NOT ENOUGH JUST TO TALK ABOUT ISSUES, THEY MUST BE ADDRESSED

AND RESOLVED. IT'S NOT ENOUGH JUST TO STUDY PROBLEMS, THEY MUST BE DEALT WITH AND CORRECTED. AND IT'S NOT ENOUGH JUST TO TINKER WITH A SINGLE FACET OF LAW ENFORCEMENT NEEDS -- ALL NEEDS MUST BE IDENTIFIED AND FILLED. AND UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES CAN ONE PERSON DO IT ALONE, IT MUST BE A COOPERATIVE EFFORT.

NOW I KNOW FOR SOME PEOPLE THAT MAY SOUND PRETTY IDEALISTIC. BUT I THINK IT IS THE ONLY REALISTIC APPROACH WE CAN TAKE; AND THERE'S NOBODY WHO CAN TELL ME IT CAN'T BE DONE, BECAUSE FRANKLY, IN PENNSYLVANIA WE WORKED WITH THE LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY AND WE DID IT.

WE WON PASSAGE OF TOUGH, MANDATORY SENTENCING LAWS FOR VIOLENT AND REPEAT OFFENDERS. WE STIFFENED STANDARDS FOR PARDONS AND COMMUTATIONS. WE UNDERTOOK THE LARGEST PRISON EXPANSION PROGRAM IN THE COMMONWEALTH'S HISTORY. WE EXPANDED THE STATE POLICE FORCE AND SET UP SPECIAL DRUG TRAFFICKING AND ORGANIZED CRIME UNITS. WE PROVIDED OUR POLICE WITH THE TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS THEY NEEDED TO DO THEIR JOBS. AND WE REINSTATED USE OF THE DEATH PENALTY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN NEARLY A QUARTER CENTURY.

AND DO YOU KNOW WHAT? SERIOUS CRIME IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA DROPPED 19 PERCENT IN SEVEN YEARS. ALL BECAUSE WE WORKED TOGETHER AND BUTTRESSED THE THEORY AND RHETORIC OF

FIGHTING CRIME WITH HONEST ACTION. ACTION, THAT WITH YOUR HELP, I WANT ALL OF US TO BE ABLE TO DELIVER TO EVERY COMMUNITY IN EVERY STATE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. ACTION THAT WILL BRING RESULTS IN ATTACKING, AND ONE DAY ELIMINATING, THE SUFFERING IMPOSED ON OUR COMMUNITIES BY CRIME AND CRIMINALS. AND ACTION IN RESTORING THE FIRST CIVIL RIGHT OF EVERY AMERICAN -- THE RIGHT TO BE FREE FROM FEAR IN OUR HOMES, ON OUR STREETS AND IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS.

TO BE FREE, ONCE-AND-FOR-ALL, FROM THE DEATHLY GRIP OF DRUGS, AND DRUG DEALERS, AND TO BE FREE FROM THE PAIN AND DESTRUCTION THEY BRING INTO THE LIVES OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE, AND TO BE FREE OF THE BLOODSHED AND THE MAYHEM THEY BRING TO OUR STREETS.

TO BE FREE FROM THE SUBVERSIVE INFLUENCE OF ORGANIZED CRIME AND RACKETEERING AND FROM THE TENTACLES OF GANGLAND ABUSE, EXPLOITATION AND CRIMINAL ENTERPRISE.

TO BE FREE FROM WHITE COLLAR CRIME -- "CRIME IN THE SUITES," WHICH ADDS TO THE ECONOMIC BURDEN OF EVERY CONSUMER IN EVERY COMMUNITY IN THESE UNITED STATES.

TO BE FREE FROM PUBLIC CORRUPTION AND THOSE WHO WOULD USE THE PUBLIC TRUST FOR PRIVATE GAIN.

AND TO BE FREE FROM VIOLENT CRIME AND THE PERNICIOUS AFFECTS OF OBSCENITY AND CHILD PORNOGRAPHY.

THOSE ARE THE PRIORITY AREAS PRESIDENT REAGAN AND I HAVE IDENTIFIED FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. AND WHILE THEY MAY BE SOMEWHAT BROADER IN SCOPE THAN THE SPECIFIC PRIORITY LISTS EACH OF YOU HAVE FOR YOUR INDIVIDUAL POLICE FORCES, OUR OVERALL GOALS REMAIN THE SAME, AND OUR EFFORTS ARE AS INTERTWINED AS THEY ARE INTERDEPENDENT.

THAT IS WHY I LOOK TO EACH OF YOU, NOT JUST FOR ASSISTANCE, BUT FOR LEADERSHIP IN THE WIDE-RANGING BATTLE WE ARE WAGING AGAINST CRIME.

MORE SO THAN ANYONE ELSE YOU ARE THE ONES WHO KNOW HOW BEST TO CARRY THAT BATTLE FORWARD. YOU ARE THE ONES WHO CAN GIVE THE GUIDANCE AND INSIGHT NECESSARY FOR EFFECTIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT. AND YOU ARE THE ONES WE MUST LEAN ON MOST HEAVILY IN STRIVING TO DELIVER THE RESULTS I SPOKE OF A MOMENT AGO.

WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER AND IT IS IN THAT SPIRIT THAT I APPLAUD YOUR COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMON GOALS, AND OFFER MY ASSISTANCE IN HELPING MEET YOUR NEEDS.

I MUST BE HONEST WITH YOU, HOWEVER...AS MUCH AS I WOULD LIKE TO SAY OTHERWISE, THAT DOES NOT MEAN THERE WILL BE A NEW SURGE OF FEDERAL MONEY COMING YOUR WAY SOON. IN FACT, IT IS ONE OF THE GREAT IRONIES IN THE BEHAVIOR OF CONGRESS OVER THE LAST SEVEN YEARS THAT CRIMINAL JUSTICE HAS PROVEN TO BE ONE AREA -- ONE OF THE VERY, VERY, FEW AREAS -- IN WHICH CONGRESS HAS EXERCISED BUDGETARY RESTRAINT...IN SPITE OF A NATIONAL CONSENSUS TO DO OTHERWISE.

AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL, THE F.B.I., THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION, AND THE U.S. ATTORNEYS, ALL HAVE BEEN FUNDED BELOW THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET REQUEST LEVEL FOR EACH OF THE LAST SEVEN YEARS WHICH, AS I KNOW YOU ALL UNDERSTAND, HAS NOT ONLY MADE OUR JOBS MORE DIFFICULT BUT HAS, IN TURN, LEFT LITTLE ROOM FOR PROVIDING YOU WITH THE LEVEL OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THAT WE WOULD LIKE.

BUT NONE OF THAT SHOULD DETRACT FROM THE SUCCESS WE HAVE SHARED AND WILL CONTINUE TO SHARE IN WORKING TOGETHER AT ALL POSSIBLE LEVELS.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR WORK TOGETHER THROUGH THE LAW ENFORCEMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEES IS UNDISPUTED AND THEIR CONTINUED SUCCESS REMAINS A PRIORITY FOR ALL OF US. U.S. ATTORNEYS HAVE GONE THE EXTRA MILE IN MOST DISTRICTS TO FASHION

CONSTRUCTIVE AND COOPERATIVE EFFORTS WITH THEIR STATE AND LOCAL COUNTERPARTS. AND WE'RE ALL THE BETTER FOR IT.

THE OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS CONTINUES ITS ROLE IN PROVIDING GRANTS, ASSISTANCE, AND EXPERTISE TO STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES THROUGH THE BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE, THE BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS, THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE, AND THE OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION. FOR EXAMPLE:

- \* THE BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE AWARDED A GRANT OF APPROXIMATELY \$500,000 TO I.A.C.P. TO SET UP YOUR POLICE POLICY CENTER WHICH WILL SERVE THE ENTIRE POLICE COMMUNITY ACROSS THE COUNTRY.
  
- \* THE SAME OFFICE HAS ALSO GRANTED APPROXIMATELY \$300,000 TO EACH OF NINE AREAS -- INCLUDING, MIAMI, BALTIMORE, NASSAU COUNTY, AND LOS ANGELES -- TO DEVELOP MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL CRACK COCAINE ENFORCEMENT UNITS.

OUR TRAINING PROGRAMS REMAIN INTACT AS THE F.B.I., THE D.E.A., AND THE INSTITUTE OF CORRECTIONS WORK TO PROVIDE THE BEST IN TRAINING FOR STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL.



THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE ALSO CONTINUES TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE AS CONCILIATORS AND MEDIATORS.

AND OUR ASSET FORFEITURE AND EQUITABLE SHARING PROGRAM IS BECOMING EVER-MORE EFFECTIVE IN ITS ROLE OF TAKING THE PROFIT OUT OF DRUG DEALING BY SEIZING ILLEGAL ASSETS, SELLING THEM AND THEN SHARING THE PROFITS OF THOSE SALES WITH THE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT GROUPS WHICH ASSISTED IN THE INVESTIGATION AND ARREST OF THOSE DEALERS.

HOW EFFECTIVE? WELL, IN FISCAL YEAR 1986, NEARLY \$50 MILLION WAS SHARED WITH STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. BY FISCAL YEAR 1987 THAT FIGURE MORE THAN DOUBLED, AS OVER \$113 MILLION WAS RETURNED TO STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES. AND FOR THIS FISCAL YEAR, TO DATE, \$66.5 MILLION HAS BEEN HANDED BACK TO STATE AND LOCALS...WITH MORE THAN \$384 MILLION IN SHARING REQUESTS PENDING.

THIS IS A PROGRAM I COULDN'T BE MORE SUPPORTIVE OF. FIRST, BECAUSE THESE ADDITIONAL FUNDS ALLOW US TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE IN DOING OUR JOBS. BUT SECONDLY, BECAUSE OF THE WONDERFUL JUSTICE OF IT ALL.

NOT ONLY ARE WE TAKING THE ILL-GOTTEN GAINS OF THUGS AND TRAFFICKERS -- WHICH WOULD BE SATISFYING ENOUGH -- BUT WE'RE

RECYCLING THOSE GAINS TO ENABLE US TO CONTINUE AND BROADEN OUR WAR AGAINST DRUGS AND DRUG TRAFFICKING. AND THAT IS TRUE JUSTICE.

- \* JUSTICE BROUGHT TO BEAR AGAINST THE 22 YEAR-OLD SUSPECT IN CHICAGO, FROM WHOM WE TOOK HALF A MILLION DOLLARS IN ASSETS, INCLUDING: A HOUSE, A POWER BOAT, A 1987 CORVETTE, AND A NECKLACE WHICH HAD THE WORDS "SPOILED BRAT" SPELLED OUT IN DIAMONDS.
  
- \* JUSTICE IMPOSED ON THE VICIOUS MEDELLIN COLUMBIAN CARTEL FROM WHICH WE TOOK MORE THAN \$15 MILLION IN REAL ESTATE AND PROPERTY, INCLUDING A HERD OF PRIZE PASO FINO HORSES.
  
- \* JUSTICE IN NEW MEXICO, WHERE ALBUQUERQUE'S CHIEF OF POLICE, SAM BACA, WHO IS HERE TODAY, CAN TELL YOU ABOUT HIS DEPARTMENT'S SHARING THE ASSETS FROM THE SEIZURE AND SALE OF A RANCH -- INCLUDING BUILDINGS AND LIVESTOCK -- WHICH AMOUNTED TO SOME \$550,000.
  
- \* AND JUSTICE IN CALIFORNIA WHERE A-213-ACRE RANCH WAS RECENTLY TURNED OVER TO LOCAL OFFICIALS, AND WHERE LATE LAST YEAR MORE THAN \$3.2 MILLION IN CASH WAS DISTRIBUTED TO ELEVEN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LAW

ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, INCLUDING \$1.4 MILLION WHICH WAS AWARDED TO THE LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR ITS ASSISTANCE IN TEN NARCOTICS INVESTIGATIONS.

EACH OF THOSE ARE EXAMPLES OF WHAT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER.

SINCE THE I.A.C.P. IS AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION, I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO MENTION THE DEPARTMENT'S ON-GOING INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO WORK AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE WITH THE LAW ENFORCEMENT BRANCHES OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS. IN FACT, IF I WERE ASKED TO IDENTIFY THE BIGGEST SINGLE CHANGE IN THE DEPARTMENT IN THE DECADE OR SO SINCE I LAST SERVED AT JUSTICE, I WOULD HAVE TO SAY IT WAS THE GROWTH OF OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT INVOLVEMENT INTERNATIONALLY.

DRUGS, TERRORISM, AND MUCH OF THE CRIME THAT MANIFESTS ITSELF ON THE STREETS OF AMERICA, ALL HAVE INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS TODAY AND IF WE ARE TO DEAL WITH THEM EFFECTIVELY WE MUST STRIVE TO ATTAIN THE SAME LEVEL OF INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION AND COOPERATION THAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE UNITED STATES.

HERE TOO, OUR EFFORTS ARE PAYING OFF. INTERPOL RECENTLY IMPLEMENTED LIAISON OFFICES WITHIN VARIOUS STATES, OFFICES WHICH

WILL HELP US MEET THE CHALLENGES POSED BY THE INCREASED INTERNATIONALIZATION OF CRIME.

AND JUST THIS WEEK, WE WERE ABLE TO ANNOUNCE THE ARREST OF MORE THAN 121 PERSONS IN A NATIONWIDE CRACKDOWN ON THE SO-CALLED JAMAICAN POSSES IN SOME 20 MAJOR METROPOLITAN AREAS FROM COAST-TO-COAST -- AN INTENSIVE EFFORT WHICH BEGAN WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERY HELPFUL AND ENCOURAGING NEW PROGRAM WE'VE STARTED, CALLED THE JAMAICAN-AMERICAN WORKING GROUP -- WHICH HAS ALLOWED US TO DRAMATICALLY IMPROVE COORDINATION OF OUR INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION EFFORTS.

IT IS THIS TYPE OF COOPERATION, WHICH HAS COME FROM THE TIES THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HAS TO FOREIGN AS WELL AS LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITIES, THAT ARE PROVING TO BE INVALUABLE IN OUR WINNING OUR BATTLES AGAINST CRIME...TIES OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WHICH ARE STRENGTHENED BY THE INTERNATIONAL SCOPE OF THE I.A.C.P. AND WHICH I APPLAUD.

THOSE ARE ALL THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF OUR WORK, AND THEY REPRESENT THE TYPE OF COOPERATION I INTEND TO BUILD UPON IN THE DAYS AHEAD. NOT THROUGH FEDERAL EDICT, BUT THROUGH A WORKING PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN YOU AND ME AND EVERYONE IN-BETWEEN.

JUST AS I HAVE AN OPEN DOOR POLICY WITHIN THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, MY DOOR WILL ALSO BE ALWAYS OPEN TO YOU AND TO THE

I.A.C.P. I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU. I WANT YOUR SUGGESTIONS, YOUR COMPLAINTS AND YOUR CRITICISMS; AND I WANT TO BE ABLE TO RESPOND IN KIND. AND I WANT TO KNOW WHAT I CAN DO TO HELP JUST AS MUCH AS I WANT TO BE ABLE TO CALL ON YOU FOR YOUR HELP.

IN THAT VEIN, I'M PLEASED TO SAY THAT I WILL BE CONTINUING THE TRADITION OF WRITING THE MONTHLY ATTORNEY GENERAL'S COLUMN FOR THE I.A.C.P.'S POLICE CHIEF MAGAZINE. A FORUM WHICH I PLAN TO USE TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOU AND TO DISCUSS IDEAS AND ISSUES.

BUT BEYOND THAT, KNOW THAT WE ARE ACCESSIBLE AND OPEN TO YOUR IDEAS AS WELL AND THAT I NOT ONLY WELCOME THEM, BUT ENCOURAGE THEM.

IN CLOSING, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO THE I.A.C.P. LEADERSHIP FOR INVITING ME HERE TODAY; AND TO ALSO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO ALL OF YOU AS INDIVIDUALS...FOR THE WORK YOU DO FOR YOUR COMMUNITIES, AND FOR THIS NATION, AND FOR NATIONS AROUND THE WORLD.

YOU SERVE AS EXAMPLES OF DEDICATION AND DISCIPLINE, UPHOLDING THE PRINCIPLES OF HONOR AND PUBLIC SERVICE. AND OFTEN -- TOO OFTEN -- YOU DO SO THANKLESSLY. WELL, I WOULD LIKE TO CORRECT THAT, IF ONLY IN THE SMALL WAY OF SAYING TO YOU PERSONALLY...THANK YOU.

YOUR JOBS ARE NOT EASY, I KNOW THAT. NOT ONLY DO YOU HAVE TO DEAL WITH ALL THE ISSUES I'VE TALKED ABOUT THIS MORNING BUT YOU HAVE TO BE CORPORATE EXECUTIVES, PERSONNEL MANAGERS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS EXPERTS AS WELL. YOU'RE CONSTANTLY ASKED TO DO MORE WITH LESS. AND SEEMINGLY, YOU CAN NEVER DO ENOUGH.

YET, YOU DO YOUR JOBS, AND YOU DO THEM WELL. YOU SACRIFICE TIME WITH YOUR FAMILIES AND TIME FOR YOURSELF, ALL FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS AND AS I SAID AT THE OUTSET OF THIS SPEECH, I AM HONESTLY, AND SINCERELY PROUD TO STAND WITH YOU.

THANK YOU, AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU IN YOUR ENDEAVORS.