

1 ADDRESS BY ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO

2 NATIONAL SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

3 SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

4 Wednesday, June 23, 1993: 9:00 a.m.

5

6 (Address began at 9:13 a.m.)

7

8 It is a very great honor to be here
9 today. But in these days and in the events of
10 these last days here in this area, we are reminded
11 of the special place that law enforcement holds in
12 our hearts throughout this land.

13 All last night I read and reread what
14 Mrs. Lund said about her husband. He wanted to
15 help people. He was more concerned about helping
16 and protecting people than he was about his own
17 image. And that is something pretty remarkable
18 and pretty wonderful in this day and time, when
19 people are more concerned about what they look
20 like to others than what they do for others. He
21 represents the best in law enforcement, and that
22 is an extraordinary pinnacle, for law enforcement
23 has the toughest job of anybody in this country.

24 Law enforcement is on the cutting edge
25 of all that is happening in America. You put your

1 life on the line every day of the year. One of
2 the points that I have tried to emphasize every
3 time this happened in Miami was that we cannot
4 just accept this and move on. We have to say that
5 Trooper Lund's death is unacceptable, that any
6 death of any law enforcement officer is
7 unacceptable, and that we are going to do
8 something about it.

9 We have got to understand that law
10 enforcement has extraordinary burdens. As I ride
11 with an officer at two o'clock in the morning, I
12 see him make tough legal decisions. And he didn't
13 go to law school; he's not sitting in an office
14 with his feet propped up with a law library at his
15 back making informed decisions with plenty of time
16 to do it. He's making snap judgments on
17 complicated constitutional issues in a very
18 difficult situation, sometimes with an angry
19 crowd, and that wonderful police officer can
20 dispel the anger just by tone of voice and manner
21 and by the way he or she carries themselves. They
22 have to face complicated decisions of who's going
23 to handle what and each time. The law enforcement
24 individuals that I've been involved with do it
25 with grace, do it with compassion, do it with

1 understanding.

2 They have to confront angry domestic
3 situations and they work through that. They have
4 to render first aid and they work through that.
5 They save lives. And truly all of us in America
6 owe to law enforcement an intense debt of
7 gratitude.

8 And I have a special group that I owe
9 a great deal to, and that is the families of law
10 enforcement. They are heroes and heroines as
11 well. For as long as I live I will never forget,
12 in the first months that I had taken office as
13 prosecutor in Dade County, hearing over the radio
14 that an officer had been shot. I came to know his
15 family as we prosecuted his murderer, and 13 years
16 later I saw his daughter, now about 13 years old,
17 and she had a sense of pride and purpose about
18 what her father had done for his community, and
19 she had a sense that she wanted to contribute and
20 she wanted to make a difference in her community
21 because of what her father had done. And families
22 carry on such extraordinary traditions, they
23 commit so much day in and day out as they wait at
24 home to welcome somebody with a smile. They make
25 a difference to the prosecutor as we work through

1 the complicated issues, and to law enforcement.
2 And to the families of law enforcement I say thank
3 you from the bottom of my heart.

4 (APPLAUSE)

5 He wanted to help people. Along with
6 the burdens come some extraordinary joys. A
7 mother, the other day as I was leaving for
8 Washington, had had a son picked up on a DUI. He
9 was in treatment now. He was on his way to
10 recovery. She felt that he'd finally turned the
11 corner, and she says, "I can't wait to that find
12 that officer and give him a big hug, because he
13 got him off in the right direction just by his
14 tone of voice and the way he made the arrest and
15 the way he took him to jail."

16 And the officer who retrieved a
17 kid from a youth gang, and the former youth gang
18 member is now in the top of his class in high
19 school and says, "I owe that all to Officer
20 Took's."

21 And the lady whose life was saved by
22 an officer, there is so much reward as well. But
23 you as sheriffs are on the cutting edge. You're
24 not only the police officer, but you have to
25 understand what happens at the end of the line.

1 The buck stops with you in both places. Police
2 officers can arrest, and they don't have to worry
3 about where to put people, but sheriffs do. And
4 that's the reason it is a particular honor for me
5 to be here with you today.

6 There are two special reasons,
7 however, that are personal to me. First of all,
8 this association, on a cold February day, was the
9 first association to endorse my nomination for
10 Attorney General of the United States and I don't
11 forget that.

12 (APPLAUSE)

13 And when I heard that, I was
14 particularly touched because, ladies and
15 gentlemen, the first real job I ever had in my
16 life was in the summer of 1956, when I worked in
17 the Dade County Sheriffs Office as an
18 identification technician, amateur albeit, but all
19 together my first job was with the sheriff.

20 What I think we need to do is take the
21 tradition of Trooper Lund, take the tradition of
22 officers who have given their lives, take the
23 tradition of officers who put their lives on the
24 line every day of the year, and go forward from
25 here saying we are going to do something about

1 crime in America.

2 We're not going to do it with
3 political broad sides; we're not going to do it
4 with demagoguery. We're going to do it by working
5 together, evaluating what works, what doesn't
6 work, and forging a plan of action between state,
7 federal and local law enforcement that makes
8 sense. We're going to stop finger pointing and
9 start moving ahead.

10 (APPLAUSE)

11 We're going to be more concerned about
12 helping and protecting people than turf wars and
13 who gets credit. And the first place we need to
14 start is in the federal agencies.

15 I always used to think of what it
16 would be like if I could go to Washington and have
17 some influence over these multiplicity of federal
18 agencies that come to town and each do their own
19 thing and none of them ever seem to work
20 together. I didn't know it was quite that bad.
21 When I got to Washington, I found there were 34
22 different federal agencies involved in drug and
23 law enforcement.

24 To the extent that an Attorney General
25 can do anything about it, I am going to dedicate

1 myself to making sure that I do what I can to
2 eliminate turf wars between federal agencies, to
3 eliminate duplication, to eliminate fragmentation,
4 and to take the very limited resources we have in
5 this nation that are focused on law enforcement
6 and make sure that we use them in as professional
7 and as cost effective manner as possible, in a
8 cohesive effort that has a strategy and tactics to
9 match the real problems we face in law
10 enforcement.

11 (APPLAUSE)

12 I remember when I met my first FBI
13 agent. I thought he was really something. He had
14 come up to the sheriff's office to check a record
15 and we had a talk then. I just was reminded of
16 him the other night when somebody reminded me of
17 what he was doing. In this time I have been so
18 impressed with the dedication and with the
19 professionalism of all the federal law enforcement
20 officers that I have come in contact with. But if
21 we can forge that professionalism, that excellence
22 into one whole working together, I think we can
23 make a significant difference.

24 I want to forge that effort into a
25 partnership with local law enforcement. I tell

1 the story, I've been on the receiving end, I've
2 been that nice young local prosecutor whom the FBI
3 comes to see, and the FBI tells me what they are
4 going to do. And they listen to me and then they
5 look at me like: She's a nice young thing and
6 we'll try to work with her, but we know better.
7 It's a two-way street from now on.

8 (APPLAUSE)

9 And it can be a marvelous two-way
10 street, because I have also dealt with special
11 agents and with FBI agents and ATF agents and DEA
12 agents who have worked together with me as a
13 partner, putting together complicated cases,
14 insuring convictions, following up, working with
15 us in witness protection, and just being
16 incredible, incredible forces for securing the
17 right result. If we can get us all together, we
18 can make a difference.

19 I think one of the things, and the
20 sheriff understands it better than anybody else,
21 the sheriff sees what happens when his deputy or
22 her deputy makes an arrest and you don't have
23 enough places to put them. The sheriff
24 understands what it's like when somebody says:
25 You've got to do this and this and this to your

1 jail to bring it up to standards.

2 The sheriff is so often the place
3 where the buck stops. The sheriff is so often the
4 place where the buck stops without new dollars to
5 solve problems. And so many sheriffs throughout
6 this country are doing so much in terms of
7 innovative, creative and bold proposals to try to
8 use the limited dollars we have in the wisest way
9 possible.

10 To that end I want to plan with you,
11 to plan with the district attorneys throughout the
12 United States, the chiefs of police, the National
13 Association of Attorneys General, to determine how
14 we use our resources in the best way possible.
15 What should be handled federally, what should be
16 handled in state courts. Not on who's going to
17 take the credit, but on what's best for the case,
18 what's best for the community, what's best for the
19 nation. If it's better to handle a case in state
20 court, then let's do it. If it's better to handle
21 it in federal court, then let's do it.

22 Let's develop procedures for
23 exchanging information that respect the laws of
24 confidentiality but provide for a two-way street.
25 Let's make sure that the federal government uses

1 its expertise, whether it's in forensic efforts or
2 whether it's in cultural and linguistic expertise
3 that is becoming so critical to law enforcement
4 throughout this nation to back you up. Let's make
5 sure you get the intelligence up front on a gang
6 that's coming across the country, rather than six
7 months after the gang gets here.

8 To that end, I have already introduced
9 a person that I have relied on for the last --
10 over the last ten years to work with local law
11 enforcement in Dade County. My chief
12 investigator, Ray Havens, will be an assistant to
13 me in Washington. He has been a deputy sheriff;
14 he understands the problem of law enforcement;
15 he's worked with the federal agencies; he's put
16 together complicated cases in federal court; he
17 understands how people can work together. And he
18 is going to be working with you to make sure that
19 we address your problems and that we work together
20 and communicate together.

21 Together I want to try to develop
22 priorities, but I think, from all I have heard
23 around this nation, that the priorities are
24 clear. We have got to do something about
25 violence. We've got to focus on the career

1 worldwide proportion, and as our boundaries shrink
2 and time shrinks and distances shrink with modern
3 technology, we've got to work together around the
4 worlds.

5 I want to keep every bit of emphasis I
6 can and bring every force I can to bear on drug
7 traffickers and drugs in this country. I think
8 law enforcement has made some significant headway,
9 but I think particularly federal agencies have got
10 to revisit how they're doing things, make sure
11 they're working together, develop a comprehensive
12 strategy that involves all federal agencies, look
13 at what works, back up source country efforts
14 whenever possible, but look at whether
15 intradiction is really cost effective and whether
16 the monies could be better used in terms of local
17 efforts. But we have got to renew our efforts
18 against drugs and send the message that we are not
19 going to tolerate them.

20 (APPLAUSE)

21 And we have to look at what the people
22 I call white collar thugs, people who take whole
23 industries and strip wonderful, hard working
24 people who've worked all their lives of their
25 savings that have enabled them to live, not

1 extravagantly, but at least sometimes just on the
2 border. The federal government can be very
3 helpful in in area. Again, we've got to plan
4 together to find out how we use our resources in a
5 joint effort against fraud in the forms that hurt
6 significant numbers of particularly people who are
7 fragile and cannot help themselves.

8 But what do we do with the people
9 after we arrest them? That's the question the
10 sheriffs ask. You can send police officers to the
11 streets, you can put your hundred thousand police
12 officers on the streets, but what are you going to
13 do when all those police officers arrest people
14 and I've got to put them in my jail? That's why I
15 think it's so important that we work together, and
16 I am dedicated to trying to do everything I can as
17 we proceed through Congress with the crime bill
18 initiative, as we try to fashion a program that
19 can support you, I want again to try to develop a
20 two-way street where the federal government is not
21 telling you what to do, but that we are working
22 together, understanding your needs and resources
23 in your community, and designing programs for
24 support of your efforts that make sense in terms
25 of community policing, in terms of prevention, in

1 terms of programs that can turn kids around before
2 they end up in your jail.

3 I want us all to remember that no
4 matter what we say about crime, we can't solve the
5 problem by just saying lock 'em all up and throw
6 the key away. I come from a state that has been
7 in gridlock, a state that in 1983 adopted
8 sentencing guidelines and developed a lot of
9 minimum mandatory sentences, but they didn't build
10 the prison cells and they didn't build the jails
11 to match the sentences imposed by the courts. As
12 a consequence, people on minimum mandatory
13 sentences were being held in jail while more
14 violent offenders were being let out, as I was
15 leaving Florida. And I wondered if that was just
16 unique to Florida.

17 No. As I've traveled around the
18 country, the problem exists throughout the
19 country. And in some states where there may be
20 enough prison cells, it still exists, because we
21 see how violence so tragically cuts across state
22 lines, and the offender let out in 20 to 30
23 percent of the sentence in one state that doesn't
24 have adequate prison cells is the offender that
25 may kill in the second state that has tried to

1 deal with the problem.

2 And so I want to work with sheriffs,
3 with correctional officials around the nations and
4 with our Bureau of Prisons to make sure that we
5 put the dangerous offenders away and that we keep
6 them away.

7 (APPLAUSE)

8 Nothing makes me angrier than to have
9 watched my prosecutors prosecute, try somebody,
10 avoid a plea bargain, gets him sentenced to a
11 second armed robbery within five years and finds
12 that guy out in three or four years. We've got to
13 put those people away and put keep them away, and
14 we've got to make sure we have enough prison cells
15 to do it. Working together we can.

16 (APPLAUSE)

17 Judging by the applause, that's a very
18 popular statement. But it's easier said than
19 done, as you all know better than most people.
20 And that's where we have to join together in
21 making sure we use our dollars in the wisest way
22 possible.

23 Let's identify the dangerous ones and
24 get them out of there. Let's identify others who
25 should be serving a prison sentence. But most

1 criminologists tell me that it's not so important
2 what the length of the sentence is but the
3 certainty of the sentence, and we have got to
4 recognize what sheriffs and communities know
5 better than anybody else, that most of these
6 offenders are coming out sooner rather than
7 later.

8 Now, what can we do about that? It
9 makes no sense for your deputies to investigate,
10 get somebody apprehended, get them sentenced to
11 three years in prison; everybody knows the kid has
12 a drug problem; nobody provides treatment for him
13 in the state prison. They pick that up, put him
14 back in the community with no after-care
15 follow-up, no treatment, and guess what he's going
16 to be doing the nicks day? You're going to be
17 arresting him as soon as you can because he's
18 going to be dealing again to get cash to sustain
19 his habit that was never addressed.

20 What we've got to do is develop a
21 carrot and stick approach that provides the
22 certainty in punishment and then says: But you've
23 got to stay in a while longer unless you want to
24 work with us in terms of drug treatment, in terms
25 of job training and placement; you've got to agree

1 to random drug testing, and we'll move you from
2 residential secure into non-secure, into day
3 treatment, then with after care and follow-up.

4 But if you mess up on the way, you're going back
5 into the prison and you're going to get tuned up
6 for a while until you under we mean business.

7 If you mean the carrot and if you mean
8 the stick, we can have an impact on some of these
9 people. Sometimes they'll end up back in the
10 jail, but sometimes it's going to be longer and
11 longer before you see them again. Everything that
12 I've seen in terms of an effective follow-up can
13 make a difference.

14 Now, sometimes people tell me: But
15 you know drug treatment doesn't work. I've heard
16 that a lot from sheriffs ten years ago. But the
17 more law enforcement people I talk to, the more
18 people I talk to throughout America, almost
19 everybody in America has had a family member, a
20 friend, a neighbor, touched by drug abuse, and
21 finally we're beginning to see some of the
22 programs work. Sometimes treatment for cancer
23 doesn't work, but it doesn't mean we stop trying.

24 And one area we're all going to have
25 to address, if we're going to approach it

1 logically is: Okay, so I develop an alternative
2 action for a kid and I get him back out and he's
3 doing fine, but he's got a prior record and
4 nobody's going to employ him because he's got a
5 prior record, and he's going to start using
6 again. Somehow or another we've got to address
7 those issues and come up with the answers.

8 We've got to understand that in
9 federal prisons, 26 percent of the people are
10 aliens. Should we be housing low level boat
11 people for ten-year minimum mandatory sentences at
12 the expense of the American taxpayers when other
13 far more dangerous offenders are getting out of
14 local prisons because we don't have enough
15 resources? Let's make sure we match our
16 facilities. Let's make sure we focus on
17 immigration and raise it to the level of other
18 critical issues of law enforcement and deal with
19 it in an informed and responsible way.

20 I think immigration is going to be one
21 of the single greatest issues I face as Attorney
22 General. How we balance the fact that all of us
23 are a nation of immigrants versus the burden that
24 immigration is placing on your jails, on your
25 public hospitals, on your public schools

1 how America, in the last 30 years, has forgotten
2 and neglected its children. And we're going to
3 have to develop a whole new approach to children
4 in America; an approach that makes clear, just
5 like you've got to make clear when you're raising
6 children, you've got to punish them fairly,
7 reasonably, humanely, and you've got to carry out
8 that punishment when you threaten it. We've got
9 to let our young people know that you don't shoot,
10 you don't put a gun up side of somebody's head,
11 and that poverty and broken homes and nothing is
12 an excuse for doing that.

13 (APPLAUSE)

14 If we focus on juveniles -- and I
15 don't know about sheriffs around the country, but
16 it always so impressed me that it was the sheriffs
17 that had the boys ranch, it was the sheriffs that
18 had the youth initiative because the sheriffs, 25
19 years ago before it was all that popular, knew
20 that you had to start early. And we've got to
21 start early. We've got to realize that in most
22 American homes both parents are working or there's
23 a single parent who's working, and children have a
24 tremendous amount of unsupervised time after
25 school and in the evenings.

1 We've got to somehow or another
2 develop work forces that can permit parents to
3 spend more time with their children and put
4 families first. We've got to make sure that
5 parents are old enough, wise enough and
6 financially able enough to take care of their
7 children. And as part of a national agenda for
8 children, we've got to let people know what it's
9 like to arrest a delinquent who was born to a
10 14-year-old mother who never had the capability of
11 taking care of them. Sheriffs know that better
12 than anyone else, and you can watch and see, for
13 every teen pregnancy that you prevent, for every
14 person whom you give a future in terms of high
15 school and perhaps a college education, you give
16 that would-be parent an opportunity, and you give
17 that child who was not born a better opportunity
18 down the line a long way.

19 (APPLAUSE)

20 We've got to look beyond our
21 particular roles as Attorney General or sheriff,
22 because I learned in Miami, after I started
23 prosecuting kids that were born after I became
24 state attorney, that we will never build enough
25 prisons 18 years from now for kids who are crack

1 involved at birth unless we start focusing on them
2 now. We're not going to have a work force in 15
3 years with the skills necessary to fill the jobs
4 to maintain America as a first rate nation unless
5 we' started focusing on children.

6 Each of us in our particular roles has
7 to speak out beyond the role of law enforcement
8 and say: Hey, America, let's start investing in
9 children. Let's make sure that every child in
10 America's parent has prenatal care.

11 What is the Attorney General talking
12 to sheriffs about prenatal care for? Because all
13 the doctors in the world have told me that the
14 best investment you can make in a strong and
15 constructive human life is in that prenatal care.

16 And let's focus on zero to three. The
17 doctors took me over to our public hospital during
18 the crack epidemic and started teaching me about
19 children. Fifty percent of all learned human
20 response is learned in the first year of life.
21 The concept of reward and punishment is developed
22 during the first three years of life. Think about
23 that for a moment as you watch some of the fabric
24 fallen away from children in those age groups and
25 you think to yourself suddenly: What difference

1 is it going to be if I punish him at 13 if he
2 doesn't understand what punishment is about,
3 because there was not the fabric of society and a
4 family around that child as he was born and came
5 into this world.

6 Let's make sure that the children of
7 America have proper medical care. Something is
8 terribly wrong with a nation that says to a person
9 70 years of age: You can have an operation that
10 extends your life expectancy by three years, and
11 says to the child of a person who's working hard
12 but who doesn't have health care benefits and
13 makes too much money to be eligible for Medicaid:
14 Sorry, we can't help you just in terms of
15 preventative health care.

16 Let's start focusing on after school
17 and in the evenings and start providing programs,
18 which sheriffs have done traditionally, but let's
19 make sure that the rest of the community
20 understands that we can save so many in terms of
21 tragedies, in terms of in dollars, if we make that
22 investment.

23 Sheriffs see what happens when they
24 pick up that eight-year old who's truant 15 days
25 in the first 45. They'll oftentimes take him to

1 the school, the school will call home, home
2 doesn't come to get him, the principal puts him on
3 the bus and sends him home, and nobody makes home
4 visit to find out what's happening.

5 Let's develop teams composed of
6 community friendly, highly respected police
7 officers, social workers and public health nurses
8 that make the home visit when he's eight rather
9 than when he's 13 and he's killed somebody or put
10 a gun up beside somebody's head, and let's try to
11 intervene.

12 Let's try to make sense of our whole
13 job training program. Now it's either you go to
14 school or you go to job training. Let's combine
15 them. Let's say that for everybody graduating
16 from high school in America, they should have a
17 skill that can enable them to earn a living wage.

18 And you say: But I'm going to
19 college. How many people do you know that went to
20 college and got a degree in English literature and
21 can't find anything to do because they don't have
22 a skill that can enable them to earn a living wage
23 and they get into trouble?

24 But tell the 7th grader: Here are
25 your aptitudes, interests; we're going to work

1 with you in terms of summer jobs, in terms of
2 school experience and educational experience, and
3 if you follow this track you're going to be okay
4 when you graduate from high school.

5 And let's give our youngsters an
6 opportunity to serve. So many of you in your
7 communities have monuments to what youth can do in
8 terms of parks and facilities built by the
9 Civilian Conservation Corps during the
10 depression. And I talk to men in their seventies
11 and eighties who are so proud of what they did.

12 And I look at the people who went off
13 to World War II. This past month I went to
14 Sweetwater, Texas to celebrate the 50th
15 anniversary of the Women's Air Force Service
16 Pilots. My aunt flew bombers and ferried bombers
17 and towed targets as part of the WASPS. She paid
18 her own way to go fly for her country. And here
19 were these ladies celebrating the 50th
20 anniversary, between 70 and 80, 200 ladies, one of
21 them still flying, one of them had just skydived
22 out of an airplane. And they were still talking
23 about how they had served their country and their
24 community. Let us give our young people
25 opportunity to serve.

1 (APPLAUSE)

2 But most of all, as we leave Salt Lake
3 City today, let us remember Trooper Lund. He
4 wanted to help people. He was more concerned
5 about helping and protecting people than he was
6 about his own image. Let us forget about
7 ourselves and care about others and go forth to
8 help and protect America.

9 God bless you all.

10 (APPLAUSE)

11 (Address concluded at 9:40 a.m.)

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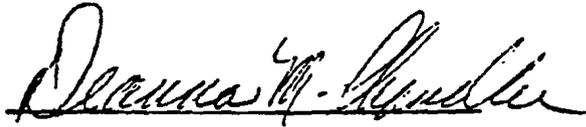
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1 STATE OF UTAH)
2) SS.
3 COUNTY OF SALT LAKE)
4
5

6 I, DEANNA M. CHANDLER, a Certified
7 Shorthand Reporter in and for the State of Utah,
8 do hereby certify:

9 That said proceedings were taken down
10 by me in shorthand on June 23, 1993 at the place
11 therein named and thereafter was reduced to
12 transcription under my direction.

13 I further certify that I am not of kin
14 or otherwise associated with any of the parties to
15 said cause of action and that I am not interested
16 in the outcome thereof.

17 

18 DEANNA M. CHANDLER
19

