

1
2
3 REMARKS OF HON. JANET RENO,
4 ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
5
6
7
8

9 Tuesday, July 18, 1995

10 10:45 a.m.
11
12
13

14 Naval Pier - Grand Ballroom
15 600 East Grand Street
16 Chicago, Illinois
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1 (Speech beginning at 10:45 a.m.)

2 Thank you so much for your welcome. To
3 the graduates, to your families, to distinguished
4 guests here, this is a great honor for me to be in
5 this city. It is a great honor for me to be here
6 with you on a day that is probably one of the most
7 important in your life.

8 I want to welcome you to what is probably
9 the most challenging and yet rewarding professions,
10 that of a police officer; that of a police officer
11 serving a community you love, that of a police
12 officer serving the people of that community.

13 To the family and friends, I want to say
14 something very special to you. You have helped
15 these officers get this far and you will help them
16 down the road. I cannot tell you what it was like
17 to stand in Oklahoma City and have a police
18 lieutenant who had worked around the clock come up
19 to me and say, "Miss Reno, you're awfully nice to
20 thank us, but will you call my wife and thank her?
21 She's been there for me at times when I've been
22 able to get home. She's given me the strength and
23 the courage to move forward."

24 To be at the Justice Department recently
25 to recognize the wonderful work of an FBI agent and

ALDERSON REPORTING COMPANY, INC.

(202)289-2260 (800) FOR DEPO

1111 14th ST., N.W., 4th FLOOR / WASHINGTON, D.C., 20005

1 have that FBI agent say, "You've got to meet my
2 wife and children; they helped me get where I am."
3 To the family and friends of the officers, we say
4 thank you so very much for standing with them.

5 As new police officers, you're about to
6 begin one of the most rewarding careers a person
7 can have. This job is going to be far more
8 difficult than even you can imagine now, and it's
9 going to be far more rewarding than you can ever
10 possibly dream. It will test your resolve, your
11 patience, and your nerves. You will never know
12 what you might be up against from one moment to the
13 next, but you must know that you will have a unique
14 opportunity to make a difference in the lives of
15 the people of Chicago.

16 You will put all your life on the line to
17 do that, but you may save a life. You may deliver
18 a newborn child. You'll make arrests, you'll get
19 convictions. Whatever you do, it will be making a
20 positive difference in the lives of the people you
21 serve.

22 You are charged not only with keeping the
23 peace, but also with building the peace. You have
24 the great fortune to be joining a police department
25 that has adopted community policing as its

ALDERSON REPORTING COMPANY, INC.

(202)289-2260 (800) FOR DEPO
1111 14th ST., N.W., 4th FLOOR / WASHINGTON, D.C., 20005

1 organizational philosophy through CAPS, the Chicago
2 Alternative Policing Strategy. And I commend
3 Superintendent Rodriguez and the Mayor for all that
4 has been done in this great city.

5 CAPS has a fitting motto: Together, we
6 can. It means the community and the police
7 working in partnership with unlimited promise to
8 improve the quality of life for all residents.

9 CAPS will give you the chance to combine
10 your policing skills with community resources to
11 solve crimes and to solve problems for the
12 residents that you serve. So much can be
13 accomplished when you have that strong partnership.

14 Superintendent Rodriguez told you of the
15 challenges that you could face; of that 15-year old
16 with an assault weapon or that 14-year old out on
17 the street, of drug dealers, of fragile elderly.
18 But as you face those challenges, and as he listed
19 those challenges, I thought of the scenes that I
20 have come across in my time in the law enforcement.

21 I watched a police officer walk out of a
22 courtroom after a three-year investigation in which
23 he was facing difficulty significantly in the
24 conviction and the incarceration of a drug dealer
25 who had torn his community apart. You can make a

ALDERSON REPORTING COMPANY, INC.

(202)289-2260 (800) FOR DEPO

1111 14th ST., N.W., 4th FLOOR / WASHINGTON, D.C., 20005

1 difference.

2 I've watched a police officer put his
3 life on the line intervening in domestic violence
4 cases and persuaded the person who was the victim
5 to go forward with prosecution to end the cycle of
6 violence and to give the children in that family
7 the chance to grow in a strong and positive future.

8 I have stood in the Great Hall of the
9 Department of Justice with the President of the
10 United States when two youngsters at risk came
11 forward to let the President of the United States
12 know what their community police officer had done
13 to get them off on a positive, new, fresh start
14 that would lead them to a new and better future.

15 With all of the challenges, you are going
16 to have so many opportunities day-in and day-out to
17 feel the rewards and to make a difference.

18 Community policing is also one of the
19 cornerstones of President Clinton's Crime Bill.
20 The Bill was signed last year and put 100,000
21 police officers on the street. This class is
22 composed of some officers who were made possible by
23 this funding. Thanks to the Crime Bill, Chicago
24 now has more officers on their streets to protect
25 their people.

ALDERSON REPORTING COMPANY, INC.

(202)289-2260 (800) FOR DEPO

1111 14th ST., N.W., 4th FLOOR / WASHINGTON, D.C., 20005

1 And Chicago is not the only place where
2 it's happening. This week, Houston, Texas will
3 graduate 35 privileged Crime Bill-funded officers.
4 This week, Dade will graduate 21 additional
5 officers. Each one of those officers is going to
6 make a difference in a neighborhood and a city.

7 This week, Chattanooga, Tennessee has
8 nine intended officers. Small towns in rural areas
9 also need help, and they are not forgotten in the
10 Crime Bill. The town of Berlin, Maryland, with a
11 population of less than 3,000, is fortunate now to
12 have two officers that are making a difference.

13 In small towns and in big cities across
14 this nation, you officers are being recruited,
15 hired and trained, and they're graduating and
16 moving out into America's streets because of the
17 Crime Bill. As of this day, I can say that funding
18 has been authorized to hire or redeploy more than
19 20,000 police officers in the communities and
20 cities and counties and towns across America.

21 The Crime Bill is working in every way it
22 can. It's putting cops on the streets, and it's
23 working to keep assault weapons off the streets.
24 And we cannot let the ban on assault weapons be
25 turned back. We cannot let the Brady Bill be

ALDERSON REPORTING COMPANY, INC.

(202)289-2260 (800) FOR DEPO
1111 14th ST., N.W., 4th FLOOR / WASHINGTON, D.C., 20005

1 turned back. We have got to move forward and make
2 sure that we address the issue of weapons in this
3 country with common sense so that we protect our
4 people.

5 We have seen the first convictions on the
6 Violence Against Women Act, and grants have been
7 made to almost every state in the nation to provide
8 shelter for battered spouses and funding for
9 policemen, to develop new and innovative programs
10 to deal with the issue of domestic violence.

11 Three-Strikes-and-You're-Out is now the
12 law of the land, and more and more career criminals
13 are going to jail for their lives, and soon
14 communities will begin to establish drug quarters,
15 boot camps, and to improve criminal history records
16 with additional Crime Bill grants.

17 It took six years to overcome the Special
18 Interests and the gridlock to pass the toughest,
19 smartest crime bill that this nation has seen.
20 It's working, but even after that, some people in
21 Congress talk about rolling back the clock and
22 turning back these efforts.

23 This week, the Appropriations Committee
24 in the House of Representatives will vote on a
25 proposal to cripple the Crime Bill and stop the

ALDERSON REPORTING COMPANY, INC.

(202)289-2260 (800) FOR DEPO
1111 14th ST., N.W., 4th FLOOR / WASHINGTON, D.C., 20005

1 CAPS program in its tracks. Without guaranteeing
2 that a single new officer will be budgeted, we
3 can't afford to scrap a project or program that is
4 making such a difference throughout this nation.

5 We can't afford to slice and slash the
6 monies provided for the Violence Against Women Act
7 which will help them seek new shelter, policing
8 procedures, and which will establish and enact a
9 Spouse Abuse Hotline. And we will not permit the
10 ban on assault weapons to be repealed.

11 We will not sit by while criminals
12 out-gun our police officers with weapons and kill
13 people. Our first responsibility is for public
14 safety, not for politics. We cannot, we must not,
15 and we will not go back.

16 But today is about moving forward. Today
17 you can put on the badge that few have earned the
18 right to wear. As police officers, your job is
19 public safety. As community police officers, your
20 job is leadership and partnership, working with the
21 people of Chicago to build the peace one hard step
22 at a time.

23 Seek out the people you serve. Ask them
24 what you can do for them. If you earn their trust,
25 their respect, and their friendship, you cannot

ALDERSON REPORTING COMPANY, INC.

(202)289-2260 (800) FOR DEPO
1111 14th ST., N.W., 4th FLOOR / WASHINGTON, D.C., 20005

1 fail. On behalf of President Clinton, the Federal
2 CAPS program, and police officers across this
3 nation, welcome to the greatest, the hardest, and
4 the most rewarding job in America.

5 (Applause.)
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1 STATE OF WISCONSIN)

2 MILWAUKEE COUNTY)

3

4 I, KAREN J. VINCENT, Court Reporter with

5 the firm of Schindhelm & Associates, Inc., 152 W.

6 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 510, Milwaukee, Wisconsin,

7 do hereby certify that I reported the foregoing

8 proceedings had on July 18, 1995, and that the same

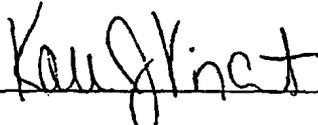
9 is true and correct in accordance with my original

10 machine shorthand notes taken at said time and

11 place.

12

13

14 

15 _____

16 Court Reporter

17

18 Dated this 19th day of July, 1995.

19 Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

20

21

22

23

24

25