

REMARKS BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE
ORGANIZATIONS
17TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
AUGUST 11, 1995
ADAMS MARK HOTEL, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI
12:00 P.M.

INTRODUCTION

I AM HONORED TO BE HERE WITH YOU THIS MORNING DURING THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATION'S SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION.

BOB SCULLY WAS ONE OF THE FIRST PEOPLE I MET ON A COLD FEBRUARY DAY WHEN I CAME TO WASHINGTON. HE HAS BEEN EXTREMELY SUPPORTIVE AND HAS PLAYED A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE PROGRESS WE HAVE MADE IN

FIGHTING VIOLENT CRIME WITH THE
ADMINISTRATION'S CRIME LAW.

RECENTLY, IN RECOGNITION OF HIS
ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND EXPERTISE, THE
PRESIDENT APPOINTED BOB TO BE A MEMBER OF
THE COMMISSION TO SUPPORT LAW ENFORCEMENT,
WHICH WILL FOCUS ON FINDING SOLUTIONS TO THE
PROBLEMS WHICH CONFRONT US. FROM MY
EXPERIENCE WITH BOB, I KNOW HE WILL BE A
LEADER ON THE COMMISSION AND CONTINUE TO BE
A TENACIOUS ADVOCATE FOR RANK AND FILE LAW
ENFORCEMENT.

TOM SCOTTO HAS ALSO BEEN A GREAT LEADER BY CONTINUALLY RELAYING WHAT WORKS AND WHAT DOESN'T. WE NEED TO HEAR THE PERSPECTIVE OF RANK AND FILE OFFICERS, THE ONES WHO ARE ON THE STREETS, KNOW THEIR COMMUNITIES, KNOW THEIR CITIZENS, AND KNOW WHAT INITIATIVES WILL WORK TO REDUCE CRIME AND PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR YOUTH. WE LOOK FORWARD TO BOTH BOB AND TOM CONTINUING TO PROVIDE DIRECT, NO-NONSENSE, VALUABLE ADVICE.

BECAUSE THEY WERE PREPARING FOR THIS CONFERENCE, I WASN'T ABLE TO SEE BOB OR TOM AT THE WHITE HOUSE THE OTHER DAY, WHEN LEON

PANETTA, SENATOR BIDEN, JOE BRANN, AND I MET WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT ORGANIZATIONS TO EVALUATE THE PROGRESS WE'VE MADE TOGETHER TO IMPLEMENT THE CRIME LAW AND HOW WE CAN WORK TOGETHER TO CONTINUE TO PUT MORE COPS ON THE STREET.

SO THAT'S ONE OF THE REASONS I'M GLAD TO BE HERE TODAY--TO GIVE YOU AN UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS WE HAVE MADE SINCE THE CRIME LAW WAS SIGNED ELEVEN MONTHS AGO. ONE YEAR AGO TOMORROW, AT YOUR ANNUAL CONVENTION IN MINNESOTA, THE PRESIDENT AND I CAME TO SPEAK TO YOU IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FIGHT TO PASS A TOUGH, STRONG, CRIME BILL. THANKS TO

YOUR EFFORTS, WE ARE HERE ONE YEAR LATER
WITH SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS.

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND THE
CLINTON ADMINISTRATION HAS ENJOYED A STRONG
RELATIONSHIP WITH NAPO, AND WE LOOK
FORWARD TO THE CONTINUATION OF OUR
EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIP. I APPRECIATE NAPO'S
TIRELESS EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF ALL LAW
ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, BECAUSE I KNOW HOW
DIFFICULT THE JOB OF A LAW ENFORCEMENT CAN
BE.

I HAVE RIDDEN WITH POLICE WHO PUT THEIR
LIVES ON THE LINE EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR AS

THEY CARRY THEIR BADGES. POLICE OFFICERS TOO OFTEN GET SHOT AT, GET HURT, GET KILLED.

POLICE HAVE THE SINGLE HARDEST JOB OF ANYBODY IN THE COMMUNITY. YOU HAVE TO MAKE LEGAL DECISIONS THAT WOULD STUMP SUPREME COURT JUSTICES. YOU HAVE TO MAKE LEGAL DECISIONS IN A CROWDED ALLEYWAY AT 2:00 IN THE MORNING WITHOUT THE LAW LIBRARY AT YOUR BACK, WITHOUT THE ABILITY TO PROP YOUR FEET UP ON THE DESK, AND WITH NO MARGIN FOR ERROR.

AS STATE'S ATTORNEY IN DADE COUNTY FOR 15 YEARS, I CONTINUALLY LEARNED FROM THE POLICE OFFICERS WITH WHOM I WORKED TO

PROSECUTE CRIMINALS AND SEND THEM TO PRISON. EVERY DAY, UP CLOSE, I SAW THE DEDICATION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, MANIFESTED IN THE COURAGE IT TAKES TO RAID A CRACK HOUSE AT MIDNIGHT, AND THE TENDERNESS IT TAKES TO SERVE AS MENTORS FOR CHILDREN, STRUGGLING TO MAKE SOMETHING OF THEIR LIVES, AND TO REJECT THE CRIME AND DRUGS THAT THREATENS THEIR SUCCESS.

EACH OF US MUST REINFORCE THE EFFORTS OF OUR NATION'S LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS. WE MUST PROVIDE YOU WITH THE PROPER TOOLS FOR YOU TO ENFORCE THE LAW FAIRLY AND EFFICIENTLY. WE MUST ALSO PROVIDE YOU THE

TOOLS IN ORDER THAT YOU RETURN SAFELY TO YOUR FAMILIES WHEN YOUR SHIFT IN THE COMMUNITY ENDS.

I AM CONCERNED THAT WE DON'T DO ENOUGH TO SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS. THAT'S WHY I'M PLEASED TO SEE THAT FUNDING WAS RESTORED FOR THE LAW ENFORCEMENT FAMILY SUPPORT ACT THAT WAS PASSED AS PART OF THE CRIME LAW LAST YEAR.

WHILE THE ADMINISTRATION REQUESTED OVER \$1 MILLION DOLLARS IN FY96 FUNDING IN ITS BUDGET, THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE ZEROED OUT THE FUNDING FOR A PROGRAM THAT

YOU HELPED CREATE. WHEN THE APPROPRIATIONS BILL WAS CONSIDERED BY THE FULL HOUSE, THOUGH, NAPO WORKED WITH CONGRESSMAN STENY HOYER TO RESTORE THE FUNDING FOR THIS PROGRAM TO BEGIN.

THE LAW ENFORCEMENT FAMILY SUPPORT ACT WOULD PERMIT US TO STUDY THE EFFECTS OF STRESS ON LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND THEIR FAMILIES, AND DESIGN SUPPORT PROGRAMS IN ORDER THAT YOU ARE EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH THE DIFFICULTIES OF BEING A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.

WE NEED THE BEST EQUIPPED, BEST PREPARED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, BECAUSE YOU WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE LEADERS OF THE EFFORTS TO MAKE OUR STREETS SAFER. ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY, CITIZENS ARE COMING TOGETHER, TO REPAIR AND RESTORE THEIR COMMUNITIES, WITH THE LEADERSHIP AND ASSISTANCE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO FACE THESE CHALLENGES TOGETHER.

YOUTH VIOLENCE

ALL OF OUR EFFORTS AT RENEWAL AND HOPE WILL BE FOR NAUGHT, HOWEVER, IF WE DO NOT FACE UP, **RIGHT NOW**, TO AN IMPENDING LAW ENFORCEMENT CRISIS. I AM SPEAKING OF THE

PROBLEM OF YOUTH VIOLENCE, A PROBLEM THAT
THREATENS THE VERY FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY.

WHILE VIOLENT CRIME STATISTICS ARE DOWN
IN THIS COUNTRY FOR ALL CITIZENS, VIOLENT
ACTS OF CRIME COMMITTED BY YOUNG PEOPLE
ARE GROWING AT AN ALARMING RATE. FOR A
LONG WHILE, JUVENILE ARREST RATES FOR
VIOLENT CRIMES REMAINED RELATIVELY
CONSTANT -- BUT RECENTLY, WHILE THE JUVENILE
POPULATION HAS ACTUALLY DECREASED, THE
ARREST RATES HAVE SHOT UP, GROWING NEARLY
40% SINCE 1988.

ON AVERAGE, THE NUMBER OF JUVENILES
ARRESTED FOR MURDER IS DOUBLE THE AVERAGE
FOR YOUNG ADULTS. GUN HOMICIDES BY
JUVENILES HAVE NEARLY TRIPLED SINCE 1983.
DEMOGRAPHICS PREDICT THAT TODAY'S BOOM IN
YOUTH HOMICIDES COULD BE TOMORROW'S
EXPLOSION.

WHILE JUVENILES ARE COMMITTING MORE
CRIMES, THEY ARE ALSO THE VICTIMS OF CRIMES
MORE OFTEN THAN EVER BEFORE. TOO OFTEN,
THESE CRIMES OCCUR DUE TO JUVENILE GANGS.
GANG LEADERS LURE YOUNGSTERS IN ON THE
FALSE HOPE OF FAMILY, OF FRIENDSHIP, OF
SOMETHING THAT TOO MANY YOUNG PEOPLE LACK

AT HOME. AND ONCE LURED, JUVENILES OFTEN
BECOME THE DRUG RUNNERS, THE GUN TOTERS,
THE VIOLENT ENFORCERS.

ALL OF US MUST COMMIT TO FIGHTING THE
SCOURGE OF YOUTH VIOLENCE. SOMETIMES, THAT
SIMPLY MEANS PROVIDING ACTIVITIES TO YOUNG
PEOPLE IN THE AFTERNOONS. SOMETIMES IT
MEANS AN ADULT TO LISTEN AND PARTICIPATE IN
THEIR LIVES. I KNOW MANY OF YOU MAY
ALREADY BE IN YOUR LOCAL SCHOOLS AND
NEIGHBORHOODS WORKING TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF KIDS.

WE ALL MUST WORK TOGETHER TO GET THE
HABITUAL VIOLENT OFFENDER OFF THE STREET,
TURN AROUND THE KID WHO CAN LEAD A
PRODUCTIVE LIFE, AND KNOW THE DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN THE TWO.

ONE CONCEPT THAT I THINK IS IMPORTANT FOR
OUR EFFORTS TO BE SUCCESSFUL IS GRADUATED
SANCTIONS. THE CHILD WHO PICKS A POCKET
SHOULD KNOW THAT HE FACES A CONCRETE
PENALTY. VERY OFTEN, THIS FIRST TIME
OFFENDER IS WHAT I CALL A "WANNABE." HE
SEEKS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE COMRADERY AND
ALLURE THAT OTHER JUVENILE OFFENDERS SEEM

TO OFFER, BUT HE HASN'T YET TURNED TO A LIFE OF CRIME.

PERHAPS HIS INITIAL CONTACT WITH PROBATION AND COUNSELING WILL TURN HIM AROUND. OR PERHAPS IT WILL BE THE KNOWLEDGE THAT HIS NEXT OFFENSE WILL BRING A STIFFER PENALTY. OR PERHAPS IT WILL BE WHEN HE SEES A PEER GO TO JAIL FOR A MORE SEVERE CRIME. WHATEVER IT IS, WE ALL KNOW THAT INTERVENTION EFFORTS BY LAW ENFORCEMENT MUST BE SWIFT, SURE, FAIR, AND . CONSISTENT.

YOU'VE MET THIS KID ON YOUR STREETS AND IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOODS. YOU KNOW THAT A FIRM HAND, A CLEAR STATEMENT ON THE COST OF CRIME, AND A COMMITMENT TO INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO PUNISHMENT FOR YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS CAN CHANGE A "WANNABE" INTO A RESPONSIBLE AND PRODUCTIVE YOUNG MAN OR WOMAN. THAT'S WHAT WE MUST BE ABOUT.

BOOT CAMPS

ONE SUCH INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO SANCTIONS INVOLVES ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF INCARCERATION SUCH AS BOOT CAMPS. ON MONDAY I ANNOUNCED THE FIRST AWARDS UNDER THE CRIME ACT FOR CORRECTIONAL BOOT CAMP

PROGRAMS FOR NONVIOLENT OFFENDERS--OVER \$20 MILLION IN BOOT CAMP FUNDING IN 30 STATES AND TERRITORIES. MORE THAN HALF THE AWARDS ARE FOR BOOT CAMPS FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS.

BOOT CAMPS CAN BE A SUCCESSFUL PART OF AN AGGRESSIVE STRATEGY TO REHABILITATE NON-VIOLENT OFFENDERS. BOOT CAMP PROGRAMS CAN REDUCE INSTITUTIONAL CROWDING AND COSTS, WHILE IMPROVING OFFENDERS' EDUCATIONAL LEVELS, EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS, AND ACCESS TO COMMUNITY PROGRAMS.

WE MUST LEARN FROM THE IDEAS THAT HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN EXISTING BOOTCAMPS. THE

BEST CHANCE OF LOWERING RECIDIVISM RATES INVOLVES INTEGRATING BOOTCAMPS WITH A STRONG, AFTERCARE PROGRAM. THAT'S WHY WE INCLUDED A REQUIREMENT IN THE CRIME LAW THAT GRANT RECIPIENTS BUILD IN INTENSIVE AFTERCARE. WE WANT TO PAVE THE WAY FOR SUCCESSFUL TRANSITIONS BACK INTO THE COMMUNITY.

AS A SOCIETY, WE CANNOT ACHIEVE LASTING SOLUTIONS MERELY BY LOCKING EVERYONE UP. WE WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO POLICE OUR WAY OUT OF THE PROBLEM. IT'S THE POLICE WHO KNOW THAT BEST. WE WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO BUILD OUR WAY OUT OF THE PROBLEM THROUGH MORE

PRISONS. WE HAVE GOT TO INVEST IN OUR CHILDREN TO GIVE THEM A STRONG AND PROMISING FUTURE. AS WE PROCEED, I HOPE ALL OF YOU WILL SHARE WITH THE DEPARTMENT WHAT YOUR TOP PRIORITIES ARE IN THE AREA OF YOUTH VIOLENCE AND WHAT WE CAN DO TO HELP YOU ACCOMPLISH YOUR GOALS.

THE CRIME LAW

MUCH OF OUR ABILITY TO HELP STEMS FROM THE PASSAGE OF THE 1994 VIOLENT CRIME CONTROL ACT, SIGNED IN SEPTEMBER 1994 BY PRESIDENT CLINTON. THE CRIME LAW OFFERS A TOUGH, TARGETED APPROACH TO FIGHTING CRIME IN OUR COMMUNITIES. TOGETHER, WE WON TOUGH

ENFORCEMENT, MORE PRISONS TO HOUSE
CRIMINALS, AND SMART, DIRECTED PREVENTION
FUNDS. WE OUTLAWED DANGEROUS ASSAULT
WEAPONS AND PROVIDED FUNDS TO CONTINUE TO
IMPLEMENT THE BRADY BILL, WHICH PREVENTED
41,000 GUNS FROM REACHING THE HANDS OF
FELONS IN THE FIRST YEAR ALONE.

THE CRIME LAW WAS NOT A CREATION OF
WASHINGTON. INSTEAD, IT WAS FORGED THROUGH
SPENDING THOUSANDS OF HOURS WITH PEOPLE
LIKE YOU. THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION'S
COMMITMENT HAS BEEN PROVIDE RESOURCES
DIRECTLY TO YOU ON THE LOCAL LEVEL, WHERE
OVER 95% OF CRIMINALS ARE ARRESTED,

PROSECUTED, AND SERVE THEIR TIME. NOW, AS THE PROGRAMS WE CREATED TOGETHER, COME UNDER ATTACK, WE NEED N.A.P.O. TO CONTINUE TO BE LEADERS IN THE FIGHT TO PRESERVE THE CRIME BILL.

POLICE

THE CENTERPIECE OF THE CRIME LAW WAS PRESIDENT CLINTON'S HISTORIC PLEDGE TO PUT 100,000 NEW POLICE ON THE STREETS OF AMERICA. WE MADE A PROMISE AND WE ARE KEEPING IT.

JUST BEFORE THE CRIME LAW WAS SIGNED ABOUT A YEAR AGO, I INDICATED THAT OUR GOAL WAS TO ADD AN ADDITIONAL 20,000 POLICE

OFFICERS BY JANUARY OF 1996. YET LAST MONTH, WE ANNOUNCED ANOTHER ROUND OF COPS AWARDS, GRANTS THAT WILL BRING THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF NEW OFFICERS ON THE STREET TO OVER 23,907. BY THE END OF THIS FISCAL YEAR WE WILL BE PUTTING THOUSANDS MORE POLICE ON THE STREETS.

WE DESIGNED PROGRAMS THAT WERE NON-PARTISAN, NON-BUREAUCRATIC, EFFICIENT, AND EFFECTIVE.

WE CUT RED TAPE DRAMATICALLY FOR THE VARIOUS COPS PROGRAMS. THE COPS FAST APPLICATION WAS ONE PAGE, AND NOTIFICATION

OF AWARDS WAS PROMPT. LESS TIME WAS SPENT ON COMPLETING PAPERWORK SO THAT THE RESOURCES WERE DIRECTED TO YOU QUICKLY AND EFFICIENTLY. THE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF THE PROGRAM ARE LESS THAN 2% OF THE FUNDS, A TRULY OUTSTANDING FIGURE. LESS BUREAUCRACY MEANS MORE RESOURCES TO YOU ON THE STREETS.

I HAVE ATTENDED MANY OF THE CEREMONIES AS THE OFFICERS FUNDED UNDER THE VARIOUS COPS PROGRAMS GRADUATE FROM THE ACADEMY TO BEGIN LIVES OF SERVICE AS POLICE OFFICERS. FROM THE NATION'S SMALLEST TOWNS TO ITS LARGEST CITIES, WE HAVE PLACED MORE COPS ON

THE STREET. IT IS SO EXCITING TO TALK TO THESE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN. THEY HAVE SUCH AN EXUBERANCE, SUCH DEDICATION, SUCH ENERGY. I KNOW THEY WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE. COPS DIRECTOR JOE BRANN HAS DONE A GREAT JOB, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR SUGGESTIONS TO IMPROVE THIS SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM.

THREATS AND CRITICISMS

YET DESPITE OUR SUCCESSES IN CREATING AND IMPLEMENTING A PROGRAM THAT PUTS RESOURCES DIRECTLY IN YOUR HANDS, THERE ARE SOME IN CONGRESS WHO WOULD ELIMINATE THE COPS PROGRAM, AND WOULD REPLACE IT WITH A BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.

THAT'S WHAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PASSED TWO WEEKS AGO AS PART OF AN APPROPRIATIONS BILL. THE SENATE SOON WILL ALSO CONSIDER LEGISLATION THAT ATTEMPTS TO GUT THE COPS PROGRAM.

I REMEMBER WHEN I WAS STATE'S ATTORNEY IN DADE COUNTY AND I'D HEAR REPORTS THAT A WONDERFUL BILL WAS PASSED IN WASHINGTON THAT AUTHORIZES NEW SUPPORT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT. SIX MONTHS LATER, I'D ASK MY SENATOR WHEN THAT SUPPORT WOULD GET DOWN TO THE LOCAL LEVEL WHERE IT WAS NEEDED.

SOMETIMES HE WOULD ANSWER THAT THE MONEY HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED BUT NOT APPROPRIATED. OTHER TIMES I KNEW THAT THE MONEY WAS FILTERING DOWN FROM WASHINGTON TO ATLANTA TO TALLAHASSEE TO DADE COUNTY. EVERY TIME THAT MONEY CHANGED HANDS ALONG THE WAY, THERE WAS LESS OF IT TO REACH THE LOCAL LEVEL WHERE IT WOULD DO THE MOST GOOD.

WE NEED THE HELP OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS TO ENSURE THAT CONGRESS DOES NOT TURN ITS BACK ON THE COMMITMENT MADE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, AND THE AMERICAN

PEOPLE, WITH THE PASSAGE OF THE VIOLENT
CRIME CONTROL ACT LAST FALL.

VARIOUS LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS NOW
BEFORE CONGRESS RETREAT FROM THE PROGRESS
WE HAVE MADE TOGETHER WITH THE 1994 VIOLENT
CRIME CONTROL ACT IN ONE OF TWO WAYS. THESE
PROPOSALS EITHER DANGLE THE CARROT OF
LARGER AUTHORIZATIONS THAT MAY NOT BE
FUNDED, OR THEY CREATE BLOCK GRANTS,
DIVERTING MONEY FROM LAW ENFORCEMENT AS IT
CHANGES HANDS ALONG THE LINE.

THE PRESIDENT HAS MADE IT CRYSTAL CLEAR THAT HE WILL VETO ANY LEGISLATION WHICH COMPROMISES THE PRINCIPLES THAT WE ESTABLISHED TOGETHER.

CONCLUSION

WE MUST CONTINUE THE WORK THAT WE HAVE BEGUN TOGETHER TO CREATE PROGRAMS TO SECURE THE SAFETY OF ALL CITIZENS. YOU ARE DOING INCREDIBLE JOBS IN SMALL DEPARTMENTS, LARGE DEPARTMENTS, RURAL AREAS, URBAN AREAS BY RECOGNIZING WHAT POLICING IS ALL ABOUT. YOU ARE ON THE STREETS GIVING CHILDREN HOPE BY PREVENTING VIOLENCE AND RESTORING ORDER. YOU ARE ON THE STREETS

BEING FAIR AND FIRM. TOGETHER, WE ARE
FORGING RELATIONSHIPS WITH YOUR
COMMUNITIES.

I WANT YOU TO KNOW YOU HAVE MY
GRATITUDE, FOR THE DAY TO DAY BURDENS OF
YOUR WORK, AND THE OFTEN UNRECOGNIZED
HEROISM YOU DEMONSTRATE SO FREQUENTLY. IT
IS FOR THIS REASON, ABOVE ALL, WHY I AM PROUD
TO BE INVOLVED WITH YOU, IN LAW
ENFORCEMENT.