

REMARKS OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THE ILLINOIS CHIEFS OF POLICE ANNUAL MEETING
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In recent years, crime in Illinois and throughout the Nation has become increasingly organized and sophisticated. And organized crime has become especially lucrative because of the enormous market for illicit drugs.

Large-scale drug dealers must organize their operations. They obtain the illicit substances, or the rights to the substances, overseas. Within our borders, the drug dealers have set up elaborate enterprises for cutting the pure imported drugs and distributing them over wide geographical areas. And the organization does not stop there. Drug money is laundered through legitimate businesses set up as "fronts" for drug dealers. The profits are then plowed back into the drug business, just like a legitimate major enterprise. Increasingly, some of the profits are actually invested in legitimate businesses -- including real estate in Florida, restaurants in California, and other businesses across the Nation.

The popular notion that La Cosa Nostra -- or traditional organized crime -- stays out of drugs is simply not true. Many of the syndicate's families have developed elaborate drug networks. Virtually every one of them is involved in drugs in one way or another.

But the problem of organized crime today is by no means limited to its traditional form. Over the past decade, some 800 outlaw motorcycle gangs have developed around the country and in foreign countries -- and drugs represent their primary source of revenue. Prison gangs, first established as a result of associations developed in the California State Prison system over the past twenty years, today operate both inside and outside prison and are spreading beyond the West Coast. In addition, there are also other emerging groups-- such as Southeast Asian groups, the violent Colombian groups known as the Cocaine Cowboys, and other drug cartels.

All of these organizations operate through the use of violence and threats of violence. In Boston over 300 murders in the past 40 years are attributed to the mob. Philadelphia has seen 16 such killings in the past

two years. And nearby Chicago has experienced some 1100 gangland slayings since 1919. These executions, heinous in themselves, often endanger the lives of innocent bystanders as well.

The massive involvement of organized crime with drugs is only part of the problem. Organized crime is also heavily involved in pornography, gambling, prostitution, extortion, loansharking, fraud, and weapons trafficking. Successful labor racketeering prosecutions during the last past two decades have also disclosed significant infiltration of legitimate businesses and labor unions by racketeers.

And most serious of all, organized crime uses its drug money to corrupt public officials at all levels. We have reports of rural sheriffs and police officers accepting payments of \$50,000 or more just to "look the other way" while traffickers make a single landing at a makeshift airport. The dollar amounts involved are so great that bribery threatens the very foundations of law and law enforcement.

In the fight against organized crime and drug trafficking, the federal government had been operating at a considerable disadvantage. During the four years preceding my tenure, the number of FBI and DEA agents actually declined by more than 900 -- about a ten percent cut in our manpower.

As you know, we now have new resources for the fight. Before seeking those new resources, however, we crafted and implemented a series of initiatives to use our limited resources better -- and in a more coordinated way -- to fight organized crime and drug trafficking.

We reorganized the Drug Enforcement Administration. And for the first time, just one year ago, the FBI was brought into the fight against the number one crime problem to complement the excellent work of the DEA. Thereby, we gained not only the FBI's resources, but also its years of experience in fighting organized crime. Prior to January of 1982, the FBI had no specific drug investigations underway. This January, the FBI has 1,115 -- and about one-third are joint investigations with the DEA.

We have scored dramatic successes against organized crime. We have indicted and convicted numerous high-level members of syndicate families -- in some

cities including the top structure of organized crime families regarded as untouchable a few short years ago.

During fiscal year 1981, there were 515 organized crime convictions. During fiscal year 1982, there were 763 -- nearly a fifty percent increase. And annualizing the number of convictions during the first three months of this fiscal year shows further increases. In total, there have been about 1400 federal organized crime convictions in just the last two and one-quarter years.

The list of most significant organized crime convictions in the last year alone is striking.

The boss of the New Orleans family was convicted in two bribery-conspiracy cases, during January 1982 in his home town and April 1982 in Los Angeles. He was sentenced to serve 17 years.

In July 1982 the leader of the Cleveland syndicate was convicted of Federal racketeering charges and sentenced to 17 years. The number three man received a sentence of 12 years in a related prosecution involving the bribery of a Federal employee in an effort to obtain confidential information from FBI files. A self-professed drug king for the Cleveland mob pleaded guilty to Federal narcotics and racketeering charges several months ago and received a 30-year sentence. He has since cooperated against his associates in narcotics trafficking and related acts of murder and violence.

In August 1982, as a result of perhaps the FBI's most successful undercover penetration of the mob, six members or associates of New York's Bonanno family were convicted of several offenses ranging from narcotics violations to murder. The key defendants received fifteen-year sentences.

The boss of the Philadelphia mob was convicted on firearms charges and jailed in August 1982 pending appeal. In February 1981 the number two and three leaders of the Philadelphia syndicate had also been indicted on racketeering and conspiracy charges, but were murdered before the court process could be completed. One captain of the organization was ultimately convicted in June 1982 in that same case and received a 10-year sentence.

In September 1982 the number three man in the Chicago syndicate was convicted in a case involving

control of a major labor union. He was sentenced to 20 years.

Just last December, in Chicago, the president of the Teamsters Union was convicted of attempting to bribe a United States Senator. One of his co-defendants was a leader in that city's organized crime group. Another defendant was murdered less than two weeks ago.

Most recently -- just one week ago -- the underboss of the Cleveland family was convicted of engaging in a continuing criminal enterprise plus twenty-three other narcotics violations. In addition, three other organized crime figures were convicted of engaging in a continuing criminal enterprise, conspiracy, murder, and an assortment of narcotics violations. These convictions -- when added to our earlier successes in the same city -- mean that the Cleveland mob has actually been crippled.

By any measure, these cases represent outstanding successes. I am proud of all the dedicated investigators and prosecutors who labored long and hard to bring them about -- often at great risk to their own lives. We fully expect these successes to continue. They do not begin, however, to exhaust the list of improvements made in federal law enforcement.

Just over a year ago, the Attorney General's Task Force on Violent Crime -- which Governor Thompson co-chaired -- made sixty-four different recommendations to improve federal law enforcement. We have already implemented seventy-five percent of those recommendations. Indeed, the Law Enforcement Coordinating Committees that are now pulling together federal, state, and local law enforcement efforts and resources -- and have highlighted the urgency of the drug problem -- were created as a result of Task Force recommendations.

Through passage of an exception to the posse comitatus law, we have been able to utilize the military's resources -- and its tracking and intelligence capabilities -- in the fight against drug traffickers. Through amendments to the Tax Reform Act, crucial information is more readily available to law enforcement -- and more tax cases are possible against drug dealers and organized crime.

Although organized crime -- and especially organized drug trafficking -- is our number one domestic

law enforcement problem, its reach is international. Foreign crime cartels are penetrating the U.S. market. The profits of organized crime are laundered and utilized beyond our borders. Drugs are grown and processed overseas -- and organized crime has become increasingly involved at those levels as well as at the distribution level in this country.

It is therefore critical that we establish close working relationships at the highest levels with the governments of drug source and transit countries. It is essential that we reemphasize on a continuing basis the concerns of the United States about the international drug problem and the importance to us of an effective international response. It is also important that we learn firsthand about the problems that confront foreign governments in dealing with crop eradication, crop substitution, and processing laboratories within their jurisdictions. Last, we must ensure that our resources and personnel are being appropriately utilized in cooperation with foreign governments. My trip last Fall to drug source and transit countries in Asia and Europe helped to further all of these necessary goals.

In spite of all our new domestic and international efforts, in spite of a new intergovernmental and interagency coordination and cooperation in the fight against drugs and organized crime, huge profits have enabled organized crime to outman and outgun us in the battle.

It was for that reason that the President, working with all the affected agencies, put together his new eight-point initiative to challenge directly both organized crime and drug trafficking in America. Many of the components of that program are in fact already underway.

The first component is twelve new regional task forces to mount a coordinated attack by all the involved federal agencies against organized drug trafficking. Building upon the reports from our Law Enforcement Coordinating Committees, the experience gained in coordinating the diverse agencies involved in the South Florida Task Force, and the successful involvement of the FBI with DEA, the Task Force concept was adopted. Already, the Task Forces are becoming operational. Guidelines jointly developed by all of the agencies involved have been issued. The organization of the Task Forces is in place. Personnel are being assigned. The selection of the first two major cases for the

headquarters city of each Task Force has been nearly completed.

These Task Forces will work closely with state and local law enforcement officials. And they will coordinate and utilize all the law enforcement resources of the Federal Government -- including the FBI, DEA, IRS, ATF, Immigration and Naturalization Service, United States Marshals Service, the United States Customs Service, the Coast Guard, and in some regions, Department of Defense tracking and pursuit.

These Task Forces represent the single largest federal effort against drug trafficking ever assembled. By creating these Task Forces -- and bringing the FBI into the battle -- we will double the federal drug enforcement resources of only a year ago. They represent the first major infusion of new agents into the FBI and DEA in about a decade. The new Task Forces will complement the work of the Department's existing Organized Crime Strike Forces -- which do not generally become involved in prosecuting drug cases -- and they will utilize more agents and prosecutors than the Strike Forces. Unlike prior federal drug efforts that focused on the street level, our Task Forces will concentrate upon destroying the top levels of organized drug trafficking. The Task Forces are a major new undertaking -- and by the end of summer, they will bring 1600 new law enforcement personnel into this battle.

As important as these new Task Forces will prove -- and as central as drug trafficking is to organized crime today -- they do not represent the totality of the President's new program. That program is as broad as organized crime today.

The Administration has launched a Governor's Project to aid in bringing about needed state and local criminal justice reforms. For example, without effective enforcement of local and state statutes against various kinds of racketeering, such as illegal gambling, vital sources of revenue for organized crime will never be fully dried up. This Governors' Project will bring to the attention of the states the importance of such initiatives as well as eliciting the best ideas from our states. That interchange has, in fact, already begun.

All the diverse agencies and law enforcement bureaus of the Federal Government are now being brought together for the comprehensive attack on drug trafficking and organized crime. A cabinet-level committee chaired

by the Attorney General and a working group chaired by the Associate Attorney General will review interagency and intergovernmental cooperation in the struggle against organized crime. When necessary, we will bring any problems to the President's attention for a speedy resolution.

The Departments of Justice and Treasury have also established a National Center for State and Local Law Enforcement Training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Georgia. It has now begun to assist and train local law enforcement agents and officials in combating other kinds of organized crime such as arson, bombing, bribery, obstruction of justice, and contract fraud, as well as drug smuggling. During the pilot phase of this program, over 450 state and local officers from as far away as Anchorage have already received training. The evaluations they completed were extremely enthusiastic in supporting this type of training as an exceptionally valuable tool in fighting crime.

To ensure continued improvement in our effort, the President has asked me to submit a yearly report on the status of the fight against organized crime and organized drug cartels. We will take a yearly inventory of our efforts in this area and report on our progress.

In addition, new funds are being allocated to prison and jail facilities so that the mistake of releasing dangerous criminals because of overcrowded facilities will not occur.

As you can see, the President's new program to combat organized crime is well underway just 90 days after he proposed it. Nevertheless, essential components of that program await further Congressional action.

Among the most important weapons in the fight against organized crime are public scrutiny and support. Accordingly, the President supports the creation of a National Organized Crime Commission composed of fifteen distinguished Americans from diverse backgrounds and professions with practical experience in criminal justice and combating organized crime. The purpose of this Commission, which would continue for up to three years, is to undertake a region by region analysis of organized crime's influence, to assess the data it gathers, and to hold public hearings on its findings.

It is also essential that the Congress enact other criminal law reforms that the President has proposed. Organized crime will take advantage of any weakness in the law -- and weaknesses in each of the following areas have been clearly identified through difficult and costly experience.

We should reform the federal bail system by authorizing the pretrial detention of defendants shown to be dangerous to the community and by reversing the current presumption in favor of bail pending appeal. The courts should be specifically authorized to inquire into the source of bail, and they should refuse to accept money or property that will not reasonably ensure a defendant's appearance at trial.

We should enact sentencing reform abolishing the Parole Commission and establishing a system of uniform, determinate sentences; authorizing government appeal of sentences; and restructuring the entire range of criminal fines and prison terms. The process of parole has been too often abused, and the organized criminal has too often been the abuser.

Criminal forfeitures must be made available in all major drug trafficking cases. We must strengthen procedures for "freezing" forfeitable assets pending judicial action, expand the classes of property subject to forfeiture, and facilitate the administrative forfeiture of conveyances and other property in uncontested cases. We must provide specific authority for the forfeiture of the proceeds of an "enterprise" acquired or maintained in violation of the RICO statute.

The exclusionary rule has substantially hampered our law enforcement efforts. The suppression of evidence has freed the clearly guilty, diminished public respect for the law, distorted the truth-finding process, chilled legitimate police conduct, and put a tremendous strain on the courts. A recent National Institute of Justice report found that when felony drug arrests were not prosecuted in California, 30 percent of the time it was for search and seizure reasons. It also found that "[t]o a substantial degree, individuals released because of search and seizure problems were those with serious criminal records who appeared to continue to be involved in crime after their release." It is time to bar the use of the exclusionary rule when a law enforcement officer has acted in good faith, reasonably believing his action to have been legal.

We are also supporting other legislative initiatives with particular relevance to drug trafficking and organized crime: strengthening federal laws against labor racketeering, increasing federal penalties for drug trafficking, easing the extradition process, making murder for hire a federal offense, amending the Bank Secrecy Act and wiretap laws, and providing mandatory imprisonment for the use of a firearm in the commission of a federal felony.

These reforms would not diminish the liberties of law-abiding Americans. They would, however, diminish the opportunity for organized crime to take liberties with law-abiding Americans.

The President's new program -- and the improvements already effected within the government-- give me great hope for the future. It is a comprehensive and carefully crafted national strategy that will coordinate and improve the efforts of all law enforcement agencies in fighting the menace of organized crime and drug trafficking. With your assistance -- and public support -- it will guarantee further and greater victories against organized crime.