



Department of Justice

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FOR RELEASE AT 11:00 A.M. E. D. T.
MONDAY, JUNE 24, 1974

ADDRESS

BY

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM B. SAXBE
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

BEFORE

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ATTORNEYS GENERAL ANNUAL CONVENTION

9:00 A.M.
MONDAY, JUNE 24, 1974
NORTH SHORE MOTOR HOTEL
COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO

I AM DELIGHTED AT THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE WITH YOU
HERE THIS MORNING.

AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, I HAVE BEEN INTERESTED IN THE
WORK OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR A GREAT MANY YEARS--BOTH WHILE
I WAS ATTORNEY GENERAL OF OHIO AND LATER. AND SINCE RECEIVING
YOUR INVITATION, I HAVE LOOKED FORWARD TO RENEWING A NUMBER
OF OLD FRIENDSHIPS.

ON THE PLANE COMING OUT HERE, I HAD A CHANCE TO READ
OVER THE AGENDA FOR THE CONFERENCE. I FOUND IT TO BE A
FORMIDABLE ONE AND ALSO A VERY IMPRESSIVE ONE.

ANYONE WHO DOUBTS THE NEW VIGOR OF STATE GOVERNMENT
SHOULD LOOK CLOSELY AT THE WORK YOU ARE DOING. A SUBSTANTIAL
AMOUNT OF POWER IS FLOWING BACK TO THE STATES, AND NOT JUST
BECAUSE OF EVENTS OF THE PAST YEAR OR TWO IN WASHINGTON. I
THINK THE QUALITY AND DEDICATION OF STATE OFFICIALS ARE THE
KEY INGREDIENTS.

AS ATTORNEYS GENERAL, YOU ARE GRAPPLING WITH PROBLEMS THAT ARE NOT ONLY OF SUBSTANTIAL INTEREST TO YOUR INDIVIDUAL STATES, BUT, IN THE AGGREGATE, OF IMMENSE IMPORTANCE TO THE FUTURE OF THE NATION.

UNTIL A FEW MONTHS AGO, I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD AGAIN HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK CLOSELY WITH YOU OR TO TAKE PART IN JOINT VENTURES THAT MIGHT HAVE A BENEFICIAL IMPACT IN YOUR AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY.

BUT NOW I DO HAVE SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY AND I AM DETERMINED TO DO EVERYTHING WITHIN MY POWER TO HELP DEVELOP THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVELS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND THE STATES.

IT MAY NOT ALWAYS BE AN EASY TASK--NO MATTER WHICH SIDE OF THE FENCE IT IS VIEWED FROM. WHEN I WAS ATTORNEY GENERAL OF OHIO, I SOMETIMES CHAFED AT WHAT I FELT WAS A DISINTEREST ON THE PART OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. AND SINCE I HAVE MOVED INTO MY NEW OFFICE, I HAVE OCCASIONALLY WONDERED WHY SOME STATES DID NOT MOVE MORE PROMPTLY IN CERTAIN AREAS OF SUBSTANTIAL NEED.

WHATEVER THE REASONS, IT IS VERY APPARENT THAT MATTERS OF COMPELLING PUBLIC INTEREST NOW DICTATE THAT NEW LEVELS OF COOPERATION BE FORGED THAT WILL BRING PARALLEL PROGRESS FOR ALL.

BY COOPERATION, I CERTAINLY DO NOT MEAN ENCROACHMENT BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ON RESPONSIBILITIES THAT REST BASICALLY WITH GOVERNMENT AT THE STATE, COUNTY, AND CITY LEVELS.

HOWEVER, IT IS CLEAR BEYOND ANY DOUBT THAT OUR SOCIETY HAS BECOME EXCEEDINGLY INTRICATE. TO BE EFFECTIVE, IT ALSO IS APPARENT THAT OUR RESPONSES TO PROBLEMS WILL HAVE TO BE COMPLEX AS WELL AS INTERRELATED.

THE GREAT BULK OF FEDERAL LAW HAS BEEN ERECTED BECAUSE OF ISSUES WHICH TRANSCEND THE BORDERS OF ANY ONE STATE. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE OF MUCH OF YOUR WORK BACK HOME AS WELL AS THE ITEMS YOU WILL DISCUSS FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

JUST LOOK AT WHAT IS ON YOUR AGENDA: CRIME; ENERGY;
THE ENVIRONMENT; ANTITRUST; CONSUMER PROTECTION; COMMERCE;
CRIMINAL JUSTICE DATA SYSTEMS. WHAT ONE STATE DOES IN ANY
ONE OF THESE AREAS HAS AN EFFECT ON A NUMBER OF OTHER STATES--
PERHAPS ALL OF THEM.

AFTER BEING IN MY PRESENT POST FOR SIX MONTHS, I CANNOT
TELL YOU THIS MORNING THAT I HAVE DEVELOPED ANY MAGIC FORMULA
TO SOLVE THESE PROBLEMS OR TO BRING AN INSTANT RAPPORT IN OUR
RELATIONSHIPS.

BUT I WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH YOU SOME BEGINNINGS THAT
HAVE BEEN FASHIONED, AS WELL AS TO MENTION ADDITIONAL STEPS
THAT ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION.

IF WE DO OUR WORK WELL, PERHAPS MANY OF THESE
PROBLEMS WILL HAVE BEEN RESOLVED WHEN OUR SUCCESSORS MEET FIVE
YEARS FROM NOW. I HASTEN TO ADD THAT I HOPE WILL YOU NOT
INTERPRET THAT COMMENT IN SUCH A WAY THAT I APPEAR OPPOSED TO
YOUR SEEKING ANOTHER TERM. OR EVEN TWO.

I ALSO WANT TO STRESS THAT I DO NOT MEAN COOPERATION TO BE A EUPHEMISM FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BLUDGEONING THE STATES INTO SUBMISSION. THERE HAS ALREADY BEEN ENOUGH OF THAT TO LAST US ALL INTO THE 21ST CENTURY.

BY COOPERATION I MEAN EQUALS WORKING TOGETHER--WITHOUT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FEELING IT IS THE FIRST AMONG THOSE EQUALS.

SO WITH ALL OF THOSE THINGS IN MIND, LET ME DISCUSS A FEW AREAS WHERE THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IS ATTEMPTING TO ASSIST YOU.

ONE INVOLVES THE CREATION OF JOINT LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEES BY STATE, LOCAL, AND FEDERAL OFFICIALS.

I WAS VERY IMPRESSED WITH THE DETAILED REPORT ON THIS SUBJECT THAT WAS DISTRIBUTED TO ALL OF YOU RECENTLY BY THE ASSOCIATION'S COMMITTEE ON THE OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL.

THIS LEVEL OF INTEREST AND AWARENESS CERTAINLY BODES WELL FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEES AS WE SEEK TO FORM THEM AND THEN TURN THEM INTO EFFECTIVE TOOLS TO RESOLVE A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS RELATING TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

NEW COMMITTEES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED AND NOW ARE IN OPERATION IN 15 STATES, AND EXISTING STATE OR LOCAL GROUPS ARE BEING UTILIZED FOR THESE EFFORTS IN 10 OTHER STATES. THERE ARE 14 STATES WHERE ATTEMPTS ARE BEING MADE TO EITHER FORM NEW COMMITTEES OR BUILD ON EXISTING MACHINERY. PROGRESS IS NOT SO APPARENT IN THE OTHER STATES, WHERE LIAISON STILL IS VERY INFORMAL OR OTHER FACTORS HAVE ARISEN THAT HAVE SO FAR BLOCKED FORMAL GROUPS FROM BEING ESTABLISHED.

THE LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEES ARE UNIQUE NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THEIR INTER-GOVERNMENTAL NATURE. A NUMBER OF INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEES ALSO ARE REPRESENTED, IN ADDITION TO STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL AND LOCAL PROSECUTORS.

THOSE OF YOU WHO DO NOT HAVE CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES STILL MAY FIND WAYS TO ASSIST THESE EFFORTS.

FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, THESE LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEES HAVE A HIGH PRIORITY. EARLIER THIS YEAR, I SENT TO EVERY UNITED STATES ATTORNEY A DETAILED BLUEPRINT TO SERVE AS A GUIDE IN THEIR EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT VEHICLE FOR THESE NEW JOINT ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS.

I MADE IT CLEAR TO THEM THAT FREQUENT AND MEANINGFUL COMMUNICATION MUST BE THE RULE, AND EACH IS REQUIRED TO SUBMIT A DETAILED REPORT TO ME ON PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE AND PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED.

THIS EFFORT BY THE DEPARTMENT BEGAN TWO AND ONE-HALF YEARS AGO. THE CONTACTS WERE SOMEWHAT LIMITED AND THE TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION WERE CONFINED TO CARGO AND AUTOMOBILE THEFTS.

THE NEW GUIDE PREPARED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S CRIMINAL DIVISION STRESSES THE NEED FOR MAXIMUM COOPERATION AND COORDINATION IN ALL AREAS OF COMMON CONCERN.

THEY INCLUDE MATTERS RANGING FROM AIRCRAFT HIGHJACKING TO BANK ROBBERY TO NARCOTICS TO CONTROL OF ORGANIZED CRIME.

THERE WILL ALWAYS BE MATTERS OF JURISDICTION TO BE WORKED OUT. IN SOME INSTANCES, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE THE LEAD ON THE INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION. IN OTHER CASES, STATES OR LOCALITIES MAY HAVE THE BASIC RESPONSIBILITIES.

HOWEVER, REGARDLESS OF WHO EVENTUALLY TAKES THE CASE INTO COURT, THAT CASE CAN BE MUCH STRONGER IF IT IS THE RESULT OF OUR JOINT EFFORTS. IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE, I DON'T BELIEVE IT IS EVER A MATTER OF TOO MANY COOKS SPOILING THE SOUP. IT'S RATHER A CASE OF FRAGMENTATION CONTRIBUTING TO THE WIDE DIMENSIONS OF THE CRIME PROBLEM.

ON THE LOCAL LEVEL, A NUMBER OF POLICE CHIEFS AS WELL AS THE NATIONAL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION HAVE PLEDGED THEIR SUPPORT TO THE NEW LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEES. WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, THE LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION ALSO HAS EXPRESSED ITS STRONG INTEREST IN POSSIBLE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE COMMITTEES.

SOME AT THE STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL MAY FEEL THAT WHILE THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TALKS A GOOD GAME IT REALLY IS NOT INTERESTED IN MAXIMUM COOPERATION IN CERTAIN KINDS OF CASES. THAT POINT HAS BEEN MADE, FOR INSTANCE, IN THE FIGHT AGAINST ORGANIZED CRIME AND PUBLIC CORRUPTION.

THE DEPARTMENT DOES HAVE A CONCERN THAT IN CERTAIN CASES INFORMATION ABOUT INFORMANTS OR OTHER SENSITIVE INVESTIGATIVE MATERIAL MAY BE COMPROMISED IF IT IS MADE KNOWN BEYOND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

IT SEEMS TO ME, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH CONCERNS WOULD BE HANDLED MOST APPROPRIATELY IF THEY ARE THROWN OUT ON THE TABLE FOR A FRANK DISCUSSION. AND THEN WE CAN SEE HOW WE CAN PROGRESS ON OUR POINTS OF AGREEMENT RATHER THAN BEING STIFLED BY OLD DIFFERENCES.

IN THE CASE OF ORGANIZED CRIME, WE MIGHT LOOK AT SUCH NOTABLE EFFORTS AS THE JOINT STRIKE FORCE IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK FOR PROOF THAT COOPERATION CAN BE ACHIEVED WHERE A FEW YEARS AGO NEARLY ALL PARTIES THOUGHT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE.

THE MANHATTAN STRIKE FORCE BEGAN IN 1969 AS A JOINT VENTURE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S CRIMINAL DIVISION, FEDERAL INVESTIGATION AGENCIES, THE LOCAL PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE, AND THE NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT. IN FISCAL 1973 ALONE, THE STRIKE FORCE OBTAINED 45 INDICTMENTS AGAINST 127 DEFENDANTS.

WE SEE OTHER PROMISING DEVELOPMENTS AS WELL.

ONE OF THE SPECIFIC STEPS TAKEN TO BRING OUR COMMON RESOURCES TO BEAR ON CRIME WAS THE CREATION NOT LONG AGO OF SPECIAL CARGO-SECURITY TEAMS IN 15 MAJOR CITIES. THIS EFFORT BY LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL AGENCIES--AS WELL AS PRIVATE INDUSTRY--WILL SEEK TO MAKE MAJOR INROADS ON CARGO THEFTS THAT NOW COST THE CONSUMER AN ESTIMATED \$1.5 BILLION A YEAR.

THE UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE, WHICH IS PART OF THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, IS PLAYING AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN REDUCING CARGO THEFTS BY CORRELATING ALL OF THE INFORMATION IN THE 15 AREAS.

YOUR MAJOR POINT OF CONTACT WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN THE LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEES WILL BE THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS WITHIN YOUR STATE. THEY HAVE BEEN GIVEN A BROAD MANDATE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS. I ALSO HAVE TOLD THEM THAT I EXPECT RESULTS.

HOWEVER, I DO NOT BELIEVE THEY SHOULD BE THE ONLY POINT OF CONTACT. I THINK IT IS TIME THAT WE CONSIDER THE CREATION OF A NEW VEHICLE TO DEVELOP BETTER COORDINATION BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT AND THE STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL.

I WOULD LIKE YOUR VIEWS ON WHETHER SUCH A PROGRAM WOULD BE HELPFUL. IF YOU FEEL IT WOULD, THEN I SOLICIT YOUR IDEAS ON HOW OFTEN WE SHOULD MEET AND THE TOPICS WE SHOULD CONSIDER ON A REGULAR BASIS.

WE WOULD NOT BEGIN SUCH AN EFFORT WITHOUT YOUR FULL AGREEMENT AND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS. BUT I WOULD LIKE TO MENTION A FEW THINGS WE HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT AT THE DEPARTMENT TO GIVE YOU AN IDEA OF HOW SERIOUSLY WE TAKE THIS MATTER OF MUTUAL COOPERATION.

I BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONSIDER CREATING A WORKING COMMITTEE WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT TO DEVELOP MORE EFFECTIVE WAYS TO WORK WITH STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ON ALL MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST.

THIS COMMITTEE, TO BE MOST EFFECTIVE, OUGHT TO INCLUDE HIGH RANKING MEMBERS OF THE DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

FROM TIME TO TIME, WHEN APPROPRIATE, IT ALSO COULD SEEK ASSISTANCE FROM THE HEADS OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS AND TAX DIVISIONS, AS WELL AS THE FBI, DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION, THE IMMIGRATION SERVICE, AND LEAA.

TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, NO SUCH PROGRAM HAS EVER BEEN INSTITUTED BY THE DEPARTMENT, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU ABOUT IT.

OBVIOUS BENEFITS WOULD RESULT FROM DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ASSISTANT ATTORNEYS GENERAL--ESPECIALLY THE HEAD OF THE CRIMINAL DIVISION. BUT I THINK THERE WOULD BE EQUALLY HIGH LEVEL RESULTS IN OTHER AREAS AS WELL.

I KNOW THAT MANY OF YOU HAVE A GREAT INTEREST IN A STRONGER CONFRONTATION WITH ANTITRUST PROBLEMS. OUR ANTITRUST DIVISION NOW HAS A PROGRAM TO ASSIST STATES IN ENFORCEMENT MATTERS. HOWEVER, I BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE BROADENED--CONSISTENT WITH OUR REQUIREMENTS TO KEEP CERTAIN KINDS OF INFORMATION CONFIDENTIAL.

IN CIVIL CASES, THERE IS FAR TOO LITTLE CONTACT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT AND THE STATES. WHILE MANY OF YOU HAVE NO CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES, YOU ALL HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF CIVIL WORK. I BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE A VERY FRUITFUL AREA TO DEVELOP PROGRAMS THAT WILL BENEFIT THE PUBLIC GREATLY.

THE ENVIRONMENT HAS COME TO THE FOREFRONT OF PUBLIC ATTENTION. IF WE ARE TO BE EFFECTIVE, WE MUST JOIN FORCES TO SOLVE THE WIDE RANGE OF COMPLICATED PROBLEMS WHICH THREATEN HUMAN HEALTH AS WELL AS CHERISHED ESTHETIC VALUES.

WHAT WILL RESULT FROM ANY JOINT EFFORT THAT MAY BE UNDERTAKEN WILL REALLY DEPEND ON HOW DILIGENT WE ARE--BOTH NOW AND IN THE COMING YEARS. BUT I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S GOOD FAITH AND WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST ARE BOTH VERY REAL COMMODITIES.

WE SHOULD TRY TO BREAK NEW GROUND WHEREVER POSSIBLE. FOR INSTANCE, CLARENCE KELLEY, THE DIRECTOR OF THE FBI, TOLD ME RECENTLY THAT HE PROVIDED ASSISTANCE TO ONE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL WHO WAS INTERESTED IN SETTING UP AN ORGANIZED CRIME PROGRAM. IF YOU FEEL IT WOULD BE HELPFUL, WE STAND READY TO HOLD A SEMINAR FOR YOUR ASSOCIATION AT THE FBI ACADEMY AT QUANTICO ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF MORE EFFECTIVE EFFORTS TO COMBAT ORGANIZED CRIME AND CORRUPTION.

IT ALSO MAY BE POSSIBLE IN THE FUTURE TO OPEN UP OTHER TRAINING PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT TO STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL AND THEIR STAFFS. WE CURRENTLY ARE PLACING GREAT EMPHASIS ON INCREASING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE STAFFS OF OUR UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS. A SPECIAL THREE-DAY SEMINAR IS GETTING UNDERWAY IN WASHINGTON THIS MORNING FOR 35 ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS ON THE PREPARATION AND TRIAL OF CRIMINAL TAX CASES. SIMILAR SEMINARS WILL BE HELD NEXT MONTH IN NEW ORLEANS AND SAN FRANCISCO. AND A NUMBER OF TRAINING SESSIONS COVERING OTHER IMPORTANT SUBJECTS ARE PLANNED AS WELL.

NO MATTER WHAT PROBLEMS WE FACE, OR THE SHORTCOMINGS WITH WHICH WE MUST GRAPPLE, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT A BETTER JOB BE DONE IN ALL AREAS OF OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE PEOPLE.

IN THAT SPIRIT, I ALSO AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THIS MORNING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IS UNDERTAKING A NATION-WIDE CAMPAIGN TO REDUCE THE THEFT OF STOCKS AND BONDS AS WELL AS THEIR USE BY CRIMINALS TO FURTHER THEIR ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES.

THIS PROGRAM CAN SUCCEED ONLY IF WE HAVE THE FULL COOPERATION OF STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES, AS WELL AS STRONG SUPPORT FROM FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND PRIVATE FIRMS.

NO ONE KNOWS FOR CERTAIN THE FULL AMOUNT OF STOLEN AND COUNTERFEIT SECURITIES--OR THE EXTENT OF THE PROBLEM--BUT ESTIMATES HAVE RANGED AS HIGH AS \$50 BILLION DOLLARS.

IN A SHORT TIME, WE WILL BE CIRCULATING WIDELY A DETAILED BLUEPRINT OF REASONABLE STEPS THAT CAN BE TAKEN TO PREVENT SECURITIES THEFTS. A LOT OF BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL LEADERS ASK WHAT THEY CAN DO TO HELP FIGHT CRIME. WELL, THIS BLUEPRINT WILL GIVE THEM SOMETHING THEY CAN DO THAT IS EASY, PRACTICAL, AND MODEST IN COST. NOT ONLY WILL THEY HELP COMBAT CRIME, BUT THEY CAN ALSO HELP BLOCK THE DRAIN ON THE ECONOMY THAT THESE STOLEN SECURITIES SO OFTEN REPRESENT, ESPECIALLY WHEN SPIRITED OUT OF THE COUNTRY.

TIME DOES NOT PERMIT ME TO GIVE A POINT-BY-POINT DESCRIPTION OF THE STEPS WE URGE BE TAKEN, BUT LET ME JUST MENTION A FEW OF THEM. AND PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT ALTHOUGH SOME MAY SOUND VERY ELEMENTARY, WE HAVE FOUND SITUATIONS WHERE EVEN THE MOST RUDIMENTARY PRECAUTIONS ARE NOT TAKEN.

AS A FIRST PRIORITY, WE URGE THAT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS USE CENTRAL CERTIFICATE DEPOSITORIES WHICH EMPLOY THE BOOK ENTRY SYSTEM.

EXTREMELY TIGHT SECURITY PRECAUTIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN BY EVERY INSTITUTION WHICH IS HOLDING SECURITIES, INCLUDING THE USE OF VAULTS WITH TIGHTLY-CONTROLLED ACCESS.

EMPLOYEES ALLOWED INTO SECURE AREAS SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO WEAR IDENTIFICATION BADGES. ACCESS OF NON-EMPLOYEES TO AREAS WHERE SECURITIES ARE HELD SHOULD BE CAREFULLY CONTROLLED AND MONITORED.

WHEN SECURITIES ARE PRESENTED TO A FINANCIAL INSTITUTION, THEIR AUTHENTICITY SHOULD BE CHECKED IMMEDIATELY. LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES EITHER CAN CONSULT THEIR OWN FILES OR MAKE A DETERMINATION IN A RELATIVELY SHORT TIME WITH THE NATIONAL CRIME INFORMATION CENTER OPERATED BY THE FBI.

ORGANIZED CRIME IS DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THE THEFT OF SECURITIES AND THE NEW PROGRAM I HAVE DESCRIBED IS ONE WAY THAT BOTH GOVERNMENT AND THE FINANCIAL COMMUNITY CAN BRING PRESSURE ON A MAJOR SOURCE OF FUNDS USED FOR ILLICIT ACTIVITIES.

IT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT THAT STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES SUPPORT THIS NEW PROGRAM. WE ALSO WANT YOUR SUGGESTIONS ON HOW IT CAN BE IMPROVED AND BROADENED.

IN A VERY REAL SENSE, I HOPE THIS CAN BE THE PATTERN FOR EVERY AREA OF COMMON INTEREST--YOU GIVE US YOUR ADVICE ON EVERY ISSUE, AND I PROMISE WE WILL LISTEN CAREFULLY AND IMPLEMENT YOUR IDEAS WHEREVER POSSIBLE.

ONE OF THE AREAS WHERE YOUR IDEAS AND ASSISTANCE ARE NEEDED RELATES TO THE PROLIFERATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE DATA AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS. IMPORTANT QUESTIONS NEED TO BE ASKED ABOUT THE NATURE AND SCOPE OF THESE SYSTEMS. AND WE MUST ALSO ENSURE THERE ARE SECURITY AND PRIVACY COMPONENTS THAT ARE FAIL-SAFE.

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ARE DEEPLY INVOLVED IN COMPUTERIZED DATA PROGRAMS--OFTEN IN CONCERT WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

THE NCIC SYSTEM OF THE FBI THAT I REFERRED TO EARLIER IS ONE EXAMPLE OF SUCH A JOINT UNDERTAKING--AND IT IS ONE THAT IS PAYING SUBSTANTIAL DIVIDENDS AS WE SEEK TO DEVELOP MORE EFFECTIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT.

THE NCIC CENTRAL COMPUTERS AT FBI HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON ARE CONNECTED TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE AGENCIES IN EVERY STATE. NCIC BEGAN WITH A HANDFUL OF RECORDS IN 1967, AND TODAY HAS MORE THAN 4 AND ONE-HALF MILLION RECORDS ON WANTED PERSONS, STOLEN PROPERTY, AND CRIMINAL HISTORIES.

SUCH INFORMATION HAS ALWAYS BEEN KEPT IN MANUAL FILES, AND THIS HAS MEANT THAT RETRIEVAL TOOK DAYS OR WEEKS--IF IT COULD EVER BE FOUND. TODAY, THE COMPUTERS FIND AND TRANSMIT THE DATA IN SECONDS.

THE EASE AND SPEED WITH WHICH MATERIAL CAN BE LOCATED HAS CAUSED SUBSTANTIAL CONCERN TO BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PUBLIC. THE NCIC SYSTEM HAS BEEN COVERED BY SECURITY AND PRIVACY REGULATIONS FROM THE BEGINNING. BUT THE DEPARTMENT HAS NOW PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO CONGRESS WHICH WE FEEL IS ESSENTIAL TO THE FULL PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF ALL CITIZENS.

THE POINT OF ALL OUR WORK--WHETHER IT BE DATA SYSTEMS OR PROSECUTIONS--IS TO DEVELOP A CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM THAT DELIVERS RESULTS. IT IS ALSO ESSENTIAL THAT IT BE BOTH FAIR AND HAVE THE APPEARANCE OF FAIRNESS.

FAIRNESS SHOULD PERMEATE EVERYTHING WE DO.

WE MUST LEAD THE WAY IN THIS REGARD.

IT IS UP TO EACH OF US TO WORK TO ENHANCE RESPECT FOR THE
LAW.

AND WE MUST SHOW THE YOUNG, BY EXAMPLE, THAT OUR SYSTEM
OF JUSTICE REALLY DOES WORK.

THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE TODAY AS THE NATION ENDURES
THE AFTERSHOCKS OF WATERGATE AND WATCHES THE PROCESS OF JUSTICE
UNFOLD FROM ALL OF THE CASES RELATED TO IT.

IT SEEMS TO ME THAT WE HAVE TO BE SCRUPULOUSLY FAIR IN
A NUMBER OF WAYS.

AS WE HAVE SEEN IN WATERGATE, MEN WHO HELD POSITIONS OF
GREAT POWER HAVE DEFAULTED ON THEIR OATHS OF OFFICE AND TO THE
RESPONSIBILITIES THEY OWE TO THE PUBLIC.

CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS CANNOT BE TOLERATED ON THE PART OF
ANYONE--NO MATTER WHAT POSITION OF PUBLIC TRUST THEY MAY HAVE
HELD, NO MATTER HOW GLIB THEIR ATTEMPTS AT JUSTIFICATION MAY BE.

THOUGH IT WAS SAID NEARLY 50 YEARS AGO, AND IN A DIFFERENT
CONTEXT, A COMMENT BY MR. JUSTICE BRANDEIS SEEMS TO HAVE A SPECIAL
RELEVANCE TO RECENT EVENTS: "THE GREATEST DANGERS TO LIBERTY
LURK IN THE INSIDIOUS ENCROACHMENT BY MEN OF ZEAL . . ."

EACH OF US WITH RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE LAW MUST BE FAIR—
NOT A LITTLE FAIR OR FAIR ONLY SOME OF THE TIME, BUT TOTALLY
FAIR AND ALL OF THE TIME.

IN A SENSE, WE ALL WALK A RAZOR'S EDGE--BOTH AS INDIVIDUALS
AND AS A SOCIETY. IT IS OUR DEVOTION TO DECENCY AND FAIRNESS--
OUR DEVOTION TO THE LAW--THAT KEEPS US FROM STRAYING INTO TYRANNY.

FAIRNESS IS MOST NEEDED WHEN IT IS IN SHORT SUPPLY OR
WHEN A PROBLEM ASSUMES SUCH GREAT PROPORTIONS THAT WE ARE TEMPTED
TO RESOLVE IT THROUGH EXPEDIENCY OUTSIDE OF THE LAW.

IT IS HARDLY REASSURING WHEN ONE MAN GOES TO PRISON
FOR YEARS FOR THEFT WHILE ANOTHER MAN INVOLVED IN A CONSPIRACY
TO STEAL OUR FREEDOMS IS IN AND OUT OF JAIL IN THE WINK OF AN EYE.

NO ONE IS SUGGESTING THAT THE THIEF SHOULD NOT GO TO
JAIL. HE SHOULD--AND SO SHOULD THE MAN WHO IS CONVICTED OF
FAILING IN HIS PUBLIC TRUST.

PROSECUTIONS TAINTED BY PREJUDICE OR MALICE HAVE NO
PLACE IN OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. NOR DO FAVORS OR
LOOPHOLES FOR THE PRIVILEGED.

THE MESSAGE HAS GOT TO GO OUT ALL OVER THE COUNTRY--THERE
WILL BE NO MORE DIRTY TRICKS, NOT BY ANYBODY FOR ANY REASON.
FROM NOW ON, WE MUST PLAY IT BY THE BOOK--AND BY THE CONSTITUTION.

THANK YOU.