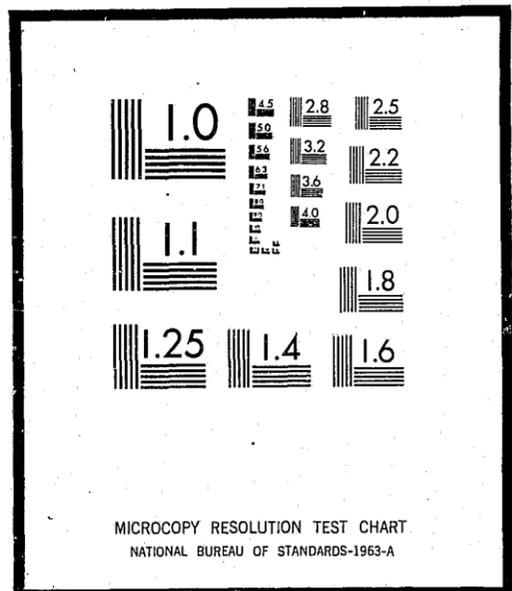


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION  
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ADDRESS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY THE HONORABLE DONALD E. SANTARELLI, ADMINISTRATOR, LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION, BEFORE THE ECONOMIC CLUB OF DETROIT, MARCH 18, 1974

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. It is a pleasure to be here in Detroit and a signal honor to have the opportunity to address such a distinguished group of community leaders. I am well aware of the high caliber of programs that the Economic Club of Detroit has presented over the years, and I want to thank you for permitting me to take part.

The announced subject of my address is "What New Steps Can Be Taken To Reduce Crime", but before I talk about those new steps, I should like to speak to you briefly about why we as a nation, and why you in particular, want to take these steps.

I think we need to take them because, in a way, crime has taken some new steps, or, at the very least, the crime problem has taken on new dimensions. Today, as never before, crime is everywhere. It is all-pervasive. It no longer is just on the streets, or just on the other side of the tracks, or just in the urban cores. It's in our factories and our board rooms, in our city slums and in our high rent districts, in our suburbs and our villages. The forces of crime have been tearing at our social fabric as they have never done before. Our nation has never been so threatened by crime as it is now.

If we do not turn the tide now, if we do not reverse the sinister trend of crime's ever-increasing penetration and infiltration into our social, political and economic institutions, if we do not identify

MORE

013438

2--MARCH 18

and attack the root causes and conditions that provide a favorable growth medium for crime, then we may be doomed to a future in which society is an armed camp and every man is an island, cowering in fear of strangers.

I find it noteworthy that the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration was created by Congress five years ago in a piece of legislation entitled, "The Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968". I am particularly struck with the words, "safe streets". To me, they represent a recognition, or perhaps an admission by Congress that many of our streets were no longer safe. We were evolving into a jungle where violence prowled many of our streets, parks and other public places. Crime no longer was something that happened just to somebody else. Now it was happening to us. We were getting mugged on the street. Our kids were being tempted by junkies. Our businesses were being hit by holdup men, arsonists and extortionists. We were becoming a society united in a commonwealth of fear.

Fear of physical violence, however, is only one lesion in the body politic caused by this affliction we call crime. Crime also saps the economic blood of the nation's businesses, often crippling them to the point where their very existence is threatened--or in some cases, completely taking them over, a kind of metastasis, if you will.

MORE

3--MARCH 18

We are speaking now not only of armed robbery, which, although it is most feared by retail merchants, accounts for only three per cent of their losses to crime. We also are talking about shoplifting, which accounts for 28 per cent; burglary, 23 per cent; vandalism, 20 per cent; bad checks, 13 per cent; and employee theft, 13 per cent. We are talking about extortion, kidnapping, beatings of company officials, hijacking, loan sharking, labor racketeering, bankruptcy frauds, and even corruption of public officials. It has been estimated that crime exacts some \$16 billion a year from the nation's businesses.

Now what about those new steps? Well, I think the first thing we have to do is recognize how this situation came about. I think we have to recognize that for too many years, we have been witnessing a gradual dissolution of our sense of community, our sense of personal citizen responsibility to the larger community, a feeling that served our forebears so well but one that we as a society may have forgotten. In its stead, regrettably, too many of our people, when faced with a problem, simply say, "let the government do it." Well, I am here to tell you that the government cannot do it alone.

With regard to this loss of community, let me read to you what our National Advisory Commission's Report on Community Crime Prevention had to say:

"Exclusive reliance on a self- or family-oriented approach to crime prevention causes individuals and family units to become

MORE

4--MARCH 18

isolated from one another.... Indeed, with each citizen looking out for himself only, there is no community, no strength in numbers, but rather fragmentation that can serve only to embolden criminal elements."

In other words, ladies and gentlemen, fighting crime is everybody's business, mine, yours, your company's, and your next door neighbor's. We have to recognize that the police and the criminal justice system cannot fight crime alone. The Metropolitan Area police departments need you and the rest of the citizens of Detroit just as much as you need them.

Consider: How much crime goes unreported because nobody wants to get involved? How many felons are on the street today because no citizens were willing to step forward and testify as witnesses? How many victims of extortion, loan sharking, rape, and a host of other crimes suffer in silence because they are intimidated either by the criminals or by the criminal justice system itself?

LEAA is now conducting a study addressing precisely these questions. Rather than using the more traditional police statistics on reported crimes, we are employing some of the most advanced census-type techniques, which promise a much higher degree of accuracy. More than 250,000 persons have been interviewed thus far, and I can tell you, the figures are very disturbing.

We have learned, for example, that a half or more of the crimes committed are not even reported to the police. We suspect, on the basis of some preliminary figures from the District of Columbia, that

MORE

5--MARCH 18

as many as a third of cases prosecuted may be washing out because witnesses fail to appear or do not wish to cooperate--for a variety of reasons--and this could be happening in many other parts of the country as well. We are learning about a pervasive sense of victimization in our society, of an increasing alienation, and of a growing contempt for society's institutions, including the criminal justice system.

Two inescapable conclusions seem to me to emerge from this study: First, the law enforcement agencies of this nation are not alone going to make any significant progress against crime unless they get far greater involvement and cooperation from all our citizens. They have to report crimes when they see them. They have to serve willingly as witnesses and jurors. They have to bear a responsibility for the community as a whole.

Second, the first new step that we must take to reduce crime is to restore that sense of community, which we may have forgotten. We must mobilize the entire community in this struggle, and all of the institutions within it, including our schools, churches, civic organizations, unions and businesses. A uniquely Detroit business, the auto industry, for example, might consider the application of its technology to the cause of law enforcement, perhaps in the development of a better police vehicle. This is everybody's fight, and if we do not get everyone in on it, no other step we may take is going to make one bit of difference.

This is what LEAA is all about, and it is this concept that underlies the Administration's policy of a "New Federalism". The New Federalism contemplates that there will be, in the states and cities

6--MARCH 18

and towns all over this country, a revitalization, a resurgence of strength, a willingness and a capacity to make and carry our decisions, with less reliance on Washington, let alone its heavy hand. Federal agencies such as LEAA can offer leadership, funding, perhaps even inspiration, but you the people must make the decisions. It is a strategy, as one observer so arrestingly put it, to "flush out the accretions of government so as to induce greater freedom of movement." It is an approach that asks, what can you as a citizen do for yourself? What can you and your neighbors do in your neighborhood? What can you as a community do to help yourself?

I am afraid, however, that the New Federalism is not as well understood in some quarters as it might be. For one thing, we are managing by objective, which in itself is a revolutionary change from the familiar PPBS federal management practices of the sixties. This means that top management sets specific objectives for itself, establishes clear priorities, and then involves itself intimately in the monitor and review process to see that those objectives are attained. Top managers are held directly responsible for progress or lack of it.

Secondly, the New Federalism involves a new kind of partnership composed of equal partners. Federal agencies such as LEAA still make grants to appropriate state and local units as before, but now they are block grants. That is, they contain no strings. Implicit in the New Federalism is a confidence in state and local government, confidence in the people and communities to do what they, not Washington, wants to do, and in the way they want to do it. It is a shift in power, resources and responsibilities from Washington to state and local government and to you, the people.

MORE

7--MARCH 18

I can tell you that your state and local governments already have justified that confidence, in my view, and have proven their ability to handle the responsibilities inherent in the New Federalism. Since LEAA's inception, we have made grants totaling nearly \$100 million to state and local criminal justice units in the State of Michigan. And a significant portion of that went right here to the City of Detroit and the Detroit Metropolitan Area. The funds have been used to set up criminal justice planning and study units at various levels of government; to institute new law enforcement and criminal justice procedures in your police departments, courts and corrections; to bring new crime fighting equipment and technology into the struggle, such as the Detroit Police Department's new super computer that has made the operation a model for the nation; and a host of other criminal justice innovations. We provide the money, but in every case, it has been your officials, your police departments, your courts and your corrections units doing the actual work. We think that's a lot better than letting Washington do it--"letting the government do it"--and that is what we call the New Federalism. Now it is up to the citizens--our partners--to do their part. Thank you.

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