

THE PRESIDENT'S READING COPY

RADIO SPEECH: CRIME AND DRUGS

Live from Camp David -- October 15, 1972

Good night

Four years ago, at the close of a turbulent decade which had seen our Nation engulfed by a rising tide of disorder and permissiveness, I campaigned for President with a pledge to restore respect for law, order and justice in America.

I am pleased to be able to report to you today that we have made significant progress in that effort.

During the eight years from the end of the Eisenhower Administration until we took office in 1969, serious crime in the United States had skyrocketed by 122 percent. There were predictions that it would double once again during the following four years.

Those predictions have not come true. Instead we have fought the frightening trend of crime and anarchy to a standstill.

The campuses which erupted in riots so often in the late '60's have become serious centers of learning once again. The ~~urban centers~~ ^{*Cities*} which we saw in flames summer after summer a few years ago are now pursuing constructive change.

The FBI crime index showed an increase of only one percent during the first half of this year -- the closest we have come to registering an actual decrease since these quarterly statistics began 12 years ago. In 72 of our largest cities, we have already begun to see a decrease in crime this year as compared to last.

We have moved off the defensive and onto the offensive in our all-out battle against the criminal forces in America. We are going to stay on the offensive until we put every category of crime on a downward trend in every American community.

To reach this goal we must continue to fight the battle on all fronts.

In our courts, we need judges who will help to strengthen the peace forces as against the criminal forces in this country. I have applied this principle in making appointments to the Supreme Court and to other Federal Courts. As a result, our Constitution today is more secure, and our freedoms are better protected.

The two men who have served under me as Attorney General, John Mitchell and Richard Kleindienst, have brought real backbone to our national law enforcement effort. Each has demonstrated his determination to see justice done to the overwhelming majority of law-abiding citizens, as well as to those who break the law. Neither has fallen for the naive theory that society is to blame for an individual's wrongdoing.

Tomorrow, Attorney General Kleindienst will make public the first comprehensive report ever compiled on Federal law enforcement and criminal justice assistance activities. I commend this report to the attention of every American who is concerned with the rule of law. It documents the truly massive Federal commitment to crime reduction.

The Federal role, however, is only a supportive one. As J. Edgar Hoover often ^{*used to tell me,*} ~~said~~, it is our local police forces who are the real front line soldiers in the war against crime.

As President over the past four years, I have given all-out backing to our peace officers in their dedicated efforts to make all of us safer on the streets and more secure in our homes. I shall continue to do so.

In three years we have provided States and localities with law enforcement assistance grants totalling \$1.5 billion, as compared with only \$22 million in grants during the final three years of the previous Administration.

In a single year, 1970, the Congress passed four landmark anti-crime bills which ~~we had fought for~~ *this Admin had resoundingly* -- an omnibus crime bill, a bill providing new tools to fight organized crime, a comprehensive reform of the drug abuse statutes, and a new charter for courts and criminal procedures in the Nation's Capital.

~~Over the~~ The city of Washington had become the crime capital of the United States during the 1960's -- but during our term of office we have cut the D.C. crime rate in half.

Let me turn now to the subject of drug abuse -- America's public enemy number one.

The period 1965 to 1969, when drugs were widely glamorized and when government was responding only feebly to this menace, brought America's narcotics problem to the epidemic stage. In that ~~short~~ *4 year period* time alone, the number of addicts doubled nationwide.

To turn this situation around, I declared total war against heroin and other illicit drugs. I personally shook up the bureaucracy and took steps to create two new Federal agencies to deal with narcotics-related crime and with addict treatment. The anti-drug funding which I have requested in the current budget is eleven times the 1969 level.

We are winning this war. The raging heroin epidemic of the late '60's has been stemmed.

Our domestic law enforcement operation has arrested twice as many pushers and has seized illicit drugs at four times the rate of the previous Administration. Our rehabilitation and treatment programs have created more Federally funded drug treatment capacity in the last 12 months than in the 50 years before that.

Our international narcotics control work in 59 countries has achieved a doubling of global heroin and morphine base seizures in 1972 alone.

But the job is far from finished. A short time before Christmas last year, I received a heart-rending letter from a teenage boy in the Midwest. He told me how his brother, a

college student of exceptional promise, after slipping deeper and deeper into drug experimentation, had gone off into the woods with a gun one day, completely without warning, and taken his own life.

Listen to
The boy's letter, ~~made this appeal~~: "If we can stop, just one boy from doing what my brother did, his whole life will have been worthwhile You can beat that drug, Mr. Nixon; you can destroy it before it destroys any more lives."

This is my answer to this letter: I cannot beat this problem by myself; but if all of us work together, we can beat it.

To do so, we will need more clinics to treat addicts who need help. That is why I asked the Congress for speedy approval of funds to support additional drug treatment facilities.

We will need better cooperation abroad in apprehending the criminals who produce and smuggle heroin. That is why I ~~have pledged~~ *shall insist on* the strictest compliance with the statute which requires a suspension of U.S. military and economic aid to countries which protect or participate in the movement of *illegal* drugs to this country.

We will need absolute assurance that convicted drug peddlers will go to jail, not back to the streets. The dangerous trend of light or suspended sentences meted out to convicted pushers by permissive judges must be halted. That is why I shall ask the next Congress to require stiff mandatory sentences for heroin traffickers, and to amend other Federal statutes so as to keep these peddlers of death off our streets after their arrest.

Wherever more money, more manpower, or more teeth in the law are needed to maintain our momentum in the war against drugs and crime, I will do everything in my power to provide them.

My intention for 1973 and beyond is to continue and expand our massive Federal funding for helping improve our local law enforcement.

I will propose to the new Congress a thorough-going revision of the entire Federal criminal code, aimed at better protection of life and property, human rights, and the domestic peace.

I will move ahead with my comprehensive 10-year reform program for the Federal prison system, launched in 1969.

I will continue to apply the criteria of strict constructionism and regard for the public safety in making appointments to the Supreme Court and other Federal Courts.

I will ask the new Congress to move swiftly in enacting my proposals for Law Enforcement Special Revenue Sharing, to give States and cities greater decision-making power in meeting their own needs.

I will work unceasingly to halt the erosion of moral fiber in American life, and the denial of individual accountability for individual actions.

~~The~~ The increasingly urbanized, technological, crowded, pluralistic, affluent, and leisure-oriented society which America has become in these final decades of the 20th century poses complex new dangers to our traditional concepts of personal safety, human dignity, and moral values.

Questions which were once the sole concern of novelists now intrude upon public policy. The endlessly drugged Brave New World which Huxley described could conceivably become our world a few years in the future.

Remote as such possibilities may seem, we cannot ignore them. We must shape our own vision for the 1970s and the years ahead, a vision bright and clear and sharp, or one of the darker visions may begin to impose itself by default.

Government alone cannot determine the legal and moral tone of America's third century. Much depends on the character we build in our homes, our schools, our churches. Much depends on the values we exalt in our art, our literature, our culture.

Yet government has an essential role, a role it must never abdicate. Government must never become so preoccupied with catering to the way-out wants of those who reject all respect for moral and legal values that it forgets the citizen's first civil right, the right to be free from domestic violence.

Government must never mistake license for liberty, amorality for tolerance, indulgence for charity, or weakness for compassion.

Above all, government must maintain that structure of ordered freedom within which alone the human spirit can thrive and flourish.

The work of keeping the structure of freedom strong in the years ahead will not be easy. The price may sometimes be terribly high. It was high for a young Federal narcotics agent in New York named Frank Tummillo.

I met ~~with~~ Frank Tummillo last February, when he and other agents came to the White House along with a group of professional athletes who have joined the fight against drugs. He was a fine young man -- ^{alert} ~~alert~~, dedicated, selfless. But just three nights ago -- last Thursday -- he was murdered by two hoodlums in the line of his duty, trying to break up a huge cocaine transaction.

He was 25. He lived at home with his parents. The invitations recently went out for his wedding next month. Instead of that wedding, his funeral will be held tomorrow.

We cannot bring Frank Tummillo back again, any more than we can bring back the American soldiers who have given their lives in Vietnam. But in our war against crime and drugs, like our war against aggression in Southeast Asia, we can resolve to redeem with honor the ultimate sacrifice which these brave men have made.

Together, and in their name, let us work to end
the violence and the lawlessness against which they fought.
Let us make the next four years a period of new respect for
law, order and justice in America; a time of new hope in
a land free of fear, and a world at peace.

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