

REMARKS
OF THE
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MINNEAPOLIS POLICE FEDERATION

000529

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I. There has been much talk about the "law and order" problem in America. To deal with it effectively and intelligently we must

- recognize it for what it is, and then
- act.

II What is it? It is not, or ought not to be a political football.

We must recognize that the "law and order" issue is one that

- legitimately concerns every American,
- that safety of the citizens is the first duty of government,
- that the idea that an elderly woman in parts of this city does not feel safe in walking the streets day or night is an outrage,
- that the American people want to know - and have a right to know - that men in political life know what is bugging them.

But, neither the citizenry nor the police are well-served by the cheap political shots about who has more hair on his

chest. Mr. Agnew has attempted to set up this election.

- as being between "tough guys" and "permissive guys", who are also "liberal"
- that the choice on the ballot this year is between Mr. Agnew and a travelling crew of shaggy hippies who shout obscenities into the camera,
- and, of course, that it is the Republicans who are tough and the Democrats who are soft. This line is pursued not only by Agnew but by his Minnesota mouthpiece, Mr. MacGregor, who tells us one day that he opposes Agnew and the next day uses Agnew's language about permissiveness.

That, of course, is bunk. I have had some experience with Democrats in my day and the best Democrats were both tough AND liberal - i.e., LBJ, Robert Kennedy. (And when I was Mayor, we backed up the police 100%.)

We are also not well-served by the political rewriting of history. Earlier in the campaign MacGregor claimed that he singlehandedly turned back the Russians in Cuba, and that he was the father of civil rights legislation in America, and that he personally solved the Viet Nam war. Today, in the Minneapolis Tribune, he says he was prime author of "Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968". (Tomorrow we may hear that he was on the moon with Neal Armstrong.) In point of fact, of course, the Crime Control Bill, in all of its important features, was developed in the Executive Branch in the Johnson-Humphrey Administration. It started in 1965 with establishment of the President's National Crime Commission.

The Commission reported back in '66 and a high level government task force took its recommendations and drafted one of the most far-reaching laws in modern American history. For the first time in history, the federal government put its power to work to help local police forces. In his 1967 State of the Union message, LBJ referred at length and specifically to this legislation. On February 6, 1967, via Exec. message #360, ^{President Johnson} the President sent ^{the} legislation to Congress. This was the first crime message ever sent by a President to Congress. The basic landmark concepts of that law - federal help, state-wide anti-crime commission, local crime programs - was enacted into law. Now, Mr. MacGregor wants to claim credit for that act along with Cuba, civil rights, Viet Nam, and going to the moon. (Perhaps he has done so much already for his country that he ought to retire to write his memoirs.)

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III So crime and law and order should not be political footballs.
It takes more than bumper stickers.
But we need action. I propose the following:

1) Hard drugs cause a large proportion of violent crime in America. It must be cut off at its source - overseas.

Threaten foreign countries where heroin is grown and processed; if they don't police it better we will make it harder for them to trade with us.

2) Federal Insurance like the G.I. Bill for Policemen, Firemen, Marshalls. etc. Policemen are the front-line troops in the campaign for an orderly society. They are called upon to risk their lives for us, and yet they frequently don't have adequate insurance to protect their loved ones. Plan would resemble G.I. Bill: small fee by policy-holder. Re constitutionality: Police and firemen have been attacked in many localities by armed guerrillas and revolutionaries who are crossing state lines with the direct intent of attacking officers of the law. Such interstate movement, in my opinion, clearly justifies a federal response - and this proposal is one of many steps that will help our law enforcement officials.

3) Councils of Civil Peace,

4) More judges - including one for the ___th District of Minnesota. If Mr. MacGregor is so big for law and order why doesn't he ask Mr. Nixon to fill that seat? Is it perhaps because he thinks he may get it himself after the election? It's been over 4 months since seat was vacant - while Nixon and MacGregor talk about law and order.

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5) More money under Safe Streets and Crim Control Act. Nixon says he doubled it from $\frac{1}{4}$ billion to $\frac{1}{2}$ billion. Actually, that law, when passed, called for \$1 billion in FY 1971. Nixon halved it.

6) Help colleges and universities expand curriculum in area of law enforcement *and Criminal Justice*

7) Help policemen with educational opportunities *through* *Scholarship grants*

8) New curbs on interstate shipment of explosives.

9) Special national guard training so that tragedy of Kent State won't be repeated.

10) Better prisons. Penal reforms. It is not coddling criminals to teach them to be constructive citizens. 3 of 4 prisoners go back to prison. If we can cut recidivism, we cut crime.

11) Law enforcement should be added to the Selective Service list of essential occupations, so that young men entering careers in this field can be deferred from the draft.



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