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May 25, 1972

MEMORANDUM

FOR: SENATOR

FROM: DAN

SUBJECT: SHERIFF'S MEMORIAL AT THE SHERIFFS ACADEMY

The Los Angeles County Sheriffs Department is holding a solemn ceremony to honor the 265 men who have been killed in the line of duty from the Gold Rush days (1849) to the present.

You are the main speaker.

This tribute is held annually for the community and the survivors of these men. There will also be representatives of 35 to 40 law enforcement agencies in the Los Angeles area.

500 to 700 people are expected.

The major part of your speech is dedicated to the subject of control of the infamous Saturday night special handguns.

I have checked and Gene Wyman has checked with the Sheriff's office and they believe this subject is very relevant for the event. Sheriff Peter Pitchess--your host at the event--has recently spoken out favoring control (outlawing) handguns. He had long been an opponent of hand gun legislation. I am attaching the clipping about this story as well as a very revealing California Poll which shows how popular gun control measures are in California.

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SHERIFF'S MEMORIAL AT THE SHERIFF'S ACADEMY

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

FRIDAY, MAY 26, 1972

Bishop Johnson
Rabbi Maguin

Sheriff Peter Pitchess

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IT IS A GREAT PRIVILEGE AND HONOR FOR ME TO
BE HERE TODAY TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THOSE LAW ENFORCEMENT
OFFICERS WHO HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

LITTLE CAN BE SAID BY ANYONE TO RELIEVE THE
SORROW OR COMFORT THE FAMILIES OF THESE BRAVE MEN. L THEY
GAVE THEIR LIVES SO THAT OTHERS COULD BE SECURE. L THEY
GAVE THEIR LIVES SO THAT OTHER LIVES COULD BE SAVED.

L BEING A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER TODAY ~~IN THE~~
~~UNIFORMS~~ IS NOT EASY. L IT IS A DEMANDING CAREER --
DEMANDING SACRIFICES FROM BOTH THE OFFICER AND HIS FAMILY.

L ALL OF YOU IN THE AUDIENCE KNOW THIS AND CAN BE
JUSTLY PROUD OF THE SACRIFICES WHICH YOUR LOVED ONES HAVE
MADE.

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L I HAVE LEARNED ABOUT THE TRAGIC DEATH OF DEPUTY
SHERIFF CHARLES O. LEY, WHO WAS KILLED JUST THIS WEEK IN
A HIGH SPEED PURSUIT OF A FELON. L MY HEART GOES OUT TO
MRS. LEY AND HER FOUR CHILDREN.

L DEPUTY SHERIFF LEY WAS THE LAST BRAVE OFFICER
OUT OF A TOTAL OF 265 WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR LIVES IN THE
LINE OF DUTY SINCE 1849 IN CALIFORNIA.

L TODAY, AS WE HONOR THE MEMORY OF THOSE MEN WHO
HAVE BEEN KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY, WE MUST TURN OUR
THOUGHTS TO WAYS WE CAN REDUCE THE NUMBER OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
OFFICERS AND OTHER AMERICANS KILLED AS A RESULT OF INCREASES
IN CRIME IN THIS NATION.

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↳ THE RECENT AND TRAGIC ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT
AGAINST GOVERNOR WALLACE HAS ONCE AGAIN BROUGHT TO OUR
ATTENTION THE NEED FOR EFFECTIVE LEGISLATION THAT WILL
RESTRICT THE SALE OF HANDGUNS.

↳ THE TIME IS LONG OVERDUE FOR SUCH LEGISLATION.
--WE KNOW THAT GUNS ARE USED IN 65 PERCENT OF
ALL MURDERS.

--SINCE 1964, MURDER BY GUN HAS INCREASED 100
PERCENT AND GUN ROBBERIES HAVE MUSHROOMED 198 PERCENT.

--OF THE 633 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS KILLED
IN THE LINE OF DUTY FROM 1961 THROUGH 1970, FIREARMS WERE
USED IN 95 PERCENT OF THE INCIDENTS.

--AND HERE IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY, OF THE 7
OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY LAST YEAR, 4 WERE
KILLED BY GUNFIRE.

I HAVE JOINED WITH SENATOR BAYH FROM INDIANA
IN THE SPONSORSHIP OF LEGISLATION TO PROHIBIT THE SALE
OF THE INFAMOUS "SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIALS" WHICH TAKE SO
MANY LIVES EACH YEAR.

↳ IN 1968 THE CONGRESS OUTLAWED THE IMPORTATION OF
THESE CHEAP HANDGUNS. ↳ SINCE THEN, DOMESTIC MANUFACTURE
OF THESE DEADLY WEAPONS HAS INCREASED TEN FOLD TO MORE
THAN 630,000 PER YEAR.

↳ THESE WEAPONS ARE INCREASINGLY FALLING INTO THE

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HANDS OF CRIMINALS, JUVENILES AND THE MENTALLY DISTURBED.

L I WANT TO PUT A HALT TO THE SLAUGHTER THAT TAKES PLACE IN THIS COUNTRY, BECAUSE OF THE ABSENCE OF OUR

CONTROL OF INEXPENSIVE, EASILY OBTAINABLE HANDGUNS,

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

~~THE MEN WE HONOR TODAY, WHO~~ REPRESENT THE FIRST

LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST THOSE BENT ON VIOLENCE AND CRIME, ~~AND~~

they

ARE ASKED TO RISK THEIR LIVES DAILY. ~~BECAUSE~~ ^{yet} WE HAVE

FAILED TO ENACT LEGISLATION TO RESTRICT THE AVAILABILITY OF THE SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIAL.

THE CONTROL OF HANDGUNS IS ONE IMPORTANT STEP WE MUST TAKE IF WE TRULY WANT TO SAFEGUARD THE LIVES OF OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.

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But, ~~I think~~ WE MUST DO MORE.

I HAVE PROPOSED THAT WE MAKE THE MURDER OF A
LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, A PRISON GUARD OR A FIREMAN,
A FEDERAL CRIME.

↳ BY INVOLVING THE F.B.I. IN THE APPREHENSION AND
INVESTIGATION OF THOSE WHO ASSAULT LAW ENFORCEMENT
OFFICERS, I FEEL CONFIDENT ^{WE} WOULD DETER THESE ATTACKS.

↳ I HAVE ALSO PROPOSED A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM
OF FEDERAL LIFE INSURANCE BENEFITS FOR THE FAMILIES OF
LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS. I BELIEVE THAT THIS IS THE
LEAST THAT SOCIETY CAN DO TO AID THE FAMILIES OF PUBLIC
SAFETY OFFICERS.

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LASTLY, IT IS FITTING AT THIS CEREMONY TO
PROPOSE THAT OUR NATION SET ASIDE ONE DAY A YEAR AS
THE NATIONAL POLICE AND FIREMEN MEMORIAL DAY TO HONOR
THOSE POLICEMEN AND FIREMEN WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE
LINE OF DUTY.

AMERICANS NEED TO BE REMINDED OF THE SACRIFICES
MADE FOR THEM BY THEIR SERVANTS IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC
SAFETY.



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