



Department of Justice

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ADDRESS

OF

┌
ARNOLD I. BURNS
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

BEFORE

THE 1986 CRIME STOPPERS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
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Today I am reminded of the words of President John Kennedy, addressing this country's Parliament some 25 years ago. He said, "Geography has made us neighbors. History has made us friends. Economics has made us partners. And necessity has made us allies. Those whom nature has so joined together, let no man put asunder."

President Kennedy of course was speaking about the ties and interests binding two nations, the United States and Canada. As Americans and Canadians we share those ties. But as people from many nations, many cities, and various walks of life, drawn here by a common purpose, we share something else: a dedication to stop crime.

All nations and all civilizations have had their own crime problems. Let's not forget that the Lord was forced to give even the people of the Old Testament a ten-part criminal code. But crime in those days, and for most of human history, was predominately a local concern. Murders, thefts, arsons and the like were crimes of particular persons in particular places. As Crime Stoppers you know that such evils continue to plague our communities. But what is new and different today is the fact that so many crime problems -- from drug trafficking to terrorism to economic conspiracies -- are truly international problems, problems that transcend boundaries.

That is one reason why I am so honored to be here with you, as we celebrate the 7th anniversary of Crime Stoppers International, and the 10th anniversary of the First Crime Stopper program.

The problem of crime is a local problem, it is a national problem, and it is a global concern. We should be here to exchange ideas on how we can stop it in our hometowns, and we should be here to learn about what is being done to meet the international dimension of crime.

Frankly, I can't think of a better place to be marking this occasion than right here in Edmonton. This is still very much a city of pioneers, a city of the frontier. Crime Stoppers is a program of pioneers, and it continues to explore the frontiers of more effective law enforcement.

Two things have always stood for the pioneer spirit in my mind: the idea of personal responsibility and a sense of concern for one's neighbors.

Personal responsibility came naturally for plainsmen and settlers accustomed to doing things for themselves. People learned to make do or do without, to tackle problems and to get tough jobs done. They looked first to themselves.

At the same time, in a frontier where government sometimes seemed a world away, and "social problems" meant cold or drought, people felt a special obligation towards their neighbors. Not just the people whose names they knew, but anyone in trouble. In

communities on the edge of the unexplored, people learn to help people.

We shouldn't forget that both the United States and Canada began as, and in many ways still are, pioneer countries. For those of us living in Washington, D.C. or Toronto, in Los Angeles or Montreal, or New York City, it's easy sometimes to overlook that. We shouldn't. Because the same values that built the great cities, that tamed the prairies and forests, are the values we need to recapture today if we are to build strong communities and tame lawlessness.

To my mind at least that is what this program is all about. Most of you -- I'm told about 75 percent -- are involved in law enforcement professionally. As I am relatively new to the Department of Justice, I am reminded of a cartoon I saw years ago in the New Yorker magazine. A man is depicted walking down the stairs of the United States Courthouse in New York City with photographers snapping pictures. The man has his fedora over his face. A man walking beside him says, "For God's sake Joe, remember you're a Commissioner now." I must remember I am a law enforcement official now. Others of you are involved in raising or providing funds for rewards. The rest of you volunteer time and effort, or assist in a variety of other important ways. But whatever your professional vocation may be, your involvement with Crime Stoppers is a way of saying that stopping crime means not waiting for the other guy -- or government -- to do something.

It means getting involved. And for that you should give yourselves a round of applause.

Because this is only the 10th anniversary of the first Crime Stopper program, it may sound like a new idea. Of course, it isn't. The principle of citizens serving in the front lines of the war against lawbreaking has a distinguished heritage.

Municipal police departments, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the FBI -- these organizations have been around for as long as any of us can remember. And so it's easy for some people to think that crimefighting has always been something for the "pros." But of course that isn't true. In fact, the very idea of professional police departments is a relative newcomer to the criminal justice scene. It wasn't until 1844 that the New York state legislature passed a law creating "a day and night police force" that became the model for modern American municipal police departments.

Before that time crime fighting was seen as very much a public responsibility, as every citizen's duty. When a crime was committed people put up "the hue and cry," and it was a citizen's duty to assist in the apprehension of the criminal. Even later the posse was an important part of law enforcement in the Old West. Sheriffs and Marshals did not hesitate to deputize responsible citizens to assist them. To our forefathers the "militia" referred not to the "weekend warriors" of the National Guard but to the able-bodied population of the state, who could

be called out to quell both military threats and civil disturbances.

Today saddling up to chase desperados or grabbing a musket before mustering on the village green may not be practical -- at least in most places -- but the idea of citizens fighting crime is. It's an old idea whose time has come -- again.

And it could not have arrived a moment too soon. In the decades following the end of the Second World War, crime -- and particularly violent crime -- grew sharply. Accompanying this growth were fundamental, and I believe harmful, changes in the way that society, and those charged with administering justice, came to think about crime. Especially in the United States during the turbulent 1960's, it became quite fashionable to question not only the obvious defects of government and of the criminal justice system, but the very legitimacy of those systems. Criminals were often viewed not as society's foes but as society's victims. In truth, the real victim of those times was the notion of personal responsibility.

Fortunately, within every generation there are people who simply refuse to accept the inevitable -- be it an inevitably rising crime rate or public indifference. Well, clearly you people do know and you do care. We are lucky that some of us understood that crime wasn't just something to be handled by the professionals alone. It was a war that needed new recruits on

the side of law and order to match the growing ranks of the criminals' side.

That kind of dedicated, public minded people gave us the first Crime Stoppers program, an idea so effective that has now grown to the international dimension we see here tonight.

There is an explanation for what has happened. It's found in the phrase "nothing succeeds like success." And by almost any measure, Crime Stoppers is a success.

The numbers tell part of the story. For example, the program here in Edmonton, the third in Canada, began in March 1983 and has become one of the most successful anywhere. From its inception through the first half of this year, Edmonton Crime Stoppers has helped solve 1,354 crimes -- a rate of better than one a day. This total includes 9 murders and attempted murders, 56 armed robberies, and 124 drug cases. Rewards totalling in excess of 110 thousand dollars have been paid.

Worldwide, the statistics are even more impressive. More than 100 thousand cases have been solved. Of the more than 25 thousand criminal defendants brought to trial an astounding 97 percent have been convicted.

These represent achievements of which you should all be very proud. As a representative of the United States Justice Department I salute and I thank you. As a taxpayer, I can't help being pleased that the more than 9 million dollars paid out in

rewards has come exclusively from private sources, providing a tremendous boost to law enforcement.

Why has Crime Stoppers been so successful? I think the answer can be found in one word: cooperation. By actively involving citizens, the news media, and professional police forces you get results. The idea of cooperation is central to the success of law enforcement in the modern age. And if there is a benefit to your efforts that possibly exceeds your success as crimebusters, it might just be how your efforts, and those of groups like this, have reminded law enforcement "pros" of the importance of working together.

This record of results is catching the attention of people in both the public and private sectors. I believe that when we see entities like the Canadian Banker's Association, State Farm Insurance of Illinois, and the Southland Corporation choosing Crime Stoppers to handle awards programs for crimes affecting their members and businesses, you know you're doing a good job.

At the United States Department of Justice we feel the same way. I know that Attorney General Meese is enthusiastic about Crime Stoppers. And I don't think there are many endeavors that better exemplify President Reagan's desire to encourage creative solutions by private citizens and organizations than does Crime Stoppers.

We are pleased that over the past two and one-half years we have been able to assist you, through our Bureau of Justice

Assistance, by providing grants in the amount of \$164,490 to provide technical assistance. And through our National Institute of Justice, which gave Northwestern University a substantial grant -- more than \$250,000 -- to evaluate Crime Stopper's success in meeting its goals.

Many of you are, of course, police professionals as well as Crime Stoppers. And some of you, if you've been around as long as I have, might remember back when cooperation was not always the name of the game in law enforcement. Turf battles, not teamwork, were too often the order of the day.

Most of us would agree that today things have changed for the better, even though many are probably thinking of a time or two when folks from another jurisdiction have gummed up the works. But we know that crime doesn't respect borders, and our struggle against crime can't either. That's equally true for provinces and states as well as for nations.

Prior to coming here I decided to do a little checking to see how cooperation was working between the U.S. and Canada these days. My office did a survey of U.S. Attorneys along our common border. I was delighted by the results. Without exception, our Attorneys reported excellent working relationships with Canadian law enforcement and prosecutors.

They spoke of a tremendous spirit of cooperation between our two countries, and praised Canadian investigators and prosecutors for their assistance on a broad range of matters.

In many districts frequent meetings with Canadian officials focus upon problems of mutual concern. Formal liaison groups, such as Hiawathaland Law Enforcement Association -- which brings together federal, state and local agencies from Michigan's upper peninsula with the Ontario Police, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Ontario Public Prosecutor's Offices -- exemplify this cooperation.

In the Northern District of my home state, New York, U.S. and Canadian representatives meet under the auspices of the Canadian-American Association.

This cooperation isn't symbolic. It gets results.

In Montana, an investigation by the Mounted Police, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Montana Investigative Bureau led to the recovery of several tons of marijuana and criminal prosecutions against members of an international drug ring in both countries. A real example of "joint" cooperation -- if you'll pardon the pun.

Recently, the Northern District of New York was involved in two successful Canadian-American investigations. Investigation "Black Label" featured Canadian assistance to a Drug Task Force on a major case involving marijuana and hashish smuggling into the U.S. More than 20 persons were ultimately charged and convicted. "Operation Waterfall" focused on narcotics distribution and trafficking between Ontario and several points in the U.S. between 1983 and 1985. What I find really exciting

is how in the latter effort innovative teamwork carried the day. Canadian officers were made Deputy U.S. Marshals, while Americans were "deputized" in Canada. This allowed investigators to pursue leads in both countries, and resulted in the conviction of 10 cocaine dealers. I think this approach should serve as a model for future efforts. Who said the pioneer spirit was dead!

Other examples of international teamwork have included the sharing of technical assistance, frequent testimony by each nation's officers in the other's courts of justice, and regular participation in training seminars.

Canadians have also attended Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee ("LECC") meetings in several states. The LECC is something we've used in the U.S. to forge strong ties between law enforcement agencies from every level of government. And there is no reason why this good idea, this good principle, should not achieve an international reach.

The clear lesson is that teamwork is getting results: results in our communities, results in our countries, and results between them. It's getting results on crimes from immigration violations to postal fraud, from pornography to drugs.

Unfortunately, as we all know, one of the reasons Crime Stoppers has grown so dramatically is because there is so much still remaining to be done. There is an "iceberg" principle at work here: the size of our success only tells us how really big the problem "below the waterline" is.

Well, I'd like to touch briefly one part of the crime iceberg that threatens the safe passage of people -- especially young people -- in all the lands represented here tonight. Of course since 1981 we've been fighting the drug problem hard. We've passed tough new laws, made record seizures, and worked to change attitudes. But now we are starting to see a real change in attitudes.

In the United States we've recently seen a national mobilization against this scourge, a national commitment of will to attack drugs nationally and internationally. In August President Reagan announced a 6-point effort for achieving a drug-free society. The components include: one, a drug free working place; two, drug-free schools; three, prevention, research and treatment; four, international cooperation; five, stronger law enforcement; and six, an expanded public awareness and commitment to prevention.

Let me focus on just two of these points: international enforcement and prevention.

This past Sunday, President and Mrs. Reagan made a national television appeal to herald the start of a new era of intolerance to drugs. On Monday the Administration announced the specifics: "The Drug-Free America Act of 1986," which is the President's legislative proposal. The five titles in this Act, if passed, will add sharp new weapons to our anti-drug arsenal.

Title IV of the Act addresses international cooperation and interdiction.

Among its most important features are provisions repealing the "Mansfield Amendment" to change our law so as to free U.S. law officers to operate more effectively abroad. Another enhances our ability to deport drug criminals under the immigration laws. The Customs laws are strengthened to curtail drug smuggling.

Perhaps most significantly, Title IV would build upon an idea which has had a most successful shakedown cruise over the past two years: asset forfeiture. The Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984 gave us a powerful new weapon in our drug enforcement arsenal -- the seizure and forfeiture of the tools and profits of drug traffickers, thus enabling us to hit the traffickers where it really hurts -- in their pocketbooks. By stripping a drug cartel of its working capital, we destroy its power and its ability to do business. We also made it possible to share the assets federal agents seized from drug criminals with state and local law enforcement agencies who help in making our cases. Last year alone nearly \$250 million in assets were seized by the DEA. Today, assets worth some \$350 million are being managed by the U.S. Marshals Service. Since August of 1985 we've turned \$30 million to state and local agencies. Tens of millions more will be handed over in the next few months.

The President's proposal would give this idea an international dimension. It would empower the U.S. to seize and forfeit property in the United States that represented the fruits or instrumentalities of foreign drug crimes. And it would authorize the Attorney General to share forfeited assets or proceeds with foreign governments in cases involving joint cooperation or where required under international agreement. Like the Crime Stoppers program itself, we want to broaden the scope of an effective crimefighting device.

Title VI of the Act removes impediments in the way of making the best possible use of volunteer, private sector groups to educate people about the dangers of drugs.

It's on this last point that I'd like to appeal to you directly. I know there isn't a law enforcement officer in this room -- and that probably goes for private citizens too -- who believes that we can solve the drug problem by enforcement alone. As long as our citizens choose to use drugs, others will supply them.

You good people are here because you are Crime Stoppers. Well, one of the best ways available to stop crime is to get people off drugs or keep them from starting, to convince people, in Nancy Reagan's words, to "just say no."

The first step is to rebut the notion that drug use is a victimless crime. As you in this room well know drug abuse is not a private matter. Drugs ruin lives, destroy families and

entire communities. Drugs are dangerous, debilitating, disabling and devastating. They put the health and security of our nations at risk.

Decisions to buy and consume illicit drugs are tragic. And the trail of harm leads from school playgrounds through blighted neighborhoods infested with street peddlers, to corrupt officials and organized crime bosses and bloody drug murders, to Marxist guerrillas in steamy fields of marijuana, coca and opium plants. Whether viewed geopolitically or personally, every individual's choice to use drugs is a ballot cast for tragedy.

So tonight I'm asking you to take on another job. As police professionals, civic leaders, role models, and concerned citizens, I'm asking you to join with and support the countless volunteer and private groups springing up to bring the truth, the real truth, about drug dangers to our young people.

We have to change our peoples' appetites for drugs. We can and we will. First with smoking and more recently with alcohol, we've proven how education shapes attitudes, which in turn shapes behavior.

Anyone who doubts how private action can work obviously has not watched this organization grow.

In closing, I recall President Reagan in his Sunday address, talking about memories that pour from the Lincoln bedroom of the White House, where that resolute leader persevered against

adversity to ultimate triumph. It made me think of another Lincoln story.

Near the end of the American Civil War, with victory near, General Grant invited the President to his camp on the James River. As they sat together in the campfire light, Father Abraham told some of his trademark yarns, and then sat in silence, looking at the fire. Grant looked at him and said, "Mr. President, did you at any time doubt the final success of your cause?" Straightening in his camp chair, then leaning forward and lifting his hand for emphasis, Lincoln said solemnly, "never for a moment!"

To you I say, we will succeed in our war against crime, and against drugs. I do not doubt it, no never for a moment.

Thank you.