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Law Enforcement Endorsement 9/30/92 [OA 5813]

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary  
(Newark, New Jersey)

For Immediate Release

September 30, 1992

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
AT LAW ENFORCEMENT ENDORSEMENTS

Newark International Airport  
Newark, New Jersey

5:42 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all so very much. I mean, this is a tremendous event, and I just can't tell you how much I appreciate the support of these men and women standing here. It transcends me personally. And I think the fact is that this country must strongly support our law enforcement people. And I am grateful for this endorsement. (Applause.)

Let me just say that all of these organizations are important. The endorsement of the members of the New Jersey law enforcement community, the New Jersey Fraternal Order of Police, the Newark Policemen's Benevolent Association, New Jersey State Fraternal Association representatives that are here: representatives of the New Jersey Sheriffs Association; and groups from Newark to Nutley, Glen Ridge, East Orange, Bloomfield, Belleville, Verona, Port Authority, Essex County; police, jails and prosecutors office; Union County and Montclair to the Morris County Sheriff's Office. And that's a fine endorsement, I'll tell you. I treasure them all and the support of these individuals. (Applause.)

I think we would all agree that keeping America's neighborhoods safe and secure is one of the fundamental responsibilities, the most fundamental responsibilities of government. And it takes a tough, no-nonsense approach, one that puts our sympathy with the victims of crime not with the criminals. And after all, hard time is what criminals should get, not the innocent kids and older Americans who have to live in fear of violence.

And in this election, the candidates both are talking tough on crime, but just one is taking action. And all I'm going to ask the American people to do between now and November is to look at the record. Arkansas ranks near the bottom in every important per capita law enforcement expenditures -- for prisons, 46th; judicial and legal systems, 50th; and when it comes to spending for police officers, Arkansas ranks 49th. And since 1989 my administration has proposed a 59 percent increase in federal spending to fight crime.

And here is another snapshot of the situation in Arkansas: Last year under Governor Clinton, Arkansas criminals on average served just one-fifth of their sentence before they were back on the street. And they did the crime, and they serve one-fifth of the time -- and that is not right. That's not protection for every family in this country. (Applause.)

The federal situation, the area under my control, inmates who fall under my jurisdiction serve an average of 85 percent of their full sentence, and I'm not too happy of that. I would like to see it 100 percent in most of those cases. (Applause.) But, anyway, crime is one more issue where the Governor of Arkansas can't talk his way past his record.

And if you want to know who's really tough on crime, take a look at the people that are out there risking their lives

MORE

for you and me every single day of their lives. And take a look at the people on the front lines. Take the Fraternal Order of Police down in Little Rock, for example. They lived with Bill Clinton for 12 years, and they know his record best. And they have endorsed George Bush for President of the United States. (Applause.)

Let me remind some of these officers of something some of them know and then might be new to some others. For four years I've kept a badge, a police badge -- and I brought it along with me -- I keep this in the desk in the Oval Office. I'm sure you've seen pictures of the President's desk on the television. This is number 14072 of the New York Police Force, a city in New York. And I was given this by Police Lieutenant Matt Byrne. He gave it to me. It's the badge that his son Eddie wore the day he was gunned down by a gang of crackheads. And as Matt asked, I have kept that badge as a reminder of all the brave police officers who put their lives, put your lives on the line for us every single day.

And, yes, I'm grateful for this endorsement -- these many endorsements -- but it transcends that. You have my thanks for your service to your country. You have my support. And you're on the side of the law, and I am on your side. With your strong support, I am absolutely convinced that we can make dramatic progress -- more progress -- turning back the threat of drugs and crime, making our communities more safe and more secure.

We talk of strengthening family. One way to strengthen family is give the families neighborhoods that are free of these criminals. And that's what these people with me here today do every single day of their lives. And I am very, very grateful -- grateful for this vote of confidence. (Applause.)

And may God bless the men who wear the badge and the women who wear the badge and serve our great country. (Applause.) Thank you very much. (Applause.) Thank you all. (Applause.)

AUDIENCE: Four more years! Four more years! Four more years!

END

5:47 P.M. EDT

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**LAW ENFORCEMENT ENDORSEMENTS, OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN  
SEPTEMBER 30 \ 11:10 A.M.**

**I AM PLEASED TODAY TO RECEIVE THE ENDORSEMENT OF  
WISCONSIN'S LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY: [THE WISCONSIN  
STATE TROOPERS ASSOCIATION. THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
ASSOCIATION. THE MILITARY POLICE ASSOCIATION. THE  
MILWAUKEE POLICE ASSOCIATION.] //**

**- 2 -**

**KEEPING AMERICA'S NEIGHBORHOODS SAFE AND SECURE IS  
ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF GOVERNMENT.**

**IT TAKES A TOUGH, NO-NONSENSE APPROACH, ONE THAT  
PUTS OUR SYMPATHY WITH THE VICTIMS OF CRIME -- NOT THE  
CRIMINALS. AFTER ALL, "HARD TIME" IS WHAT CRIMINALS  
SHOULD GET -- NOT THE INNOCENT KIDS, AND OLDER  
AMERICANS WHO HAVE TO LIVE IN FEAR OF VIOLENCE.**

- 3 -

IN THIS ELECTION, TWO CANDIDATES ARE TALKING TOUGH ON CRIME -- BUT JUST ONE CANDIDATE IS TAKING ACTION.

LOOK AT THE RECORD. ARKANSAS RANKS NEAR ROCK BOTTOM IN EVERY IMPORTANT PER-CAPITA LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPENDITURE. FOR PRISONS: 46TH. FOR JUDICIAL AND LEGAL SYSTEMS: 50TH. AND WHEN IT COMES TO SPENDING FOR POLICE OFFICERS, ARKANSAS RANKS 49TH.

SINCE 1989, WE'VE PROPOSED A 59-PERCENT INCREASE IN FEDERAL SPENDING TO FIGHT CRIME.

- 4 -

HERE'S ANOTHER SNAP-SHOT OF THE SITUATION IN ARKANSAS. LAST YEAR, UNDER GOVERNOR CLINTON, ARKANSAS CRIMINALS -- ON AVERAGE -- SERVED JUST 1/5 OF THEIR SENTENCE BEFORE THEY WERE BACK ON THE STREET. THEY DID THE CRIME -- AND SERVED 1/5 OF THE TIME.

SO I THINK YOU'LL SEE THE CONTRAST WHEN I TELL YOU THAT FEDERAL INMATES -- INMATES WHO FALL UNDER MY JURISDICTION -- SERVE AN AVERAGE OF 85% OF THEIR FULL SENTENCE.

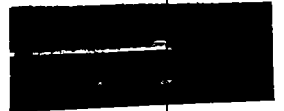
- 5 -

**CRIME IS ONE MORE ISSUE WHERE THE GOVERNOR OF ARKANSAS CAN'T TALK HIS WAY PAST HIS RECORD.**

**IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHO'S REALLY TOUGH ON CRIME, LOOK TO THE PEOPLE ON THE FRONT LINES. TAKE THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE IN LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS. THEY'VE LIVED WITH BILL CLINTON FOR 12 YEARS. THEY KNOW BILL CLINTON'S RECORD BEST -- AND THEY'RE ENDORSING GEORGE BUSH FOR PRESIDENT. //**

- 6 -

**SO LET ME SAY TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS REPRESENTED HERE TODAY: YOU PUT YOUR LIVES ON THE LINE EVERY DAY. AS PRESIDENT, YOU HAVE MY THANKS / BUT MUCH MORE THAN THAT -- YOU HAVE MY SUPPORT. YOU'RE ON THE SIDE OF THE LAW -- AND I'M ON YOUR SIDE. //**



- 7 -

AND WITH YOUR STRONG SUPPORT -- I KNOW THAT WE CAN  
TURN BACK THE THREAT OF DRUGS AND CRIME -- AND MAKE OUR  
COMMUNITIES SAFER AND MORE SECURE. THANK YOU FOR THIS  
VOTE OF CONFIDENCE -- AND MAY GOD BLESS THE MEN AND  
WOMEN WHO WEAR THE BADGE.

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**LAW ENFORCEMENT ENDORSEMENTS \ NEWARK, NEW JERSEY  
SEPTEMBER 30, 1992 \ 5:40 P.M.**

**I AM PLEASED TODAY TO RECEIVE THE ENDORSEMENT OF  
NEW JERSEY'S LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY: [THE NEW  
JERSEY STATE FRATERNAL ASSOCIATION. THE NEW JERSEY  
STATE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE. THE NEW JERSEY  
SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION.**

**- 2 -**

**AND GROUPS FROM NEWARK TO NUTLEY; GLEN RIDGE; EAST  
ORANGE, BLOOMFIELD TO BELLEVILLE; VERONA; PORT  
AUTHORITY, ESSEX COUNTY -- POLICE, JAILS AND  
PROSECUTORS' OFFICE; UNION COUNTY AND MONTCLAIR TO THE  
MORRIS COUNTY SHERIFFS' OFFICE.] //**

**KEEPING AMERICA'S NEIGHBORHOODS SAFE AND SECURE IS  
ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF GOVERNMENT.**

- 3 -

IT TAKES A TOUGH, NO-NONSENSE APPROACH, ONE THAT PUTS OUR SYMPATHY WITH THE VICTIMS OF CRIME -- NOT THE CRIMINALS. AFTER ALL, "HARD TIME" IS WHAT CRIMINALS SHOULD GET -- NOT THE INNOCENT KIDS, AND OLDER AMERICANS WHO HAVE TO LIVE IN FEAR OF VIOLENCE.

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- 7 -

SO LET ME SAY TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS REPRESENTED HERE TODAY: FOR FOUR YEARS I'VE KEPT BADGE #14072 IN MY DESK IN THE OVAL OFFICE. RETIRED NEW YORK POLICE LIEUTENANT MATT BYRNE GAVE IT TO ME. IT IS THE BADGE HIS SON EDDIE WORE THE DAY HE WAS GUNNED DOWN BY A GANG OF CRACKHEADS. AS MATT ASKED, I HAVE KEPT THAT BADGE AS A REMINDER OF ALL YOU BRAVE POLICE OFFICERS WHO PUT YOUR LIVES ON THE LINE FOR US EVERY SINGLE DAY.

- 8 -

AS PRESIDENT, YOU HAVE MY THANKS / BUT MUCH MORE THAN THAT -- YOU HAVE MY SUPPORT. YOU'RE ON THE SIDE OF THE LAW -- AND I'M ON YOUR SIDE. //

AND WITH YOUR STRONG SUPPORT -- I KNOW THAT WE CAN TURN BACK THE THREAT OF DRUGS AND CRIME -- AND MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES SAFER AND MORE SECURE. THANK YOU FOR THIS VOTE OF CONFIDENCE -- AND MAY GOD BLESS THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO WEAR THE BADGE.

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