

ON WRITING A NEW CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF THE
S.B.I.

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A few months ago, I met here in this room with members of the news media to announce the appointment of a new Director of the State Bureau of Investigation. I stated then that working together would write a new chapter in the history of the Bureau and mold it into an organization which all North Carolinians can rightly be proud of.

Six months later, I am more convinced than ever that this will be the case. Our presence here today to witness the swearing in of this group of highly motivated and talented young men as Special Agents of the State Bureau of Investigation is tangible evidence that the Bureau is moving rapidly into a new era of service to the people of North Carolina and its local law enforcement officials.

Though this era of service is only beginning, already several pages have been written in

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that new chapter we heralded here some six months ago----and they tell an exciting story in themselves. They tell of the interest which has been generated during the last several months in the problems of law enforcement on every level. And they tell of increased concern among the citizens of our State and the desire of the people to move quickly and effectively to stem the rising tide of crime and provide the popular support law enforcement officials have so desperately needed, but so long gone without.

These pages tell of legislators----
Senators and Representatives----Democrats and Republicans----who came to Raleigh for this session of the General Assembly dedicated to the proposition that law enforcement in North Carolina should be improved, that the State Bureau of Investigation should be strengthened, that this Bureau----too long a stepchild of State government----should receive the budgetary support so desperately needed

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for it to render maximum service to the people of North Carolina. These pages tell of legislators who listened to us with interest and patience as we presented the problems as we saw them, then worked tirelessly to provide the legislative support required.

These first pages of this new chapter in the Bureau's history tell also of the news media ----of concerned and talented newsmen----who went the extra mile to present the problems of law enforcement and the Bureau to the people and to draw into sharp focus the crisis which existed in this State----newsmen like you here today, who have been our friends, who have treated us fairly, but without special favor, and thus won our admiration and sincere appreciation.

These pages tell of local law enforcement officials, such as Dale Johnson, Carl Axsom, Bob Pleasants, Nick Clark and other members of the

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North Carolina Sheriffs' Association----of Chief Garner and other Chiefs of Police----who are here with us today, who have worked with us, providing counsel and helping inform the citizens of their respective areas about both local and statewide needs.

And certainly these pages tell of a Governor who is vitally concerned about the problems of law enforcement and the men who stand between the citizens of this State and an increasing large criminal element----A Governor, Bob Scott, who promised to go to bat for law enforcement during his campaign, who spoke out strongly, and then kept his promises when the General Assembly came to town, urging repeatedly that adequate appropriations be made for the improvement of law enforcement in this State. Without doubt, the sincere interest and vigorous support of Governor Bob Scott are a vital part of this story.

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It is clear, I think, that the accomplish-
ments thus far achieved have not come easily, but
are the result of the united and concentrated efforts
of many people to bring better law enforcement to
North Carolina and to insure that all our people
receive the best to be had in State government.

So those of you here today, who have re-
peated the oath and officially become Special
Agents of the State Bureau of Investigation, are
indeed "special" persons for your opportunity to
serve is a direct result of these efforts.

And as special persons, you have special
obligations. You have sworn "to well and truly
execute the duties of your office according to the
best of your skill and ability." I believe that
you will and that you will bring credit to the
Bureau and to this State.

But to do so, you must first be well-
trained in the science of your profession. An

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excellent training program has been established for the members of this group for we all recognize that the day has passed when it is sufficient to hire a man, issue him a gun and badge and tell him to go out and enforce the law. Be diligent in your studies during these next several weeks for you cannot be effective as a member of your profession and as a member of the State Bureau of Investigation without the knowledge and skill you must acquire.

And after this formal training program is concluded, after you have assumed your duties and become working agents of this Bureau, be inquisitive, continue to study----read, read, read. Make sure that you grow as your profession grows, that your understanding increases each day you are on the job, that you retain a sense of excitement about the future of law enforcement.

You also have sworn to execute the duties of your office "according to the law." I call your

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attention to that part of your oath, for these must not be merely hollow words.

As law enforcement officers you are charged with the vigorous, fair, and impartial enforcement of the laws of this State. But at the same time, you must constantly caution yourselves while doing so. There is no justification for treading upon the rights of others or willfully violating laws in the overzealous conduct of duties or in your eagerness to apprehend persons who themselves violated the law.

I can look out upon this group and say without exception and with much pride that each of you was chosen upon merit, and merit alone. I can assure you that your advancement within the Bureau will depend upon the criteria. I believe quite strongly that in criminal law investigation, the slightest departure from this method of selection and promotion can bring the Bureau and the whole

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Department of Justice into disrepute with the people of North Carolina.

As law enforcement officials you must, by necessity, be concerned about the reputation of your profession and work to increase respect for the laws you have sworn to enforce. In my opinion, the greatest aid in the cultivation of respect for the law enforcement profession, for the criminal laws of our State, and for our entire judicial system is to be found in the high character and fair conduct of law enforcement officers like yourselves. We will demand no less of you.

I would like to point out to these new agents the presence of several local law enforcement officers here today, most of whom have already been recognized. We are pleased that these good friends of ours could be present. We have pledged to them the continued cooperation of the State Bureau of Investigation in providing supportive services, for, in my opinion, there is no more important duty of

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this Bureau than assisting local law officers in providing more effective law enforcement on the local level. This was in fact the primary purpose for the establishment of the Bureau.

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Let me thank everyone for coming here today to share this occasion with us. I know that each of you joins me in extending to these young men sincerest best wishes in this new undertaking. They have our active interest and support. We consider the Bureau a vital portion of the Department of Justice and look forward to becoming acquainted with each of these men and having the privilege of working with them on behalf of the people of North Carolina. We look forward to working with them in writing this new chapter in the history of the State Bureau of Investigation.

ON LAW ENFORCEMENT AS A LOCAL RIGHT AND RESPONSIBILITY