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While a practicing attorney for eighteen years and especially since serving as Attorney General of this State, I have become firmly convinced that the legal profession is and should be both the catalyst and active participant in the resolution of the perplexing social problems facing our state and country today, I say this because we are sworn and devoted to the dispensation and maintenance of law and justice. These two fundamentals in our profession are top priorities and it is our responsibility to see that these ideals of our system of jurisprudence are truly realities.

If we, as attorneys, make ourselves available to the public as their agents to serve them to our utmost abilities; and not as great legal philosophers who possess all of the world's legal wisdom; I feel that we will be in a much better position to make it known to all North Carolinians and U.S. residents that there are legal doors which CAN be opened to help remedy the many injustices which plague our great state and nation. An example of what I am saying is North Carolina's Consumer Division of our Justice Department. We have staffed this division with men of great legal ability, yet who at the same time have the compassion for human needs and problems which are the essence of this legal area. This direct involvement of law in the area of social problems is, I feel, one of our most important achievements during my first six months in office because we are attacking a very serious and increasing problem which takes advantage

of both the rich and the poor. I would like to add that we expected, and now, have found that the poor citizens of our state many times have been the hardest hit and the least who can afford the injustices and illegalities which result from those business practices WHICH TAKE VERY MUCH FROM THE CONSUMERS AND GIVE VERY LITTLE IN RETURN.

Now, I wish to turn to the topic of LAW, ORDER AND JUSTICE which are the three most important aspects of both our democracy and our profession. These terms and their meanings are neither liberal nor conservative,, black nor white, Republican nor Democrat. These terms and their meanings are NEUTRAL and should be viewed and applied equitably and non-discriminatorily.

First, let us look at "LAW". Law is the cornerstone to a civilized society. It is the MEANS by which order and stability are established and maintained. Thus, law should be neutral and APPLICABLE to all of its citizens regardless of race, creed or color. Law is both positive and negative in its approach. It can bring into effect constructive programs which will benefit all members of society, and it can correct past injustices and rectify customary wrongs. Yet, law can and must bring criminals into the hands of justice and the proper authorities so as to protect the law-abiding citizens from pain and suffering which can result from criminal acts.

A corollary to this is the fact that we need to show more respect for the law ourselves. Every one of us contributes to the

disrespect for the law in one way or another. Let me give you some examples: We show disrespect for law whenever we criticize judicial decisions in such a way as to imply that we do not think that they should be enforced, for judicial decision is a point of law. If we are to show respect for the law and have a government of laws rather than a government of men, these decisions--whether we like them or not--must be enforced. In our nation we are free to disagree with the law, but we are not free to disobey it.

We show disrespect for the law whenever we as parents set bad examples by our own disregard for law and excuse the minor offenses of our children.

We contribute to disrespect for law whenever we as newsmen give vivid coverage to criminal behavior, but only nominal coverage to arrests, prosecutions, and convictions, for we leave the impression that crime pays.

We contribute to disrespect for the law whenever we refuse to treat an ex-convict as an ordinary citizen after he has paid his debt to society for we then drive him to crime again.

We contribute to disrespect for the law whenever we fail to adequately compensate our policemen, teachers, clergymen and all others who might help us to deter it.

But worst of all, we contribute to disrespect for the law whenever we fail to teach our children the fundamental principles upon which our system of government and especially our judicial system are based, and whenever we fail to teach our children the moral ideals of our society. Thus, we should recognize our role as lawyers and citizens in the maintenance of respect ^{for the law.}

ORDER-- order is neither conservative nor liberal--neither black nor white. It is color blind in that tyranny which is the result in the breakdown of order makes no distinction in the color of the people who can fall under its domain.

Order is essential for any democratic system to exist. Yet at the same time, the democratic system should work in such a way that it will be responsive to the many social changes that beset any large nation such as ours.

JUSTICE--Justice through the law and the courts is a fundamental tenet in all civilized democratic countries and should always be the cornerstone of such societies. Justice also is and should be colorblind. It should be assured to all of our citizens-- not as a privilege but as a fundamental right to all.

Criminal justice is a necessity. The question today is "how can we improve criminal justice?" First, professionalization of the entire law enforcement area. A high caliber individual should always

be sought and to obtain him, he must be offered a quality salary. It is a major role of society to see that the best men possible are the enforcers of the law. There should be quality training for all policemen with proper equipment to be trained on. Police science and criminology instruction should be offered at all levels of law enforcement throughout the state. Law enforcement officials should be aware that the recent Supreme Court decisions do make it harder in some ways to apprehend and convict alleged criminals; yet at the same time, it is not an impossible task.

In short, criminal justice should be a blend of strict law enforcement and increased professionalism as well as the equitable and non-discriminatory application of the law.

I would like to add however, many Americans think that controlling crime is solely the task of the police and the courts. In truth, crime cannot be controlled without the interest and participation of schools, businesses, private groups, and especially individual citizens, for our liberty and our security ultimately rest not on paper guarantees, but in the hearts, minds, and actions of the people. Unless the people take concerted action to change the general conditions and attitudes that are associated with crime, no improvement in law enforcement and administration of justice will be of much avail.

Gentlemen, now let me turn to what I call "STRICT LAW ENFORCEMENT." During my campaign and while serving as Attorney General, I have advocated "strict law enforcement" because I feel that it must be pursued and obtained to its optimum. Only through

"strict law enforcement" will there be any respect for the law or the LEGAL PROFESSION. Our profession is built on a foundation of respect and total regard for the law and justice. The quickest way to weaken that foundation is by allowing the law to be ABUSED and MISUSED or by allowing justice to become injustice. Our profession will fall into disrepute and will crumble along with society if "strict law enforcement" is not the rule, instead of some time being the exception.

What do I mean by "strict law enforcement"? I mean that when there is a violation of the law by ANY person, he should be subject to the punishment prescribed by statute. This should be the case in every instance of violation and should be made clear to our public that this procedure will ALWAYS be carried out. It should also be made clear that color, economic status, religion nor any other classification neither is nor will be a criterion for favored treatment. Once the law is broken, the lawbreaker will come within the grips of law and justice, and he and only he is answerable for his violation.

As to the other side of "strict law enforcement" we must turn to the POLICE. I made it adamantly clear while campaigning and since serving as the Attorney General that the police should and will receive our support as long as they dispense the law equitably and fairly. They MUST NOT and CANNOT violate the law in any respect in the execution of their duties as police officers. Just as the public must stay within the law, so must the policemen. Illegal wiretaps

will not be allowed or supported by this office, nor will any other illegal activity by police officers be tolerated. In order for their to be the real and true "strict law enforcement" of which I advocate, and in order for ALL of our society to have the WILL to respect the law; we must demand the same adherence to the law from our policemen as we do from our citizens. This is what I mean by "strict law enforcement" and this is what the Attorney General's Office should and will demand.

In conclusion, I would like to look at, with you, two important questions which blacks and whites often ask among themselves.

1. Are all whites against freedom and equal opportunity for all?
2. Are all blacks bent on VIOLENT change?

Too often when riots are viewed on television or in reality, some whites will conclude that all blacks are bent on destruction. Too often when a white practices, in some form, outright racism, some blacks will say "they're all alike and need to be burned out." Too often these approaches lead to the further widening of the chasm of race relations and not to a meaningful solution to the social problems that beset us.

It is the OBLIGATION of all black and white men of good will to begin to wash away the stereotypes of both races, to rise above black and white racism, to demand respect for all men and to become colorblind as to race, yet also, to see and push for that which is right because right has no color.

So ladies and gentlemen, ~~in conclusion~~, we must work together for constructive changes in our society, we must MODIFY many of our outdated institutions, we must REBUILD the completely obsolete patterns of behavior which are unresponsive to our needs, and finally, we must adapt our profession to twentieth century life and its problems and not close our eyes to the human and legal needs of our people. We must and will begin today and not wait for the endless tomorrows.