

When I ran for Attorney General four years ago, I promised to bring new spirit and new meaning to this very important office and to make the Attorney General truly the "peoples' attorney". I believe we have kept those promises and that our record reflects hard work and positive accomplishments for all the people of North Carolina.

In the short time I have to talk with you, I cannot discuss all the things we have done. However, I will mention a few to illustrate that we have made real progress in attacking some of the problems which concern us all.

I came into office as Attorney General just as the drug crisis really began to be felt in North Carolina. Though I know as well as you do that better law enforcement is not the only answer to solving the problem of drug abuse, it is an important part of the answer. So we went to work to improve the ability of the State Bureau of Investigation to cope with the problem.

At my request, the Legislature gave us new laboratory facilities and allowed the chemical section, which is so important in the prosecution of drug cases, to expand to its present size. We added new chemists. In 1969 we had four; today we have twelve. We need more and will be asking the Legislature for more.

In 1969, we had no special agents who worked exclusively in the area of narcotics; today we have 22. Of course, we need more and will seek more.

In 1969, we had no mobile crime lab operators. Today we have six.

During the last four years, the number of drug cases opened by the SBI has increased by 500%. To assist law enforcement officials at the local level, we established the Police Information Network, a computerized criminal information system, which now serves local law enforcement personnel throughout the State. This system is a giant step forward for law officers.

When I ran for office in 1968, there was no such thing as a Consumer Protection Division in the Office of the Attorney General of North Carolina. We promised to establish one and today our Division is generally considered one of the most effective in the Nation.

Many of you have called upon us for help and you know that this reputation is based upon responsiveness to the people of this State and its results in dealing with their problems. Our Consumer Protection program is solid and responsible. It is respected by consumers and honest businessmen alike and in my opinion its effectiveness speaks for itself. We have kept our promise.

We also promised to provide a voice for the consumer before the North Carolina regulatory agencies whose decisions affect the pocketbooks of everyone of us. We have done so before several bodies including the State Insurance Commission, the Milk Commission, and the Utilities Commission. Due in large part to the role we have taken in advocating the consumers' view before the Utilities Commission alone, North Carolinians are paying approximately \$100 million per year less for electric power and telephone service than the companies have requested.

I could go on and on to illustrate that promises made have been promises kept. But I will conclude by saying this: In our campaign we promised to make the Attorney General of North Carolina "the people's attorney". I believe we have kept that promise.