

COMMENTS BY ROBERT MORGAN
UNITED STATES SENATOR
DEDICATION OF WASHINGTON POLICE CENTER
WASHINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA
JUNE 1, 1975

IT IS A PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE WITH YOU TODAY
FOR THE DEDICATION OF THIS NEW WASHINGTON POLICE CENTER.

AS MANY OF YOU HERE KNOW, FOR SEVERAL YEARS
WHILE ATTORNEY GENERAL, I SAT ON THE NORTH CAROLINA LAW
AND ORDER COMMITTEE WITH YOUR CHIEF OF POLICE, PHILLIP
PAUL. LET ME TELL YOU THAT HE DID AN EXCELLENT JOB OF
REPRESENTING THE VIEWPOINT OF LOCAL OFFICERS AND SMALL
POLICE FORCES AND BECAUSE OF THE LEADERSHIP HE HELPED
GIVE, MANY DEPARTMENTS THROUGHOUT THIS STATE HAVE
BENEFITED TREMENDOUSLY.

MONTH AFTER MONTH WE MET AND APPROVED HUNDREDS
OF GRANTS AND SAW MILLIONS OF DOLLARS GO TO COMMUNITIES
THROUGHOUT THIS STATE. IT THEN OCCURRED TO US THAT ONE
OF THE MOST PRESSING NEEDS IN THE LAW ENFORCEMENT
COMMUNITY IN NORTH CAROLINA WAS RIGHT HERE IN WASHINGTON
AND THAT WORKING TOGETHER WITH CHIEF PAUL AND THE
OFFICIALS OF THIS TOWN, WE WERE GOING TO DO SOMETHING
ABOUT IT. WE DID WORK TOGETHER AND I TELL YOU A FEW
TIMES WE HAD SOME PRETTY ROUGH SLEDDING. BUT WE PUT IT
TOGETHER AND I AM DELIGHTED THAT YOU LET ME COME DOWN
TODAY TO SEE THE RESULT OF THE EFFORT AND HELP DEDICATE

THIS BEAUTIFUL AND FUNCTIONAL POLICE CENTER.

FOR TOO LONG LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS HAVE BEEN NEGLECTED. WE HAVE EXPECTED FAR MORE OF THEM THAN ALMOST EITHER OTHER PUBLIC SERVANTS -- LONG HOURS, ROUGH DUTY, GREAT RESPONSIBILITY, CONSTANT DANGER -- YET HAVE GIVEN THEM FAR LESS TO WORK WITH, LESS FINANCIAL REWARD AND LESS SECURITY AFTER RETIREMENT.

I'M GLAD TO SEE THAT WE ARE BEGINNING TO CHANGE THAT TREND AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS POLICE CENTER HERE TODAY IS SYMBOLIC OF THE NEW CONCERN BEING SHOWN AT THE LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL LEVEL. IT IS SYMBOLIC OF THE FACT THAT WE AS CITIZENS OF THIS GREAT NATION OF OURS ARE WILLING TO WORK AND MAKE PERSONAL SACRIFICES TO SEE THAT LAW, ORDER AND JUSTICE PREVAIL AND THAT WE CONTINUE TO BE A NATION OF LAWS.

WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY IN NORTH CAROLINA DURING THE LAST FEW YEARS IN PROMOTING PROFESSIONALISM AMONG LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND IN TURN CREATING A NEW IMAGE FOR THOSE WHO KEEP THE PEACE AND ENSURE OUR PERSONAL SECURITY. THIS COULD NOT HAVE BEEN DONE EXCEPT ^{THE} FOR/CONSISTENTLY HIGH CHARACTER OF THOSE WHO WEAR THE BADGE AND THEIR WILLINGNESS TO SEEK EXCELLENCE IN ALL THEY DO.

REMEMBER IF YOU WILL, THAT POLICEMEN, THAT ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, ARE HUMAN AND ARE SUBJECT TO FRAILTIES. DO NOT CONDEMN THE MANY FOR THE ALWAYS WELL-PUBLICIZED SHORTCOMINGS OF A FEW. CRITICISM COMES CHEAP.

RATHER, IF YOU WILL, DEDICATE YOURSELF IN THIS COMMUNITY TO STRIVING FOR THE BEST IN LAW ENFORCEMENT. I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU WHAT A GOOD START YOU ALREADY HAVE MADE.

WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS BUILDING AND ITS DEDICATION TODAY YOU HAVE ONE OF THE FINEST FACILITIES ANYWHERE. AND YOU KNOW THE KIND OF METTLE YOUR OFFICERS HERE IN WASHINGTON ARE MADE OF. THEY ARE YOUR RELATIVES, YOUR NEIGHBORS, YOUR FRIENDS.

LET THEM KNOW YOU APPRECIATE THE WORK THEY ARE DOING AND GIVE THEM YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT. IN THE END, YOU WILL REAP THE REWARD IN GREATER EFFICIENCY, HIGHER MORALE AND BETTER SERVICE.

I COMMEND YOU AT CITIZENS OF THE TOWN OF WASHINGTON FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS BUILDING. IT IS A TREMENDOUS INVESTMENT IN GOOD GOVERNMENT.