SPEECH BY:

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NORTH CAROLINA SHERIFFS' CONFERENCE
WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH, N. C.
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I WANT TO EXPRESS TO ALL OF YOU HERE, NOT ONLY THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE IN THE SHERIFF DEPARTMENTS THROUGHOUT THE STATE, BUT YOUR FAMILIES AS WELL, MY SINCERE APPRECIATION AT BEING INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS ANNUAL SHERIFFS' CONVENTION. I AM WELL AWARE OF THE MANY SACRIFICES THAT THE FAMILIES OF YOU OFFICERS MAKE AND THEREFORE, I AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED THAT SOME OF YOUR WIVES AND FAMILIES COULD ATTEND THE CONVENTION AND ENJOY WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH.

WITH YOUR PERMISSION, I WOULD LIKE TO REVIEW BRIEFLY TODAY THE DEVELOPMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT IN NORTH CAROLINA, AS IT HAS EVOLVED OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS AND GIVE YOU SOMETHING OF MY PHILOSOPHY.

LAW ENFORCEMENT IS, AND SHOULD BE, A LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY IN NORTH CAROLINA BECAUSE I BELIEVE ENFORCEMENT OF OUR LAWS SHOULD BE DONE AT THE LEVEL CLOSEST TO THE PEOPLE.

IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN TRUE THAT WHENEVER WE CONCENTRATE ANY POWER, WHETHER IN RALEIGH OR WASHINGTON, WE ARE REMOVING IT A LITTLE BIT MORE FROM THE PEOPLE AND IT TENDS TO BECOME LESS AND LESS RESPONSIVE TO THE WILL AND NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE.

I HAVE SAID MANY TIMES DURING THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS THAT I WANT US TO AVOID THE CREATION OF A STATE POLICE IN NORTH CAROLINA. LET'S WORK TOGETHER, LET'S SHARE IDEAS AND INFORMATION - LET'S MOVE AHEAD WITH COOPERATIVE EFFORTS SUCH AS THE POLICE INFORMATION NETWORK, UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING AND ALL THE OTHERS - LET'S FORM A PARTNERSHIP IN SERVICE BUT LET'S KEEP THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENFORCING THE LAW AT THE LOCAL LEVEL WITH SHERIFFS AND CHIEFS OF POLICE WHERE THEY BELONG.

I REALIZE AS WELL AS ANYONE THAT PROVIDING GOOD, EFFICIENT LAW ENFORCEMENT IN YOUR COUNTIES THROUGH THE YEARS HAS NOT BEEN AN EASY TASK. YOU HAVE NOT ALWAYS HAD THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF YOUR COUNTIES AND THE STATE AND YOU HAVE NOT ALWAYS HAD THE KIND OF ACTIVE INTEREST AND CONCERN FROM YOUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES WHICH I THINK YOU ARE NOW RECEIVING.

WHEN I BECAME ATTORNEY GENERAL IN 1969 AND THEREFORE MORE MINDFUL OF THE ROLE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, THIS FACT IMMEDIATELY BECAME OBVIOUS.

FIRST OF ALL, IT WAS APPARENT THAT LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ALL ACROSS NORTH CAROLINA WERE POORLY PAID. MOST COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD THE PURSE STRINGS TIGHTLY. SOME STILL DO, OF COURSE. MANY COMMISSIONERS SELDOM GAVE YOU THE SUPPORT YOU NEEDED AND LOCAL CITIZENS WERE NOT APPRECIATIVE OF YOUR EFFORTS UNTIL THEY NEEDED YOUR PROTECTION. ONCE THEIR HOMES HAD BEEN BROKEN INTO, OR THEY HAD BEEN ASSAULTED, THEY WERE QUICK TO SUMMON YOU TO HELP; HOWEVER, EVEN THEN, THEIR APPRECIATION AND THANKS FOR WHAT YOU DID WERE SHORT-LIVED. AT BUDGET TIME YOU USUALLY STOOD ALONE TO PLEAD YOUR CAUSE.

FORTUNATELY, SOME HELP HAS NOW COME IN THIS AREA. FIRST OF ALL, WITH THE HELP OF YOUR REPRESENTATIVE SHERIFF CARL AXUM, ON THE STATE'S LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE, WE WERE ABLE TO PROVIDE SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS FOR THE SALARIES OF SOME LOCAL OFFICERS. NEEDLESS TO SAY, THIS HAS BEEN PIECEMEAL BUT AT LEAST IT WAS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

THE BIGGEST BOOST, HOWEVER, CAME FROM THE RECENT GENERAL ASSEMBLY, WHICH RECOGNIZED THE PROBLEM OF LOW SALARIES AS A MATTER OF STATEWIDE IMPORTANCE AND MOVED TO REMEDY IT WITH UNIFORM MINIMUM SALARY LEGISLATION. LET ME POINT OUT THAT THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE OPPOSITION TO THIS BILL. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES

AND THE COUNTY COMMISSION ASSOCIATION BOTH MADE A CONCERTED EFFORT TO EITHER WATER IT DOWN OR KILL IT.

THEY DID SO IN, MY OPINION, BECAUSE THEY REALIZED IF THE BILL PASSED LOCAL GOVERNING BODIES OF THIS STATE WOULD EVENTUALLY HAVE TO FACE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF FINDING THE RESOURCES TO BEGIN TO PAY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS A WAGE EQUAL TO THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES.

I KNOW THAT PLANNING BUDGETS TO PROVIDE ALL NEEDED SERVICES IS A DIFFICULT MATTER. BUT I ALSO FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THE PEOPLE OF THIS STATE, FROM ONE END TO THE OTHER, CONSIDER GOOD LAW ENFORCEMENT A VITAL SERVICE AND ARE WILLING TO DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY TO OBTAIN IT.

THE ARGUMENT WAS USED THAT THE MINIMUM PAY USURPED LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY. NOW I TELL YOU THAT I AM JUST AS MUCH IN FAVOR OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT HAVING THE RIGHT TO EXERCISE THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AS ANYONE ELSE IN THIS STATE.

AS A MATTER OF FACT, I HAVE OFTEN BEEN REFERRED TO AS A STATE'S RIGHTER AND I GUESS IN MANY WAYS I AM.

BUT AT THE SAME TIME, I HAVE ALWAYS SAID THAT STATE'S RIGHTS ARE FOR RESPONSIBLE STATES. IN ACCORD WITH THIS PHILOSOPHY, I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

SHOULD BE HEARD TO COMPLAIN VERY LOUDLY WHEN AFTER THEY HAVE FAILED CONSISTENTLY TO IMPROVE THE SALARIES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE THROUGH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY STEP IN TO FILL THE BREACH.

WE ACTIVELY SUPPORTED THIS LEGISLATION AND I AM DELIGHTED THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATED TWO MILLION DOLLARS TO SUPPLEMENT THE SALARIES OF LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS DURING THE NEXT TWO YEARS. THIS MEANS THAT AFTER OCTOBER, NO FULL-TIME NORTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER WILL EARN LESS THAN SIX THOUSAND DOLLARS AND THAT THE SHERIFF OF EVEN THE SMALLEST COUNTY IN NORTH CAROLINA WILL DRAW A SALARY OF AT LEAST $7,500.00

I AM THE FIRST TO ADMIT THAT EVEN THESE ARE MEAGER SUMS WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE SALARIES PAID TO MANY OTHER PERSONS WHOSE JOBS CARRY FEWER RESPONSIBILITIES AND CERTAINLY ARE MUCH LESS DANGEROUS. BUT SURELY THIS IS A STEP FORWARD WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE FACT THAT BEFORE THE PASSAGE OF THE BILL, MORE THAN ONE HALF OF THE CITIES AND COUNTIES IN NORTH CAROLINA WERE PAYING SOME OF THEIR OFFICERS LESS THAN THE MINIMUM SALARIES ESTABLISHED BY THE 1973 LEGISLATURE.

THERE IS NO REQUIREMENT AT THIS TIME THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL BODIES MAINTAIN THESE SALARIES AT THE MINIMUM LEVEL WHEN THE STATE SUPPLEMENT EXPIRES. HOWEVER, I CERTAINLY HOPE THEY WILL HAVE THE WISDOM TO DO SO, FOR IF THEY EXPECT TO HOLD QUALIFIED OFFICERS AND ATTRACT OTHERS TO THE SERVICE, THEY SHOULD NEVER LET THE SALARIES AGAIN GO BELOW THE MINIMUMS ESTABLISHED BY THE LEGISLATURE.

I THINK IT IS ALSO SIGNIFICANT THAT THIS LAST GENERAL ASSEMBLY MADE SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE LAW ENFORCEMENT RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND APPROPRIATED MORE THAN TWO MILLION DOLLARS FOR THE BENEFIT OF OFFICERS IN THIS STATE. IT IS MY HOPE THAT THE ADDITIONAL RETIREMENT BENEFITS PROVIDED BY THIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY WILL BE ATTRACTIVE ENOUGH TO PROVIDE NEW INCENTIVES TO GOOD OFFICERS TO MAKE LAW ENFORCEMENT A LIFETIME PROFESSION.

IT HAS ALSO BEEN APPARENT TO ALL OF US OVER THE YEARS THAT WE MUST DO SOMETHING TO IMPROVE TRAINING FOR OUR OFFICERS. FOR DECADES, WE HAVE HAD STATEWIDE STANDARDS FOR ALMOST EVERY CONCEIVABLE PROFESSION FROM ELECTRICIANS AND BARBERS AND COSMETOLOGISTS TO DOCTORS AND LAWYERS. BUT AT THE SAME TIME WE HAVE SWORN IN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND GIVEN THEM THE MOST IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITIES OF OUR SOCIETY, OFTEN WITH NO TRAINING AT ALL AND CERTAINLY WITH NO ESTABLISHED, REASONABLE STATEWIDE STANDARDS TO MEET.

THE AMAZING THING IS THAT WE HAVE DONE AS WELL AS WE HAVE UNDER THIS KIND OF SYSTEM. WITHOUT DOUBT, SOME OFFICERS HAVE ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR WHICH THEY HAD NEITHER THE TRAINING, ABILITY, OR TEMPERAMENT TO HANDLE AND AS A RESULT OF THEIR ACTIONS THE REPUTATION OF ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN THIS STATE HAS OFTEN BEEN IMPUGNED. THANK GOODNESS THE 1971 GENERAL ASSEMBLY CREATED THE MINIMUM STANDARDS COUNCIL FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING SOME BASIC, MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN THIS STATE. THE REQUIREMENTS BECAME EFFECTIVE THIS PAST MARCH AND OF COURSE WE HAVEN'T IRONED OUT ALL THE WRINKLES YET. ALREADY I HAVE DISCUSSED PROBLEMS WITH SOME OF YOU.

BUT WE ARE FORTUNATE IN HAVING AS THE DIRECTOR OF THAT COUNCIL AN EXPERIENCED FORMER LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER WHO IS DEDICATED TO MAKING YOUR PROFESSION ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND RESPECTED IN NORTH CAROLINA. THE COUNCIL IS CHAIRED, AND CHAIRED ABLY, BY A MEMBRR OF YOUR ASSOCIATION, MALCOLM MCCLOUD FROM ROBESON COUNTY AND I WANT TO TELL YOU HE'S DOING A GOOD JOB. THIS COUNCIL, WITH YOUR HELP, IN MY OPINION, IS GOING TO MOVE THE LAW ENFORCEMENT PROFESSION AHEAD BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS DURING THE NEXT MONTHS AND YEARS.

THE LAST LEGISLATURE AUTHORIZED THE CREATION OF A CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING SYSTEM AND DIRECTED THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND AN ADVISORY BOARD, CONSISTING OF MEMBERS OF YOUR ASSOCIATION AND OTHER CRIMINAL JUSTIVE OFFICIALS AND EDUCATORS, TO BRING INTO BEING A COORDINATED SYSTEM FOR THE TRAINING OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND OTHER PERSONS INVOLVED IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTIVE IN NORTH CAROLINA. UNFORTUNATELY, THE LEGISLATURE DID NOT APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SYSTEM. BECAUSE OF THIS I PRESENTLY INTEND TO MAKE A PROPOSAL TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON LAW AND ORDER ASKING FOR A LIMITED AMOUNT OF FUNDS TO BEGIN PLANNING THE SYSTEM AND TO GET IT UNDERWAY.

AGAIN, WE ARE GOING TO NEED YOUR CONSTANT ADVICE AND COOPERATION. WE'LL BE COMING TO YOU FOR YOUR HELP AND I FEEL SURE YOU WON'T TURN US AWAY.

WHAT WE NEED MOST RIGHT NOW, IN MY OPINION, IS SPECIAL TRAINING IN THE TECHNICAL, HOW-TO-DO-IT PART OF LAW ENFORCEMENT. IN OUR OFFICE, WE GET A LOT OF CALLS FROM CONCERNED PEOPLE AND WE TRY TO LISTEN TO THEM. WE HAVE GOTTEN MANY COMPLAINTS FROM FAMILIES WHERE THE DEATHS OF RELATIVES WERE SUSPICIOUS AND ULTIMATELY DECLARED TO BE SUICIDES. EACH HAS BEEN CONCERNED BY THE METHOD OF

THE INVESTIGATIONS AND EVIDENCE OBTAINED TO SUPPORT THE CONCLUSION OF THE INVESTIGATING OFFICER. IN ONE CASE I REMEMBER, A YOUNG COUPLE WERE FOUND DEAD IN THEIR CAR AND THE CONCLUSION WAS THAT IT WAS A MURDER-SUICIDE. DESPITE THE FACT THAT CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES WERE QUESTIONABLE, ALL EVIDENCE WAS IMMEDIATELY DESTROYED WHEN THE CAR WAS HOSED OUT BY THE INVESTIGATING OFFICIALS, THUS MAKING ANY LATER, DETAILED INVESTIGATION IMPOSSIBLE. THE PARENTS OF THOSE TWO YOUNGSTERS WILL NEVER BE SATISFIED IN THEIR OWN MINDS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AND IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SO EASY TO HAVE GATHERED EVIDENCE SUFFICIENT TO ANSWER EVERY QUESTION WHICH TROUBLED THEM. WE HAVE GOT TO HAVE MORE OF THIS KIND OF TRAINING.

ANOTHER MAJOR HANDICAP THAT LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS HAVE CONTINUALLY FACED IS THAT THEY WERE USUALLY POORLY EQUIPPED TO DO THEIR JOB. WHEN I BECAME ATTORNEY GENERAL AND CHARLES DUNN BECAME SBI DIRECTOR, THE COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT THAT WE HAD IN MANY OF OUR CARS WAS INFERIOR TO THAT POSSESSED BY SOME MEMBERS OF BLACK AND WHITE MILITANT ORGANIZATIONS. SOME KLAN ORGANIZATIONS HAD BETTER RADIOS AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS THAN YOUR STATE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.

THIS LACK OF ADEQUATE EQUIPMENT WAS EVEN MORE PATHETIC AT THE LOCAL LEVEL. THERE WAS LITTLE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE VARIOUS LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. WHEN WARRANTS WERE FILED OFTEN THERE WAS LITTLE HOPE OF ANY ACTION BEING TAKEN ON THEM IF THE PERSON WAS LOCATED ELSEWHERE.

WHEN THERE WAS COMMUNICATION, THE ENORMOUS AMOUNTS OF PAPER WORK SERVED AS AN OBSTACLE TO TRACKING DOWN CRIMINALS. ONE RECOURSE YOU HAD WAS TO PUT A BULLETIN ON THE HIGHWAY PATROL RADIO; HOWEVER, NOT ALL OFFICERS WOULD BE LISTENING AT ANY GIVEN TIME AND WITH THE MANY BULLETINS HEARD IN THE COURSE OF ONE DAY, THERE WAS GREAT LIKELIHOOD THAT YOUR PARTICULAR BULLETIN WOULD SIMPLY BE LOST IN THE SHUFFLE.

IT WAS OUR CONCERN ABOUT THESE DEFICIENCES THAT CAUSED US TO PROPOSE THE CREATION OF THE POLICE INFORMATION NETWORK AS A SYSTEM OF RAPID COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND AS A CENTER FOR THE STORAGE AND RAPID RETRIEVAL OF INFORMATION VITAL TO YOU IN ENFORCING THE LAWS OF OUR STATE. MANY OF YOU HAVE PIN TERMINALS IN YOUR OFFICES AND I HOPE THAT ONE DAY WE WILL BE ABLE TO SAY THAT ALL OF YOU DO. I BELIEVE THAT TO A MAN, EACH

OF YOU WHO IS PARTICIPATING IN THE POLICE INFORMATION NETWORK WOULD SAY THAT PIN IS PROBABLY THE GREATEST STEP FORWARD THAT LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT HAS TAKEN IN MANY, MANY YEARS.

THROUGH THE SYSTEM, YOU CAN COMMUNICATE INSTANTLY WITH OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE AGENCIES ACROSS THE STATE INCLUDING MY OWN OFFICE. WHEN YOU ARREST SOMEONE, YOU CAN FIND OUT IMMEDIATELY WHETHER HE IS WANTED IN SOME OTHER AREA OF THE STATE OR WHETHER THERE IS INFORMATION CONCERNING THAT INDIVIDUAL IN THE NATIONAL CRIME INFORMATION CENTER. YOU HAVE AT YOUR FINGERTIPS MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION AND DRIVER HISTORY RECORDS. YOU HAVE STOLEN PROPERTY FILES AND, AS WE PROGRESS, HOPEFULLY MORE AND MORE INFORMATION VITAL TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY WILL BE INCLUDED.

BUT AGAIN I EMPHASIZE THAT PIN IS A COOPERATIVE PROJECT BETWEEN THE MANY LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN THIS STATE AND THAT IS THE ONLY WAY THAT IT CAN OPERATE EFFECTIVELY. IF IT IS EFFECTIVE, IT IS BECAUSE OF YOUR SUPPORT. IF IT IS TO GROW AND BECOME MORE EFFICIENT, IT WILL BE BECAUSE OF YOUR INTEREST. THOSE OF US IN RALEIGH CAN'T DO IT ALONE.

I COULD TALK ON AND ON ABOUT A LOT OF THE THINGS WHICH ARE HAPPENING TO IMPROVE LAW ENFORCEMENT THAT I AM REALLY EXCITED ABOUT. I COULD TALK ABOUT THE UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING SYSTEM WHICH IS GROWING EVERY MONTH AND EVENTUALLY IS GOING TO GIVE US A PROFILE OF CRIME ON BOTH THE LOCAL AND STATE LEVEL IN NORTH CAROLINA LIKE WE'VE NEVER HAD BEFORE. ALREADY, THE NUMBER OF AGENCIES REPORTING HAVE MORE THAN DOUBLED AND SOON WILL PROBABLY TRIPLE THE NUMBER WHICH REPORTED TO THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION UNDER THE OLD REPORTING PROGRAM.

IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE WE'LL BE ABLE TO GIVE TO THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE PARTICIPATING ON A REGULAR BASIS ACCURATE, UP-TO-DATE, INFORMATION ON THE AMOUNT AND KIND OF CRIME WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN EXPERIENCING IN YOUR LOCALITY. WE'LL BE ABLE TO GIVE TO YOU INFORMATION THAT YOU CAN TAKE TO YOUR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WHEN YOU PRESENT YOUR REQUEST FOR YOUR ANNUAL BUDGET. WE WILL BE ABLE TO GIVE TO YOU INFORMATION THAT YOU CAN GIVE TO LOCAL CIVIC LEADERS WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT HELPING YOU IMPROVE THE QUALITY AND SCOPE OF YOUR SERVICES.

BUT AGAIN, WE'LL BE ABLE TO DO THIS ONLY WITH YOUR COOPERATION, ONLY WITH YOUR PARTICIPATION IN UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING AND ONLY IF THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE PARTICIPATING WILL ENCOURAGE AND URGE THOSE WHO ARE NOT TO JOIN IN THIS MUTUAL EFFORT.

I DON'T BELIEVE I NEED TO GO BACK AT THIS TIME AND OUTLINE THE PROGRESS WHICH THE STATE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION HAS MADE DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS OR SO. I THINK THAT MOST OF YOU ARE AWARE THAT WE HAVE GREATLY ENLARGED OUR LABORATORY FACILITIES AND TECHNICAL SERVICES IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO GIVE YOU THE KIND OF HELP WE THINK YOU DESERVE. I'M SURE YOU'VE OBSERVED THE INCREASED NUMBER OF BRIGHT, YOUNG AGENTS NOW IN THE FIELD WHOSE INTEREST AND ENTHUSIASM FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT I HAVE NEVER SEEN EXCEEDED ANYWHERE.

THEY ARE THERE TO HELP YOU. THEY ARE THERE TO PROVIDE THE ASSISTANCE WHICH WE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY BY LAW OF RENDERING TO YOU. CALL ON THEM, WORK WITH THEM AND FOR GOODNESS SAKES, WHEN THINGS GO WRONG, LET US KNOW. THAT'S THE ONLY WAY WE CAN MAKE IMPROVEMENTS.

YOU MIGHT ASK IN LIGHT OF ALL THIS ACTIVITY AT THE STATE LEVEL WHETHER LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, SUCH AS SHERIFFS DEPARTMENTS, CAN REMAIN FOR LONG AS THE PRIMARY SOURCE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES IN THE STATE. MY ANSWER IS AN UNQUALIFIED "YES" FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON.

EVERY PROGRAM I HAVE MENTIONED, EVERY ADVANCEMENT WE HAVE MADE, HAS BEEN FOR THE PURPOSE OF STRENGTHENING YOUR DEPARTMENTS AND GIVING YOU THE SUPPORT AND RESOURCES REQUIRED TO PROVIDE EFFICIENT LAW ENFORCEMENT IN YOUR COUNTIES THROUGH YOUR DEPARTMENTS. THE BENEFITS OF THESE PROGRAMS FLOW DIRECTLY BACK TO YOU AS TOOLS FOR INCREASING YOUR EFFECTIVENESS.

THIS IS GOOD; THIS IS THE WAY IT SHOULD BE. BUT THERE IS ANOTHER SIDE TO THE COIN.

THE SPOTLIGHT IS NOW UPON YOU. THE LEGISLATURE DURING THE LAST FEW YEARS, ESPECIALLY IN 1973, WENT TO GREAT LENGTHS TO PROVIDE HELP. NOW IN RETURN THEY ARE GOING TO BE LOOKING TO SEE WHAT WE DO WITH IT.

IF WE RESPOND POSTIVELY AND MOVE QUICKLY, BUT RESPONSIBLY TO INCREASE OUR EFFECTIVENESS AND THE IMAGE OF THE PROFESSION IN NORTH CAROINA YOU ARE GOING TO SEE

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT REGAIN ITS RIGHTFUL POSITION IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY AND BECOME AGAIN THE SOLID FOUNDATION UPON WHICH THE SYSTEM IS BUILT. BUT IF WE FAIL TO SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY BEFORE US NOW, IN MY OPINION WE ARE GOING TO SEE A RAPID EROSION OF TRADITIONAL LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES.

I DON'T WANT TO SEE THIS HAPPEN. I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU HAVE TO COME TO RALEIGH AND ONE BY ONE DEFEND YOUR RIGHT TO EXERCISE THE TRADITIONAL POWERS OF THE SHERIFF OF YOUR COUNTY AND FIGHT EFFORTS TO STRIP YOU OF THEM. WE SAW THAT MOVEMENT STARTED IN THIS LAST GENERAL ASSEMBLY, BUT HOPEFULLY, WITH THE PROGRESS WE HAVE MADE BY WORKING TOGETHER FOR IMPROVEMENTS, WE HAVE SEEN THE LAST OF IT.

BUT THE BURDEN IS ON YOU NOW. OF COURSE THOSE OF US IN THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE --- THE SBI, PIN, UCR AND ALL THE REST --- WILL HELP ALL WE CAN. CALL ON US. THAT'S WHAT WE'RE THERE FOR --- TO ASSIST YOU IN PROVIDING PRIMARY LAW ENFORCEMENT PROTECTION TO THE PEOPLE OF NORTH CAROLINA AND IN IMPROVING THE PROFESSIONAL LEVEL OF ALL OUR PERSONNEL.