

# Transcript

Special to The New York Times

Denver, Aug 3—Following is the official transcript of President Nixon's remarks to the press in the Federal Office Building here today:

As you know, we are going to have a meeting with the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration people from selected states. The participants primarily will be from California, New York, Illinois and Colorado.

During the course of the afternoon, the Attorney General and representatives of the Justice Department, as well as some of those representing the various states, will come in to brief the press as to the matters that we have considered.

The purpose of my appearance here is to set the stage for this meeting in terms of what it means as far as Congressional action is concerned, and what it can mean in terms of support of the people of the country generally.

It happens that Colorado, according to the Attorney General, has one of the most outstanding all-around records of any state of the Union in this field of law enforcement and justice under law.

It doesn't mean that there are not crimes here. There are crimes every place. And it doesn't mean there are not some weaknesses. There are weaknesses. But Colorado has been one of the most progressive states in this respect. That is one of the reasons we selected Denver, for this meeting.

## Area of Budget Increase

We also wanted the opportunity to point out the fact that at a time that we are cutting budgets, that there is one area where we are drastically increasing budgets.

In this particular field, aid from the Federal Government to the states and to cities for law enforcement administration rose from approximately \$60-million in 1969, fiscal 1969, to \$230-million in 1970, and this year's budget will be in the neighborhood of \$450-million to \$500-million.

We feel that this is the correct priority because the cost of crime to the country, not just in human terms but also in terms of the billions of dollars that the criminal elements take out of our society, justifies this kind of investment, an investment not only in law enforcement but in crime prevention.

One of the matters that we are going to consider here, for example, is the matter of the treatment of narcotics, the methadone treatment, which has, in this par-

ticular county under the district attorney, Mr. McKeivitt, we think, has had rather outstanding success.

With regard to the Congress generally, and I do not say this in any partisan sense, I pointed out at San Clemente a few days ago that its batting average on the various pieces of major legislation we have requested in the fight against crime was a very poor one, one out of 13, despite the fact that the Congress has had these various measures before it for months.

Now, if we don't get a better batting average than one out of 13 we are going to get some new batters at the plate. I am not speaking in terms of whether they be Republican or Democratic batters, because crime, as I said outside there, is not something that has any partisan label on it. Law enforcement has no partisan label on it. We have participation today of people of all branches of our Government and of both parties.

But we do need a sense of urgency on the part of the Congress to pass more of the national legislation, to add to the District of Columbia bill that has already been passed, to deal with this problem: organized crime, narcotics, the whole area of pornography and the rest. These are matters that are

before the Congress. They deserve priority. Congress should not treat this as a business-as-usual matter. This shouldn't be treated on a 9 to 5 basis.

If necessary, the Congress before it goes back to the people for election, should hold extra sessions in order to pass these major measures, these measures which have already been considered by committee at very great length.

## Responsibility of Press

They can be acted upon. They should be acted upon. They aren't going to solve the problem immediately, but without them we are not going to be able to give the assistance to the states and the local communities where the primary responsibility rests, the assistance that they need, because simply providing the dollars isn't enough.

We need the other legislation where the Federal Government can use its source of information and its officials throughout the country to assist local officials in a coordinated program in this field.

Another point that I would like to make is with regard to the responsibility of the American people, and also of those in the news media in this field.

What I say is not to be

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interpreted as any criticism of the news media. What I say now is simply an observation of the kind of times we live in and how attitudes develop among our young people.

Over the last weekend I saw a movie — I don't see too many movies but I try to see them on weekends when I am at the Western White House or in Florida — and the movie I selected, or, as a matter of fact, my daughter Tricia selected it, was "Chisum" with John Wayne. It was a Western.

As I looked at that movie, I said, "Well, it was a very good Western. John Wayne is a very fine actor and it had a fine supporting cast. But it was just basically another Western, far better than average movies, better than average Westerns."

I wondered why it is that the Westerns survive year after year. A good Western will outdraw some of the other subjects. Perhaps one of the reasons, in addition to the excitement, the gun play and the rest, which perhaps is part of it but they can get that in other kinds of movies — one of the reasons is perhaps, and this may be a square observation, the good guys come out ahead in the Westerns, the bad guys lose.

In the end, as this movie

particularly pointed out, even in the old west, the time before New Mexico was a state, there was a time when there was no law. But the law eventually came, and the law was important from the standpoint of not only prosecuting the guilty, but also seeing that those who were guilty had a proper trial.

As we look at the situation today, I think the main concern that I have is the attitudes that are created among many of our younger people and also perhaps older people as well, in which they tend to glorify and to make heroes out of those who engage in criminal activities. This is not done intentionally by the

press. It is not done intentionally by radio and television, I know. It is done perhaps because people want to read or see that kind of story.

## The Manson Trial

I noted, for example, the coverage of the Charles Manson case when I was in Los Angeles, front page every day in the papers. It usually got a couple of minutes in the evening news. Here is a man who was guilty, directly or in directly, of eight murders without reason. [The intent of the President's remarks was clarified by Ronald L. Ziegler, White House press secretary, in a subsequent briefing.]

Here is man, yet who as far as the coverage was concerned, appeared to be rather a glamorous figure, a glamorous figure to the young people whom he had brought into his operations, and, also another thing that was noted was the fact that two lawyers in the case—two lawyers who were guilty of the most outrageous, contemptuous action in the courtroom, and who were ordered to jail overnight by the judge, seem to be more the oppressed, and the judge seemed to be the villain.

Let us understand, all judges are not heroes. All policemen are not heroes. And all those charged with crime are not guilty. But let us well understand, too, that the system, the system in which we protect the rights of the innocent, in which the guilty man receives a fair trial and gets the best possible defense, that system must be preserved.

And unless we stand up for the system, unless we see that order in the courtroom is respected, unless we quit glorifying those who deliberately disrupt, and unless we begin to recognize that when a judge necessarily, after intense provocation, must hold

individuals in contempt of court, that that judge is justified, that he is acting in our behalf, then the system will break down. The innocent will suffer, but more important, and just as important. I should say, the guilty will suffer as well because in a society without law, the guilty then have no trials.

I add finally this point, that on the other side of the coin, certainly, we find that our press and media are doing a very necessary job in alerting the American people to the dangers of narcotics and drugs for our young people, the necessity for a program of law and order and justice, and all of this is part of this program that we are attempting to talk about today.

I simply summarize it in this way: The Federal Government will act as forcefully as we can to the extent that we can, recognizing that the primary responsibility is in the states and the local communities.

As Governor Love will tell you, the states and the local communities are trying to upgrade their law enforcement, upgrade it in terms not only of the enforcement of the law but of the quality of the enforcement and respect for law—laws that deserve respect.

But in the final analysis, unless the American people have within their hearts a respect for the system, the system of law and order and justice which we have inherited from over hundreds of years, then anything that we do at the governmental level will not be successful.

It is that system that is now under attack in so many areas.

So we can be concerned about those charged with crime, we can be concerned about any evidences that those who are enforcing the law are going beyond their powers. But above all, let us remember that this system of law and order and justice must be preserved, and we must speak up for it.

We must come to its defense and we must not consider that those, the judges, the police and the others, who are simply doing their duty, that they are the villains and that those who are provoking them are always in the right.