

Santarelli Praises Nixon on LEAA

Associated Press

Donald E. Santarelli, head of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, yesterday sought to soften his criticism of the Nixon administration's involvement in the Watergate scandal by praising the President's support of LEAA.

Speaking at a symposium of Women in Policing, Santarelli referred to weekend news reports quoting him as expressing disenchantment with the administration because of Watergate.

"I would like to deal with another subject enjoying some unfortunate notoriety this week," Santarelli said.

He went on to call the LEAA "one of the principal thrusts of this administration against crime" and "the spearpoint and leading practitioner of new federalism."

He said it is "noteworthy that LEAA has enjoyed Mr. Nixon's unqualified and vigorous support throughout its five years-plus of existence . . .

I am proud to have had a part in one of the brightest programs of this administration."

He did not discuss the Watergate case directly nor did he refer to his previously expressed desire to leave government.

In the keynote address to the Police Foundation Seminar, Santarelli said the LEAA has begun "to seek out programs that are specifically aimed at utilizing" the force of women and women's groups.