

Santarelli Wants Nixon Out

By Robert H. Williams
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Donald E. Santarelli, administrator of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, has said he thinks President Nixon should resign.

The statement appears in a profile of Santarelli appearing today in "Today," the Sunday magazine of The Philadelphia Inquirer. The profile was based on personal and telephone interviews with Santarelli in April.

The statement came during a discussion of an LEAA survey report released in April in which it was indicated that real crime in Philadelphia is five times the reported crime rate. In light of the administration's interest in a reduced crime rate, Santarelli was asked what the reaction to the report was in the White House.

"That's interesting," or "Thank you," or something like that," Santarelli said. "There is no White House. There is no White House anymore. It pains me, but I think he should resign. After all, you've got the cleanest Vice President in history over there, his whole life's been gone over by every



DONALD E. SANTARELLI
... "no White House"

agency imaginable, he's got USDA Prime stamped on every haunch."

When Santarelli found out last week that his remarks were being published he said that he had misunderstood the ground rules for the interviews and had not expected to be quoted. In a statement to The Inquirer he said his remarks had been "misinterpreted" and taken out of the context of "various future hypothetical" situations. His statement lauded the President for his support of the LEAA.

Earlier last week, the Associated Press quoted Santarelli as saying he will "very assiduously avoid" the use of President Nixon's name when out in public, and that he will not worry about catching any heat because "there is nobody to can me . . . no White House to deal with."

Santarelli, not denying the accuracy of those reports, said they were not meant to be published, either.

Santarelli, 36, has been head of the LEAA since March, 1973, when he replaced Jerris Leonard, who resigned to return to private law practice.

He had been a deputy associate attorney general, and an assistant U.S. attorney, and was the brain behind the D.C. Crime Bill, President Nixon's showcase effort to set up a model for other cities to follow.

At LEAA, Santarelli's mission is to dispense federal funds (the agency is asking for \$866 million in the coming fiscal year) to state and local governments for crime-fighting projects and, more recently for streamlining the criminal justice system at the enforcement, judicial and corrections levels.