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WASHINGTON MEMO

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LEAA -- A BOON TO CRIME PREVENTION

A bill I have co-sponsored would improve little-publicized legislation that already has had a great impact on crime control in the fifty states.

The Law Enforcement Assistance Act, a portion of the 1968 Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act, strikes at crime control and prevention in three ways:

- 1 -- It encourages states and local governments to prepare and adopt comprehensive plans based on their evaluation of their own law enforcement problems;
- 2 -- It authorizes grants to state and local governments to strengthen and improve law enforcement;
- 3 -- It encourages research and development of new and improved law enforcement techniques.

During the first year the act was in force -- fiscal year 1969 -- all 50 states and Washington, D.C. submitted comprehensive plans for criminal justice reform which were accepted by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA).

Over \$48 million in grants was awarded for the development and implementation of state plans during 1969. Approximately \$6 1/2 million was made available for study in colleges and universities by students interested in law enforcement.

--Kansas' Share--

Kansas received LEAA grants of more than \$531,000. The funds were spent for numerous programs including police training; increased police salaries; prevention of juvenile delinquency; juvenile facilities and youth services bureaus; control of organized crime and crime prevention education.

Prior to this legislation, few states had central planning agencies for criminal justice reform and even fewer had developed long-range plans for statewide improvement programs. LEAA provided the funds and the "push" many states needed to set up such programs.

During 1969, financial assistance went to over 20,000 students of criminal justice and approximately one-tenth of them were studying at the graduate level. An overwhelming majority of grant recipients were policemen. An added encouragement to students interested in law enforcement is the provision that no repayment of an education loan is required if the recipient spends four years in law enforcement work following graduation. The loan is cancelled at the rate of 25% each year.

-- Bigger Budget in 1970 --

Although funds appropriated for 1969 were comparatively small, the results were very significant. So significant that Congress has appropriated a total of \$268 million for programs in 1970. Kansas' share in 1970 will be \$2,340,000.

The bill I have cosponsored would amend the act to make the LEAA more responsive to our present needs.

One provision in particular would do much to bring our prison system out of the dark ages and into the 20th Century. It would authorize LEAA to provide grants for the construction, acquisition or improvement of state and local correctional facilities and for the improvement of correctional programs. Criteria for awarding such grants to states would require that the programs and projects funded incorporate advanced techniques in design and advanced practices in personnel standards and programs.

(over)

Other provisions in the bill would:

- *Authorize LEAA to develop and support regional and national training programs for state and local law enforcement personnel;
- *Provide grants for the development of college and university courses related to law enforcement;
- *Expand the present program of education loans to those preparing for careers in the field of law enforcement.

The problems of law enforcement in our nation are becoming increasingly complex. The proposed amendments would allow the fight against crime to be broadened and strengthened on all levels. The Law Enforcement Assistance Act has given us a good start in this battle. The amendments would give us the opportunity to do even better.