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REMARKS OF HONORABLE BOB DOLE  
REDEDICATION OF THE LIVING CENTER  
ST. FRANCIS BOYS' HOME  
SALINA, KANSAS  
SUNDAY, APRIL 5

IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE REDEDICATION OF YOUR LIVING CENTER. YOU HAVE GIVEN JUSTIFICATION TO THE CONCEPT OF THE PHOENIX BY WHAT YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED HERE.

TODAY I WANT TO TALK ABOUT CRIME IN AMERICA; HOW CRIME AFFECTS OUR SOCIETY, AND WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT THIS -- THE MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM CONFRONTING OUR SOCIETY.

CRIME IN AMERICA -- SOME OF THE FACTS

MANY OF US BELIEVE THAT CRIME IS THE VICE OF A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE. THIS IS NOT SO. REPORTS MADE BY THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE, AND BY THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION HAVE DISCLOSED THESE FOLLOWING FACTS:

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- 1.) IN THE UNITED STATES TODAY, ONE BOY IN SIX IS REFERRED TO THE JUVENILE COURT;
- 2.) SERIOUS CRIMES IN THE U. S. TOTALED ALMOST 4.5 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF 17 % OVER 1967;
- 3.) FROM 1960 TO 1968, DAYTIME BURGLARIES OF RESIDENCES ROSE 247 %;
- 4.) A STUDY OF OFFENDERS RELEASED IN 1963 REVEALED THAT 63% WERE RE-ARRESTED WITHIN 5 YEARS WITH 43 % RE-ARRESTED WITHIN 1 YEAR;
- 5.) DURING THE FIRST 6 MONTHS OF 1969, SERIOUS CRIMES IN THE U. S. INCREASED 9 % OVER THE SAME PERIOD IN 1968;
- 6.) CITIES OF 250,000 AND ABOVE HAD AN INCREASE IN SERIOUS CRIME DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1969 OF 8 %; THE RISE IN THE SUBURBS WAS 11 % AND IN THE RURAL AREAS 8 %;

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- 7.) THE NATIONAL AUTOMOBILE THEFT BUREAU REPORTED THAT 776,000 CARS WERE STOLEN IN 1968 -- AN INCREASE OF 18 % OVER 1967; THE AUTO THEFT RATE HAS RISEN 114 % SINCE 1960; AND ANOTHER ALARMING DISCLOSURE -----
- 8.) ABOUT 40 % OF ALL MALE CHILDREN LIVING IN THE U. S. TODAY WILL BE ARRESTED FOR A NON-TRAFFIC OFFENSE DURING THEIR LIVES.

CRIME IS NOT A NARROW RANGE OF BEHAVIOR

MANY AMERICANS ALSO THINK OF CRIME AS A VERY NARROW RANGE OF BEHAVIOR. IT IS NOT. AN ENORMOUS VARIETY OF ACTS MAKE UP OUR "CRIME PROBLEM". CRIME IS NOT JUST A TOUGH TEENAGER SNATCHING A LADY'S PURSE. IT IS A PROFESSIONAL THIEF STEALING CARS "ON ORDER". IT IS A WELL-HEELED LOAN SHARK TAKING OVER A PREVIOUSLY LEGITIMATE BUSINESS FOR ORGANIZED CRIME. IT IS A "POLITE" YOUNG MAN WHO SUDDENLY AND INEXPLICABLY MURDERS HIS FAMILY. IT IS A CORPORATION EXECUTIVE CON-

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SPIRING WITH COMPETITORS TO KEEP PRICES HIGH. THERE IS NO SINGLE FORMULA -- NO SINGLE THEORY OR GENERALIZATION THAT CAN EXPLAIN THE VAST RANGE OF BEHAVIOR CALLED CRIME.

THE TASK OF CONTROLLING CRIME -- WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

MANY AMERICANS BELIEVE THAT CONTROLLING CRIME IS SOLELY THE TASK OF THE POLICE, THE COURTS, AND THE CORRECTION AGENCIES. THE FACT IS THAT CRIME CANNOT BE CONTROLLED WITHOUT THE INTEREST AND PARTICIPATION OF SCHOOLS, BUSINESSES, SOCIAL AGENCIES, PRIVATE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS. STATES AND COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY MUST TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION'S DESIRE TO ASSIST AND PARTICIPATE WITH THEM TO CARRY OUT CURRENT PROPOSALS TO COMBAT CRIME.

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SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN CRIME POSSIBLE

DESPITE THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE PROBLEM TODAY, I BELIEVE THAT A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN CRIME IS POSSIBLE IF THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES ARE VIGOROUSLY PURSUED.

FIRST, OUR SOCIETY MUST SEEK TO PREVENT CRIME BEFORE IT HAPPENS BY ASSURING ALL AMERICANS A STAKE IN THE BENEFITS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF AMERICAN LIFE, BY STRENGTHENING LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND BY REDUCING CRIMINAL OPPORTUNITIES. THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION HAS UNDERTAKEN DEFINITE ACTION IN THIS DIRECTION, INCLUDING AN EFFORT TO DISCOVER HOW OUR COURTS CAN BEST SPEED THE PROCESS OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

SECOND, OUR SOCIETY'S DESIRE TO REDUCE CRIME WOULD BE BETTER SERVED IF THE SYSTEM OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEVELOPED A FAR BROADER RANGE OF TECHNIQUES WITH WHICH TO DEAL WITH INDIVIDUAL OFFENDERS. FOR INSTANCE, EVERY COMMUNITY SHOULD CONSIDER ESTABLISHING A YOUTH

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SERVICES BUREAU -- A COMMUNITY-BASED CENTER TO WHICH JUVENILES COULD BE REFERRED BY THE POLICE, THE COURTS, PARENTS, SCHOOLS, AND SOCIAL AGENCIES FOR COUNSELING, EDUCATION, WORK OR RECREATION PROGRAMS, AND JOB PLACEMENT.

THIRD, OUR SYSTEM OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE MUST ATTRACT MORE PEOPLE AND BETTER PEOPLE -- POLICE, PROSECUTORS, JUDGES, DEFENSE ATTORNEYS, PROBATION AND PAROLE OFFICERS, AND CORRECTIONS OFFICIALS WITH MORE KNOWLEDGE, EXPERTISE, INITIATIVE, AND INTEGRITY.

FOURTH, I BELIEVE THAT THE POLICE, COURTS, AND CORRECTIONAL AGENCIES SHOULD BE GIVEN GREATER AMOUNTS OF MONEY IF THEY ARE TO IMPROVE THEIR ABILITY TO CONTROL CRIME.

FINALLY, INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS, CIVIC AND BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS, RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS, AND ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT MUST TAKE RESPON-

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SIBILITY FOR PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTING THE CHANGES THAT MUST BE MADE IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IF CRIME IS TO BE RETARDED.

OUR INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

OUR INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY RUNS FAR DEEPER THAN COOPERATING WITH THE POLICE OR ACCEPTING JURY DUTY. WE MUST RESPECT THE LAW, REFUSE TO "CUT CORNERS", AND REJECT THE CYNICAL ARGUMENT THAT "ANYTHING GOES AS LONG AS YOU DON'T GET CAUGHT".

MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, WE MUST, ON OUR OWN AND THROUGH THE ORGANIZATION TO WHICH WE BELONG, INTEREST OURSELVES IN THE PROBLEMS OF CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE. WE AS INDIVIDUALS MUST SEEK INFORMATION AND EXPRESS OUR VIEWS.

IN SHORT, WE MUST GET INVOLVED. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT AMERICANS CAN CONTROL CRIME ---- IF THEY WILL.

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TODAY'S YOUTH -- THE GREAT GENERATION

I HAVE ONE FINAL COMMENT -- WHICH IS MY OWN PERSONAL BELIEF -- THAT I WISH TO EXPRESS TO THE YOUNG MEN ASSEMBLED HERE. THE PROBLEM OF CRIME -- AND ALL THE PROBLEMS CONFRONTING OUR COMMUNITY AND COUNTRY -- IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS DEPEND ULTIMATELY UPON YOUR INTEREST, INVOLVEMENT AND DEDICATION TO THE IDEALS ON WHICH OUR COUNTRY WAS FOUNDED. THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGE IS YOUR CHALLENGE BECAUSE THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND.

WHAT YOU DO FOR YOUR COMMUNITY AND YOUR FELLOW MAN IS THE MEASURE OF WHAT YOU DO FOR YOURSELVES. AS YOU ACCEPT THIS RESPONSIBILITY, YOUR GENERATION WILL NOT BE LABELED A "LOST" GENERATION OR "BEAT" GENERATION. YOURS WILL BE A "GREAT GENERATION".