

1
2 NATIONAL BLACK PROSECUTORS ASSOCIATION
3
4

5 Thursday, August 12, 1993
6

7 Omni Hotel - Georgetown

8 2121 P Street, Northwest

9 Washington, D.C.
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11 12:45 p.m.
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1 STATEMENT OF HON. NORMAN EARLY, PRESIDENT, NATIONAL
2 BLACK PROSECUTORS ASSOCIATION

3 Mr. Early: It is my honor this afternoon to
4 introduce the Attorney General of the United States.

5 When we decided to ask the Attorney General to be
6 here today, I was given the assignment of making the call.
7 And I called her one Monday and left a message that I
8 would like to speak with her.

9 Later on that day, I was looking at TV news coverage
10 and realized that it was not a very good day to call the
11 Attorney General, because it was the very same day that
12 the standoff in Waco, Texas ended.

13 And later on that night, I saw her acquitting herself
14 very, very well on national media, standing up for the
15 position that she believed to be absolutely appropriate.

16 And I thought, how refreshing it was for a chief law
17 enforcement officer in this country not to be delivering
18 political speeches, but to be delivering from the heart
19 gut-wrenching comments about very difficult decisions.

20 And I said, "That is the kind of attorney general we
21 want."

22 I also said, "I probably will not hear back from
23 her."

24 [Laughter.]

25 Mr. Early: The next day, I was sitting in my office

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1 at about 6:00 Denver time, which is 8:00 D.C. time, when
2 my phone rings. And I pick it up. It was not a secretary
3 on the phone.

4 The voice on the other end of the phone said, "This
5 is Attorney General Janet Reno returning your call."

6 It was the day after Waco. And I told her what we
7 wanted. And I said we had not yet solidified a date or a
8 week for the conference, only a month: August.

9 [Laughter.]

10 Mr. Early: And she responded by saying, "I will be
11 there."

12 She said, "Just tell me the date, the time and the
13 place, and I will be there."

14 This past spring, we had an occasion to have an event
15 at the Justice Department that Karen Stuart put together
16 for us. And it was fantastic.

17 Attorney General Reno not only came there and spoke
18 to us about issues of importance like diversity and
19 prevention, but she also said, "This is an important
20 organization, and I want you to have my home phone
21 number," and stood at the podium and gave it to us all.

22 [Laughter.]

23 Mr. Early: She said, "Now, I'm never there."

24 [Laughter.]

25 Mr. Early: "But you've got the number."

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1 We have not abused the number. We have not even used
2 the number, but she made the gesture.

3 We have had trouble through the years securing the
4 participation of assistant U.S. attorneys in this
5 conference.

6 I cannot help but think that because of the presence
7 of Janet Reno as the head of the Justice Department, that
8 that is the reason that fully 30 percent of the people
9 here are from U.S. attorney offices or the Justice
10 Department.

11 We have, in the leadership of Janet Reno, somebody
12 who believes about that of which she talks, and someone
13 who is committed to all Americans.

14 It is my great pleasure to present to the National
15 Black Prosecutors, the Attorney General of the United
16 States of America.

17 [Applause.]

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1 STATEMENT OF HON. JANET RENO, ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE
2 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

3 Attorney General Reno: Thank you so very much, Norm.

4 It is a great honor to be here. It is a little bit
5 different, because I used to walk in and see Carrie and
6 think, "Oh, there's an assistant U.S. attorney. That's
7 one of them."

8 [Laughter.]

9 Attorney General Reno: And now I feel like we are
10 all one together, both state attorneys, and district
11 attorneys, and assistant U.S. attorneys. And it is a
12 great pleasure to be here today.

13 I try not to talk about politics. Politics though,
14 in its best sense, is getting something done. And I think
15 that is how we must approach the whole issue of crime and
16 the future of our children in America; to stop partisan
17 politics, to stop divisive discussion, and to start
18 discussing in thoughtful, sensible ways how we can
19 structure the criminal justice system and the other
20 institutions of government that have a real impact on
21 crime.

22 And I think if we all come together, we can make an
23 extraordinary difference.

24 Somebody says, "You always give the same speech."

25 I don't always give the same speech, but I believe

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1 very strongly in what I want to outline to you. And I
2 want to discuss with you, not just today, but over time,
3 how we can improve this agenda, what can be done better,
4 but what needs to be done and how we get it done.

5 The first thing is to look at charging and
6 sentencing. Now, there has been a tendency in the past
7 for the U.S. attorneys and the federal prosecutors to look
8 at their charging decisions, and each individual local
9 prosecutor to look at theirs.

10 And nobody should look at the whole as far as the
11 nation is concerned. The United States attorney in the
12 Southern District of Florida has a certain threshold for
13 cocaine that is far different and far higher than other
14 U.S. attorneys around the country.

15 What impact does that have on the federal prison
16 system? We have to start thinking about it and looking at
17 it and understanding the implications.

18 We have to work with the National Association of
19 Attorneys General and the National District Attorneys
20 Association, to come up with a principal theory of what
21 should be charged federally and what should be charged in
22 state court; not based on headline grabbing, not based on
23 somebody wanting to get the credit, but what is best for
24 the community and best for the case.

25 [Applause.]

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1 Attorney General Reno: I realize that is going to
2 vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction upon occasion
3 because I have discovered -- and one of the strangest
4 feelings is that I have so many states around me, and I
5 fly to another state, and I have states all around me --
6 and I realize for 54 years, I have been 360 miles from the
7 closest state border. So it is a different perspective to
8 understand the implications of different states.

9 Secondly, I want to focus on and will be working with
10 the U.S. attorneys and the advisory committee. And I want
11 to develop a team with the United States attorneys.

12 Some people suggest, "Well, you have to take more
13 control."

14 And other people suggest that the U.S. attorneys do
15 their own thing. I don't ascribe to either view. I
16 ascribe to us building a team where we participate
17 together, discuss together, and try to develop and evolve
18 a sensible policy.

19 But it is a policy that is very clear in terms of the
20 agreements that I have a sense of from the U.S. Attorneys
21 Advisory Committee.

22 First of all, we want to make sure that one of our
23 first objectives is to make sure that innocent people do
24 not get prosecuted. And I think prosecutors around this
25 nation have to rededicate themselves to that effort.

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1 It happens. It happened in the 15 years that I was
2 State Attorney. I had a man write me from prison. He had
3 an alibi. His lawyer would not listen to him. We got him
4 convicted in a trial by jury, but we started investigating
5 the alibi. We found it was true, got him out of jail.

6 Prosecutors around this nation have to rededicate
7 themselves to making sure we do everything humanly
8 possible to protect the innocent person.

9 But secondly, we have to proceed and prosecute based
10 on principles of due process and fair play. The charges
11 have to fit the crime, and fit the evidence, and fit what
12 is just.

13 We have to review the whole process, work with the
14 Sentencing Guidelines Commission, work with Congress, to
15 make sure that we do not have any type of disparate
16 treatment, any type of disparate treatment based on race,
17 ethnic background or any other arbitrary feature in the
18 sentencing policy. And we are currently engaged in that.

19 Phil Heymann, the Deputy Attorney General, is
20 currently leading a project to review the sentencing
21 patterns in the Federal Prison System to find out who is
22 there, to find out what percent are first offenders, what
23 percent are non-violent, what percent were not aggressors,
24 or the chief and principal architects of the crime they
25 committed, what percent are aliens, what percent are there

1 probably because of a substance abuse problem, what we can
2 do in terms of structure to recommend to Congress a
3 sentencing pattern that makes sense.

4 Again, we want to involve prosecutors around the
5 nation. But I will tell you, one of the most frustrating
6 things for me is, to come from a state where the average
7 sentence being served in state prison is only 20 to 30
8 percent of the sentence and to see dangerous offenders
9 getting out of prison early, while others are there on
10 minimum mandatory sentences that are serving longer
11 sentences.

12 It disturbs me when I see violent criminals around
13 this nation getting out because the states do not have
14 sufficient prison capacity. I came from a federal prison
15 this past Monday, that has non-violent, first offenders
16 who have drug problems, there on minimum mandatories.

17 We have to develop a partnership between the state
18 and federal systems so that we understand the priorities
19 in this nation.

20 And I think the priorities are clear. The American
21 people want the really dangerous, the recidivists, the
22 three-time armed robber, put away and kept away for the
23 rest of his crime-producing life.

24 [Laughter.]

25 [Applause.]

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1 Attorney General Reno: They want the major
2 distributors, the major dealers, and traffickers put away.
3 They want the white collar thugs who destroy industries
4 and prey on --

5 [Applause.]

6 Attorney General Reno: But we look at some of the
7 sentences, and that is not happening.

8 And even if we get the right sentences -- I thought,
9 "Wouldn't it be wonderful to come to Washington where I
10 will have enough prison cells to make my priorities come
11 out right?"

12 And now I look. I have left the state where we have
13 gridlock in the prison system. And we are headed for it
14 based on current prison admissions in the Federal Prison
15 System.

16 In three or four years, we are going to have a
17 shortage of prison cells. And even if we build enough
18 prison cells, we are going to have a shortage of operating
19 expenses necessary to house people for the length of time
20 the judges are sentencing them.

21 We have to have truth in sentencing. When we
22 sentence somebody, we have to mean what we say. And we
23 have to be able to carry it out. To do that, we may have
24 to construct more prisons.

25 But at the same time, we have to understand that we

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1 can manage our prison cells, both state and federally, far
2 better, I think, than we have in the past, if we
3 understand that we have to approach this from the point of
4 view of what is right, and not what is politically popular
5 in the headlines.

6 And I suggest to you that the American people have a
7 better perception of what is right and what is not working
8 in terms of the crime problem than most anybody.

9 They understand that a lot of people are coming out
10 of prison sooner, rather than later; that it makes no
11 sense to put them in prison if they have a drug problem,
12 and then dump them right back out into the community with
13 no after-care follow up, or job training, and expect them
14 to do anything but go back to drug dealing.

15 We have to develop a carrot-and-stick approach that
16 says, "Okay. If you are arrested on a serious offense and
17 convicted, if you are not one of the main bads who should
18 be incapacitated, you are going to have to serve a certain
19 period. But then you can start working your way out by
20 complying with the programs, by job training and
21 placement, by drug treatment, by community service. And
22 you can cut that prison sentence by your own free will and
23 dedication. But if you mess up, you are going back in.
24 And we are going to provide that carrot and stick to help
25 you manage your way back into the community as a

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1 constructive person."

2 The statistics from the Federal Prison System show
3 that can work. Those that successfully complete programs,
4 work study programs, work programs in the prison system,
5 have a far lower recidivism rate.

6 And I think we can start to make sense of this. It
7 will not happen over night. We have talked and presented
8 a crime plan yesterday.

9 And people say, "Well, where are the new initiatives
10 in the crime plan?"

11 To sell this to Congress, to sell this to state
12 legislatures, I think we have to show the hard statistics.
13 And, thus, we are in the process of developing the
14 information, getting the information from the Bureau of
15 Prisons.

16 And then I want to try to sit down with Congress, sit
17 down with other interested parties, and say, "Look, let's
18 make sense of this. Let's make sure we have truth in
19 sentencing. Let's develop alternative sanctions. But
20 let's make sense of the process."

21 As part of this, I think we have all got to dedicate
22 ourselves to something that I think is imperative for
23 America. When I first got here, Maxine Waters sat down
24 and talked with me.

25 And she said, "One of the points that you forget,

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1 Janet -- I like what you say about children. But one of
2 the points that you forget is that the forgotten people in
3 the entire system, are young men 18 to 30, or 35 years old.
4 They may have one or two prior convictions. They are back
5 out. They have tried to kick their drug habits. They
6 want to get back into the world. And they can't. They
7 keep getting beat down. We cannot sacrifice that
8 generation. I look forward to working with you. And I
9 have prosecuted them. But we have an equal obligation if
10 they want to get off to a fresh start, to give them a real
11 chance to do so. We have to work with them in terms of
12 job training and placement, in terms of persuading
13 employers that these people are worth the risk of hiring,
14 if we are to save this generation and if we are to prevent
15 repeat and repeat offenders."

16 I had a remarkable opportunity just recently to talk
17 with 12 former gang members. John Mack of the Urban
18 League in Los Angeles arranged the meeting. It was one of
19 the most interesting meetings I, as a prosecutor and now
20 the Attorney General, ever had on a Saturday morning.

21 At first they looked at me like, "What is this
22 attorney general doing here?"

23 [Laughter.]

24 Attorney General Reno: And then they started to
25 talk. And they talked volumes. I was a little late

1 getting here because I had met a young man on a program on
2 youth violence.

3 He came to see me at my invitation this morning. He
4 was a little bit late getting there. But he started to
5 talk. And he was talking volumes.

6 Ladies and gentlemen, we need to join together to
7 make sure that we do not lose a generation, that we an
8 investment in them, that we provide reentry programs, that
9 we focus on job training and placement, that we provide
10 community service initiatives.

11 It is incredible what these young men in the gang
12 program had done through the auspices of Amer-I-Can and
13 the Urban League in terms of going into the prisons to try
14 to identify gang members and persuade them to get out of
15 the gangs, and to work with them in that effort.

16 And more importantly, in focusing on police training
17 programs to teach police how to talk to youngsters to
18 develop self respect.

19 And I would urge you, in every community in this
20 land, we have to learn how to talk to young people.
21 Growing up in America today is probably the single-most
22 difficult job I know.

23 It is just incredible when you look at the pressures
24 on our young people. They want to be treated with
25 respect. They want limits. They understand that they

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1 will get punished or may get punished if they do wrong.

2 But they want to be treated with respect in the process.

3 And we can do so much, particularly all of us as
4 prosecutors, in letting police officers know, and letting
5 teachers know, and letting others who come in contact with
6 our young people know that a pat on the back is oftentimes
7 as important as punishment, that an encouraging word can
8 make such a difference.

9 But most of all, treating our young people with
10 respect and giving them the sense that they can have an
11 impact on their own destiny is so incredibly important.

12 The next effort that we all have to rededicate
13 ourselves to -- and it becomes clearer to me as I travel
14 across the country -- is the whole problem of domestic and
15 family violence.

16 The child who sees his father beat his mother is
17 going to come to accept violence as a way of life. Having
18 seen all the material, the research material at the
19 Department of Justice, I have become more convinced that
20 violence is handed down from one generation to the next.
21 It is almost as if it becomes part and parcel of the
22 family.

23 We have to break that cycle. And prosecutors and
24 police officers who are sensitive to this problem, are far
25 better equipped to do that than any other single group of

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1 people I know, because, otherwise, the violence is too
2 hidden.

3 I urge prosecutors who have not done so, to take the
4 lead in trying to establish within their jurisdiction and
5 their communities, domestic violence centers so that the
6 victim of domestic violence does not have to travel from
7 one place to another where they receive insensitive
8 reactions, and who say, "So what? You got beat."

9 Let us develop centers where we have people trained
10 in handling these matters, where we have prosecutors who
11 are sensitive to these issues. Let us work with our
12 judiciary to train judges. It is amazing what can be done
13 when we work together and develop this understanding.

14 But more importantly, those prosecutors in the room
15 who have understood, who have been involved in the whole
16 process of prosecuting domestic violence cases, I think,
17 have a responsibility to go out into the medical
18 community, to emergency room doctors, to continuing legal
19 education programs at hospitals, and let people know that
20 family violence is a public health problem of
21 extraordinary dimension.

22 That doctor that sees the person in the emergency
23 room and stitches up her eye when she has a black eye and
24 lets her go home is doing her a disservice.

25 Find out, "Why the black eye?"

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1 And let's see if we can't develop counseling programs
2 that break the cycle of violence, short of prosecution.
3 Let us get the general practitioners who see their
4 favorite patient and know that she is in trouble but just
5 ignore it and sweep it under the rug, let's get them
6 involved. We can make such a difference if we start
7 focusing on violence in the family.

8 But there is a new and emerging area of violence in
9 the family that is breaking my heart. And that is, as we
10 increase life expectancies, as families become more
11 stressed through economic realities and through the
12 problems of having an elderly person in the home, we are
13 seeing an increase in elderly violence and violence
14 against the elderly.

15 We have to do something about that and say to this
16 nation, "If we are smart enough to increase life
17 expectancies, then we have to be smart enough to let our
18 elderly and our beloved elderly grow into their old age in
19 a strong, constructive, safe way."

20 It again comes down to the whole way we look at the
21 family. But, I would challenge you again to look further
22 beyond. I go across the country, and I still find the old
23 phenomenon.

24 All the prosecutors wanted to get into trial court.
25 "Oh, get me through juvenile as quick as possible. Don't

1 send me to juvenile."

2 [Laughter.]

3 Attorney General Reno: And off they would go to be
4 famous trial lawyers in jury trial. And they have tried
5 cocaine cases, and burglary cases, and armed robbery
6 cases, and murder cases, forgetting that that juvenile
7 that they did not want to be involved with is where we can
8 unlock so many secrets and make a difference.

9 And all prosecutors and attorneys general, everybody
10 in the country -- we have to refocus our attention and our
11 concern on the juvenile justice system of this nation.

12 Because lawyers have concentrated too often on the
13 adult system, we have let the juvenile justice system, in
14 too many areas in this country, become spread so thin that
15 they cannot begin to help our children.

16 We have to make a difference in that system. We have
17 to intervene early and make a difference. We can do so
18 much if we work together.

19 Just think of what we could do if we developed a
20 system where the community advocated for a youngster. It
21 must be terribly, terribly difficult for a youngster aged
22 13 who has gotten into a little bit of trouble, maybe a
23 little bit more trouble.

24 His mother is not there to advocate for him. He does
25 not know his father. He is not a bad kid. If he had just

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1 a little bit of support, if he had an alternative program,
2 if there was an afternoon program, it would make such a
3 difference for him.

4 But what does the average public defender do? The
5 average public defender has a caseload that is
6 overwhelming. The public defender thinks that they have
7 achieved victory too often if they get him off on a motion
8 to dismiss or a motion to suppress.

9 If that kid was a kid of a lawyer and his mother was
10 a doctor, they would all be down with the minister and
11 they would be developing programs and take him to
12 psychologists --

13 [Laughter.]

14 Attorney General Reno: -- there before the court
15 saying how wonderful he is. Prosecutors may not be able
16 to get involved because there is a conflict of interest.

17 But in your local bar associations -- I think we have
18 to challenge the bar associations not just to get involved
19 after the fact, but to get involved up front in trying to
20 develop alternative programs that can say to the judge,
21 "Judge, if you will just authorize diversion on this, we
22 are going to get this young man into this positive
23 program. And I am going to follow up with him. And I am
24 going to make a difference. And I am going to see that he
25 goes. And I will get back to Your Honor, and keep you

1 posted on what we do."

2 Our children desperately need advocates. And I
3 suggest to you all -- and many of you I think in this room
4 have heard me, but I am going to keep saying it until I
5 get something of it done.

6 All of that is too late. When I took office in 1978,
7 I started focusing on the juvenile division. And then I
8 realized we would never have enough dollars and enough
9 volunteers to change all the 16 and 17 year olds that I
10 started to see, if we waited that long.

11 We started focusing on dropouts, 11, 12 and 13. That
12 was too late. Already they had lacked the self esteem.
13 They had already begun to have negative images because
14 they had fallen behind a year or two in class, or they
15 were bored. And they began to manifest activities in
16 other ways to attract attention.

17 So we started focusing on four and five year olds.
18 That is too late, because the crack epidemic hit Miami in
19 about 1985.

20 The doctors took me to our large public hospital. We
21 were trying to figure out what to do with the crack-
22 involved babies and their mothers.

23 The nursery was overwhelmed at that point because the
24 epidemic hit so fast, and there was no real place to put
25 the babies. And I looked at babies who had not been held

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1 or talked to except when changed or fed. And I began to
2 understand what nurturing and bonding was all about.

3 Then the doctors sat down with me, and they brought
4 in child development experts. And they pointed out to me
5 that the most formative years of a person's life are zero
6 to three.

7 When the child learns the concepts of reward and
8 punishment and develops a conscience. Fifty, 5-0, percent
9 of all learned human response is learned in the first year
10 of life.

11 As you look at some of these children with mothers
12 who are babies themselves, as you look at children
13 wandering through the housing development at age two
14 really unsupervised, you begin to understand what has
15 happened.

16 We have let children's families and the social
17 structure of the fabric fall away from them. These are
18 wonderful, wonderful little people who can do so much if
19 given a chance.

20 We need to develop a national agenda for children.
21 And I urge all prosecutors to join me in that effort.
22 Focus on teen pregnancy and do something to make sure that
23 our parents are old enough, wise enough and financially
24 able enough to take care of their children; to see that we
25 develop parenting skills courses that are as much a part

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1 of a high school curriculum as Spanish or something like
2 that; to give our parents time -- I am trying to tell the
3 U.S. attorneys in the Department of Justice that families
4 come first in the Department of Justice. That some how or
5 another --

6 [Applause.]

7 Attorney General Reno: That reflects time through
8 innovative programs, we ought to free parents time to
9 spend more quality time with their children.

10 But then we have to make sure that our children have
11 proper preventative care. Every woman in America should
12 have pre-natal care. It is just a good investment in the
13 future and will save us dollars, if you don't care about
14 children.

15 [Laughter.]

16 Attorney General Reno: Something is terribly wrong
17 with a nation that says to a 70-year-old person, "You can
18 have an operation that extends your life expectancy by
19 three years," but says to a two-year-old's parents who are
20 working hard but make too much money to be eligible for
21 Medicaid but don't have health care benefits, that that
22 child cannot get preventative medical care.

23 We have to change that. For the parents that have to
24 work, we have to make sure that we have safe, constructive
25 educare from the time the parents have to go to work, to

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1 make sure that we focus on the child during that time.

2 We have to look at our schools and free our teachers'
3 time to teach. We have to provide programs in the
4 afternoons and in the evenings.

5 The young man that I was talking to just before I
6 came over here said, "You know, you have got all these
7 sports programs, but I love travel. And wouldn't it be
8 wonderful if I could have some films at my club that
9 they've set up, not just to play basketball, but to look
10 at Japan? I'm fascinated by Japan. And I want to find
11 out more about it. And I want to learn about it."

12 Think of what we could do if we really got our
13 children interested, not just in athletics, but in
14 computer banks, and in writing, and in theater, in any
15 program after school and in the evening, that could occupy
16 them and make them feel a part of this world.

17 Let us understand that we do not have to wait to
18 prosecute to do something about violence. There are
19 elementary schools across this country that have conflict
20 resolution programs teaching our children to peaceably
21 resolve their conflicts.

22 We can do something about guns. And if this nation
23 would only rise up and tell the N.R.A. to get lost --

24 [Applause.]

25 Attorney General Reno: We can all send a message.

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1 We do not have to worry about the First Amendment. It is
2 quite legitimate to send a message to advertisers to say
3 that TV is a wonderful educational medium. It is used in
4 the public schools. It can be a remarkable medium.

5 And for the afternoon and evening hours when children
6 are watching it most often, let us say to the advertisers,
7 "Have something that we want children to see that can
8 educate them."

9 I was so touched the other night. I had taped a
10 program long ago with some District of Columbia and
11 surrounding areas young people. They probably ranged in
12 age from about 10 to 16. They were a wonderful group of
13 people.

14 And it is called, "Just Rapping." I am amazed at the
15 number of people who saw "Just Rapping," including kids
16 that stopped me on the streets. And we talked about so
17 many different issues at 7:00 at night. We can have other
18 programs that make a difference.

19 And we have to look at what we are doing in our
20 schools. The best way to keep somebody out of trouble is
21 a good job. But how many people are graduating without
22 skills that can enable them to earn a living wage?

23 Let's take the age of, say, about 12, make sure we
24 have a thorough aptitude and interest evaluation. And
25 then match school experience with work experience so that

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1 that person knows that if they follow the chart we have
2 laid out, that they can graduate with a skill that is
3 consistent with their interest and aptitude and can earn
4 them a living wage.

5 It does not do them much good to chip the paint off a
6 street curb corner, when they do not see how that is going
7 to relate to their future. We can do so much, if we work
8 out a partnership with the private sector.

9 But the most important thing of all is: Prosecutors
10 have to look beyond their discipline; teachers beyond
11 their discipline; police officers beyond theirs.

12 And we have to come together to make this criminal
13 justice system, and in a larger sense, the entire system
14 we live in, focused on children, and do everything we can
15 to intervene in key points along the way.

16 I think it is best said by the last two verses from
17 the Old Testament from the Book of Malachi.

18 "Behold, I shall send you the prophet Elijah before
19 the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord, and
20 he shall return the heart of the father to the children,
21 and the children's hearts to their fathers, lest I come
22 down and smite the earth with a curse."

23 [Applause.]

24 Mr. Early: Ms. Reno, that was eloquent. It is a
25 message that touched all of us. But I am here to say that

1 we are not through with Ms. Reno yet.

2 [Laughter.]

3 Mr. Early: I do not mean in that sense.

4 [Laughter.]

5 Mr. Early: I see some people in the back with their
6 hands on what appears to be guns.

7 [Laughter.]

8 Mr. Early: I am here to say when we are through with
9 Ms. Reno's portion of the program, I would ask you to
10 remain in your seats for security reasons. And in
11 addition, I understand for those who look as slender as
12 me, you can get dessert.

13 [Laughter.]

14 Mr. Early: Ms. Reno, on behalf of all of those here
15 who are so proud of your leadership, we are most grateful
16 for having you here today, first is a paperweight
17 commemorating your visit here today, and also this
18 membership pin for the National Black Prosecutors
19 Association.

20 [Applause.]

21 Attorney General Reno: This is very special to me.
22 Thank you very much.

23 [Applause.]

24 Mr. Early: You know, one of the most active regions
25 in the National Black Prosecutors, since the inception of

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1 the organization, has been our western region.

2 And they pooled their resources in order to secure a
3 very special gift for the Attorney General. I wanted to
4 present it to her at this time. It is very significant,
5 believe me.

6 [Laughter.]

7 [Applause.]

8 Attorney General Reno: Who did that?

9 Mr. Early: I want you to know, for those of you who
10 cannot see it, it is a replica of Janet.

11 [Laughter.]

12 Mr. Early: And in the left hand, she is holding her
13 badge. And in her right hand, she is holding an African-
14 American child who has a banner that says, "NBPA" on it.

15 [Laughter.]

16 [Applause.]

17 Attorney General Reno: That is amazing. I will
18 cherish this for the rest of my life.

19 [Laughter.]

20 Attorney General Reno: It will remind me in my old
21 age.

22 [Laughter.]

23 Attorney General Reno: Thank you all so much. This
24 has been wonderful.

25 [Applause.]

[Whereupon, at 1:35 p.m., the presentation ended.]

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