

1
2 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
3

4 NOMINATION OF THOMAS A. CONSTANTINE
5 TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE
6 DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
7
8

9 Thursday, January 13, 1994
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12 U.S. Marshall Auditorium
13 700 Army Navy Drive
14 Arlington, Virginia
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17 10:00 a.m.
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1 STATEMENT OF HON. JANET RENO, ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE
2 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

3 Attorney General Reno: Mr Vice President, we would
4 like to welcome you to the Drug Enforcement Administration
5 today. And thank you very much for being here .

6 The Drug Enforcement Administration is a splendid
7 agency. It has been on the front line of the war against
8 drugs for too long now .

9 They are dedicated. They are caring. They are brave
10 and courageous officers who have engaged in splendid work
11 here and around the world. And we all owe them a great
12 debt of gratitude.

13 I would like to thank each one of the people who work
14 with the Drug Enforcement Administration for the fine work
15 they do.

16 And I would like, particularly, to thank Steve Green,
17 who has been Acting Administrator and who has set an
18 example for all in law enforcement as to how you carry on
19 in a professional and dedicated manner that makes a
20 difference .

21 Mr. Vice President, through your leadership, I think
22 we come together today more united in law enforcement than
23 we have ever been before, more committed to ending
24 duplication, to ending dissention between law enforcement
25 agencies.

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1 It has been happening month after month now with your
2 leadership where agencies are coming together, the FBI
3 working with the Drug Enforcement Administration, with the
4 Marshal's Service, bringing in the Immigration and
5 Naturalization Service; and as importantly, particularly
6 for me, coming from a local law enforcement perspective,
7 reaching out to state and local law enforcement around
8 this nation to make sure that we have a true partnership.

9 I am particularly proud that the Treasury agencies
10 have -- are here today. We have a wonderful working
11 relationship with them. And I think, at every level of
12 the agencies' operations, we are forging that partnership
13 throughout America.

14 We are dedicated here to working together to really
15 have an impact on drugs in America, to do whatever we can
16 across the seas in source countries to stem the flow of
17 drugs coming into this country, to do whatever we can in
18 forging a partnership with state and local enforcement and
19 all the Federal agencies to use the limited resources we
20 have in the most effective way possible to get at the
21 organizations, to destroy the organizations, to destroy
22 the violent traffickers who wreck the havoc on our
23 streets.

24 We are going to make a difference. We are going to
25 make a difference in terms of teaching people not to use

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1 drugs, to give them a life and an opportunity that gives
2 them a chance for a future without drugs.

3 Working together in this partnership that you have
4 helped us forge that comes together today, I think we can
5 truly make a difference.

6 I think it is important -- and I am sure I am going
7 to leave somebody out. But just so that the people here
8 recognize the breadth of this partnership, I would like to
9 introduce you to people on the stage and thank so many
10 people here in the audience for being here today.

11 Federal law enforcement officials who are here today
12 -- and if you would, hold your applause until I introduce
13 everybody -- Deputy Attorney General Phillip Hyman,
14 Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division
15 Joanne Harris; Louis Freye, the Director of the Federal
16 Bureau of Investigation, John McGau, Director of the
17 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms; George Weiss,
18 Commissioner of the United States Customs Service; Eduardo
19 Gonzalez, Director of the United States Marshal's Service,
20 Doris Mizner, Commissioner of the Immigration and
21 Naturalization Service, Guy Kapudoe, Deputy Director of
22 the United States Secret Service; Don Vogel, Assistant
23 Commissioner for Criminal Investigations of IRS; Julius
24 Magruder, Director of the Financial Crimes Enforcement
25 Network, Shelley Altinsdaughter, Chief of INTERPOL;

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1 Kathleen Hawk, Director of the Bureau of Prisons.

2 And again, to reflect that it is not just the Federal
3 effort that is involved here, but it is a partnership
4 between state and local governments, I am so pleased that
5 Chief Fred Thomas, the Chief of Police of the District of
6 Columbia is here.

7 Gil Kline, the International Association of Chiefs
8 of Police, Chuck Wexler, the Police Executive Research
9 Forum; Robert Kleismet, International Union of Police
10 Associations, Ed Riley of the International Brotherhood of
11 Police Officers; Hubert Williams, President of the Police
12 Foundation, Neil Beehan, Major City Chiefs; Robert Scully
13 of the National Association of Police Organizations,
14 Lieutenant Colonel James E Harvey of the National
15 Troopers Coalition, and Essex County Sheriff Robert
16 Lavinia, representing the National Sheriffs Association.

17 I cannot forget the prosecutors. And I am so pleased
18 that Newman Flanagan of the National District Attorneys
19 Association and Christine Millikin of the National
20 Association of Attorneys General are here.

21 I have not seen, in my memory, such a collection of
22 people joining together to welcome somebody into our ranks
23 and to tell him how happy we are here.

24 Superintendent Constantine is a man most particularly
25 suited for the job.

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1 Where did you go?

2 [Laughter.]

3 Attorney General Reno: There you are.

4 [Laughter.]

5 Attorney General Reno: He has brilliantly led and
6 administered an agency slightly larger than the DEA. He
7 has worked extensively with DEA and other agencies on
8 complex drug cases.

9 He has worked closely and to great acclaim with
10 domestic and international law enforcement leaders at
11 every level.

12 He is a man known for approaching all law enforcement
13 problems with an outstretched hand of cooperation, a cool
14 head, and a single-minded devotion.

15 Over 30 years -- for over 30 years, Trooper
16 Constantine has been with the New York State Police as a
17 narcotics and major crime investigator.

18 He learned his trade from the ground up, taking no
19 shortcuts. Along the way, he earned a masters degree and
20 has nearly completed his doctoral degree.

21 This combination of street-smarts and book-smarts led
22 to his appointment as Superintendent by Governor Cuomo in
23 1986.

24 In the days ahead, there is much work to be done in
25 our fight to control the scourge of illegal drugs. We

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1 have got to teach ourselves and our children not to use
2 them.

3 But we have got to back-stop these efforts by putting
4 drug traffickers out of business and breaking up their
5 vicious networks.

6 To do that, we need a street-smart, tough, and able
7 Administrator of the DEA to join our Federal crime-
8 fighting team. And I believe we have that.

9 I would now like to recognize and again publicly
10 thank Steven Green, the Acting Administrator of the Drug
11 Enforcement Administration, who has led this agency with
12 distinction and has represented the best in law
13 enforcement.

14 [Applause.]

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1 STATEMENT OF STEVEN GREEN, ACTING ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE
2 DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

3 Mr. Green: Thank you.

4 Thank you, Attorney General Reno, for those most kind
5 remarks and for your continuing support for the Drug
6 Enforcement Administration.

7 Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. And welcome to
8 the Drug Enforcement Administration.

9 Mr. Vice President, and other distinguished guests,
10 it is an honor to have you with us here today. I know
11 that everyone's presence here today is a demonstration of
12 the spirit of cooperation that must exist if we are to be
13 successful in our drug suppression efforts.

14 Today is obviously a very significant day in the
15 proud history of the Drug Enforcement Administration. The
16 men and women of our agency are looking forward to serving
17 under a new administration and a new administrator, who
18 brings such a wealth of law enforcement experience with
19 him.

20 We are looking forward and ahead to working side-by-
21 side with other Federal law enforcement agencies within
22 the Department of Justice and the Department of the
23 Treasury.

24 Together, we can and will do great things to ensure
25 to the people of the United States that they are safe from

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1 the ravages of crime, drugs and violence.

2 And to our many partners from the state and local
3 police organizations represented here today, you can
4 continue to count on DEA to work shoulder-to-shoulder with
5 you on the front lines.

6 For 25 years, we have made cases together underneath
7 the task force umbrella. We now work together with you in
8 more than 100 of these task forces.

9 We have made a real difference in the community in
10 which we jointly serve. Currently, there are 1,500 state
11 and local task force officers from 466 different police
12 agencies participating in DEA's formal task force program.

13 Mr Constantine, I am sure that you know that DEA is
14 a committed, dedicated and talented organization of men
15 and women from diverse backgrounds, who are united in a
16 single important mission. To bring to justice the major
17 drug violators in this great country of ours.

18 From working with us in New York, you know that we
19 are professional, single-minded in our pursuit of drug
20 traffickers and their organizations.

21 I know that you will soon experience a professional
22 welcome from all of the employees of the Drug Enforcement
23 Administration.

24 We are looking forward to working with you in making
25 a significant and positive impact on the drug and violence

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1 problem in the United States.

2 Again, I thank all of you for joining us here today.

3 [Applause.]

4 Attorney General Reno: I would now like to introduce
5 one of the finest people that I have met in law
6 enforcement in many years, the Assistant Secretary for
7 Enforcement, the Treasury Department, Ron Noble.

8 [Applause.]

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1 STATEMENT OF RON NOBLE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR

2 ENFORCEMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

3 Mr. Noble: Mr Vice President, Madam Attorney

4 General, Dr. Brown, Congressman Rangel, other

5 distinguished guests, I wear several hats today as I

6 welcome Thomas Constantine to the Federal law enforcement

7 community.

8 As an official of the Department of the Treasury, I

9 speak on behalf of Secretary Benson and Treasury. As head

10 of Treasury Enforcement, I speak on behalf of the Treasury

11 Enforcement Bureau as represented here today, Customs,

12 ATF, the Secret Service, IRS, CID, FCEN, and FLETSY. From

13 the directors and commissioners to those working in the

14 field -- and I speak as an individual citizen who hopes

15 that we can make our streets safer and our communities

16 drug free.

17 In each of these roles, I applaud your nomination,

18 Superintendent Constantine, to be Administrator of the

19 Drug Enforcement Administration.

20 You have dedicated your career to law enforcement.

21 And at each stage, you have achieved outstanding success.

22 Now, you bring to DEA vital grassroots knowledge and

23 leadership skills.

24 But your job and skills transcend DEA. You are now a

25 crucial part of the Administration's efforts to deal with

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1 the drug epidemic.

2 I join Vice President Gore, Attorney General Janet
3 Reno, and Dr. Lee Brown in welcoming you to the
4 Administration's team, and believe you will make an
5 invaluable contribution towards reducing the amount of
6 drugs and drug violence in our country.

7 My welcome comes from all elements of Treasury,
8 because all elements of Treasury are committed to working
9 with DEA and its new administrator to make sure that the
10 laws of this country are enforced, that crimes are
11 stopped, and that all criminals are punished
12 appropriately.

13 From Customs and its anti-smuggling program, to FCEN
14 and its analytic capabilities, from ATS's anti-gun and
15 anti-gang agenda to FLETSY's training programs, from
16 Secret Service's financial crime enforcement to IRS's
17 anti-money-laundering efforts, Treasury harbors numerous
18 powerful tools that can be used effectively to implement
19 the President's and Vice President's drug control
20 strategy.

21 In the world we now live in, where criminals respect
22 no jurisdictional limits, and criminals ply their trade
23 throughout the country and world, when drug crimes go
24 hand-in-hand with guns and violence, and when drug dealers
25 use our financial system to launder their ill-gotten

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1 gains, Federal, state and local law enforcement in
2 combination with our communities must work together to
3 confront the vast criminal network.

4 By cooperating, we make the best use of the
5 extraordinary expertise of each element of U.S. law
6 enforcement.

7 As Director Freye once put it, we must share our
8 toys, and we must work toward our shared goals.

9 Individually, a single Federal agency or local police
10 department can limit criminal activity. Together, we can
11 have a far greater impact on crime. Individually, we can
12 arrest criminals. Together, we can dismantle criminal
13 infrastructures.

14 Individually, we can confiscate drugs at the border
15 or drugs being sold in school. Together, we can diminish
16 the drug trade and drug culture and lessen our children's
17 exposure and vulnerability to drugs.

18 Two weeks ago, you demonstrated your personal
19 commitment to cooperation, by participating in a joint
20 investigation into the tragic Buffalo bombings.

21 The investigation involved ATF, FBI, the Postal
22 Inspection Service, the New York State Police, and various
23 local law enforcement agencies.

24 Only because all involved worked together were we
25 able to detain all suspects within 24 hours of the

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1 bombings.

2 I know that you, as I, already share a relationship
3 of trust and confidence with FBI Director Louis Freye, a
4 relationship that will prove essential to coordinating the
5 anti-drug efforts of this Administration.

6 Superintendent Constantine, I pledge the cooperation
7 of the Treasury Department to your future efforts to
8 address drug-related crime.

9 And I will make it my personal goal to help you
10 develop mutually beneficial relationships with Treasury
11 officials, including the leadership of the Bureaus
12 gathered here today to welcome you on board. John McGau
13 from ATF, George Weiss from U S. Customs, Guy Kapudoe from
14 the U S Secret Service, Charlie Rinkovic from FLETSY,
15 Julius Magruder from FCEN, Shelley Altinsdaughter from
16 INTERPOL, and Don Vogel from IRS-CID.

17 Before concluding, I want to repeat that my welcome
18 comes not only from the policy makers in Washington, but
19 from our agents and employees in the field, who work daily
20 with DEA and have learned to respect and value the
21 talents, courage and expertise of DEA agents.

22 I look forward to working with you and anticipate
23 that cooperation among the Treasury, Justice, and our
24 various Bureaus will result in significant advances in
25 this country's anti-drug efforts.

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1 Thank you.

2 [Applause.]

3 Attorney General Reno: I would now like to introduce
4 one of the key people in the Administration's fight
5 against drugs, the man who is working to make sure that we
6 are all coordinated, that we are all on the same page,
7 that we are dedicated to this effort, as we all are.

8 Lee Brown has a vast wealth of experience as a police
9 chief in major cities throughout this land, as a person
10 who understands the problem of street police, of people
11 throughout this nation and the problems they face because
12 of drugs.

13 And it has been one of my great opportunities and
14 real privileges to have the opportunity to work with him
15 in Washington in these last several months.

16 Dr. Brown, thank you so much for being here.

17 [Applause.]

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1 STATEMENT OF LEE BROWN

2 Mr. Brown: Mr. Vice President, Attorney General
3 Reno, Congressman Rangel, fellow members of DEA and ladies
4 and gentlemen, let me say that I am delighted, pleased,
5 and excited with the nomination of Thomas Constantine to
6 the Director of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

7 I have known Superintendent Constantine for many
8 years, having worked closely with him during my tenure as
9 New York City's Police Commissioner.

10 Our agencies work together on the New York Drug
11 Enforcement Task Force, along with the Drug Enforcement
12 Administration.

13 I know him to be a team player. We served together
14 in the New York State Police Chiefs Association and on the
15 board of the International Association of Chiefs of
16 Police.

17 He has demonstrated his leadership abilities, as well
18 as being well respected in the law enforcement community
19 I know Superintendent Constantine to be the consummate law
20 enforcement professional, experienced.

21 He is dedicated. He is tenacious. And he is tough.
22 He understands that this nation must gain the upper hand
23 against a drug trade that drains billions of dollars from
24 our economy, ravages our communities, fills our prisons,
25 and corrupts our youth and, thereby, threatens our future

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1 He appreciates the vital role of the Drug Enforcement
2 Administration in this crusade. And he values the
3 professionalism of its agents and staff.

4 I am confident that, under his capable leadership,
5 the DEA will be a linchpin in our new national drug
6 control strategy. I am counting on it. And I am counting
7 on him.

8 So, Superintendent Constantine, welcome to the fight.
9 And I look forward to working with you again.

10 Thank you.

11 [Applause.]

12 Attorney General Reno: Ladies and gentlemen -- did I
13 hear you mention that Congressman Rangel was here?

14 Mr. Brown: Yes

15 [Applause.]

16 Attorney General Reno: The first person that I met
17 from Washington that knew anything about the problems of
18 drug enforcement, who came to Miami, who expressed an
19 interest, who was there on all occasions, informed and
20 dedicated to doing something about it was Congressman
21 Rangel.

22 And thank you so much for being here today. It is a
23 real privilege to have you here.

24 Everybody in law enforcement knows that there are
25 some unsung heroes and heroines. They, oftentimes, do not

1 get told about. But they are represented here today.

2 And when I walked into the room where everybody was
3 assembled, before I met anybody else, Superintendent
4 Constantine wanted me to meet his family.

5 [Laughter.]

6 Attorney General Reno: And the families of law
7 enforcement officials throughout this land deserve
8 extraordinary recognition, because they are part and
9 parcel of this partnership.

10 And we would like to welcome you all here today. And
11 thank you for being with us.

12 [Applause.]

13 Attorney General Reno: I think the person primarily
14 responsible for us coming together, for forging this
15 partnership to end duplication, to end duplication that
16 costs dollars in bureaucracy, so that we can put people on
17 the line to fight the problems of crime and drugs
18 throughout America, the person that has brought us
19 together in a new partnership, in a new spirit of
20 cooperation is the Vice President of the United States.

21 And, Mr. Vice President, it is a great honor for all
22 of us in law enforcement to welcome you here today and to
23 thank you for being here and for your spirit and your
24 leadership that has made this possible.

25 [Applause.]

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1 STATEMENT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

2 ALBERT GORE

3 Vice President Gore: Thank you .

4 [Applause.]

5 Vice President Gore: Thank you . Thank you very
6 much .

7 [Applause.]

8 Vice President Gore : Thank you very much

9 Attorney General Reno, thank you for your kind words

10 Director Lee Brown, Ron Noble, and Louis Freye, all
11 of the Federal law enforcement agency heads who are here,
12 to the state law enforcement representatives here, to the
13 local law enforcement officials, and to the officials of
14 the police organizations across this country who honor us
15 with your presence on this important occasion, to my good
16 friend, Charlie Rangel, with whom I served in the House
17 -- and, of course, Charlie Rangel has been tireless in
18 working for solutions to this problems -- to any other
19 distinguished guests present here who we might have
20 overlooked -- it is an accident if we have not
21 acknowledged you -- but we are grateful for everyone's
22 presence.

23 And I would like to start by joining Attorney General
24 Reno and others in acknowledging, on behalf of President
25 Clinton and our country, the tremendous contributions of

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1 Acting DEA Administrator Steve Green.

2 You have done a great job. And we owe you a great
3 debt. And we thank you very much.

4 Also, I would like to acknowledge Tom Constantine's
5 family, who just stood here.

6 You have a pretty big family, Tom.

7 [Laughter.]

8 Vice President Gore: His wife, Ruth, and his
9 daughter, Patricia and her husband, Joseph, Thomas, his
10 son, and his wife Dimontra, his son, Kevin, and his wife,
11 Kathleen, Lisa, his daughter, and her husband, Jeff, his
12 brother, George Constantine, Mr and Mrs Michael Crine,
13 brother-in-law and wife, and also Kathleen Constantine and
14 her fiance, Joe Green; and Laura Constantine.

15 Now, there are a bunch of grandchildren here. And I
16 am not going to acknowledge them all.

17 But I have it on reliable authority that one of them,
18 just last month -- after seeing all of the television
19 coverage of Tom when these important cases he was pursuing
20 were being solved and he was being interviewed, I have it
21 on reliable authority that Anthony announced to his
22 parents, "Grandpa is more famous than Mr. Rogers."

23 [Laughter.]

24 Vice President Gore: Now, all I can say is it is a
25 good thing he did not say Barney the Dinosaur.

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1 [Laughter.]

2 Vice President Gore: That would have gone straight
3 to Tom's head .

4 [Laughter.]

5 Vice President Gore : Ladies and gentlemen, President
6 Clinton is in Moscow, in the Summit meeting. Except for
7 that, you must know, he would be here this morning .

8 He has asked me to come in his stead and to
9 personally announce his selection of Thomas Constantine,
10 now the Superintendent of the New York State Police, to be
11 the new Administrator of the Drug Enforcement
12 Administration .

13 I know from the fact that I was in the room when the
14 President was going over this matter how strongly he feels
15 about it.

16 I heard with my own ears as he said, "I want the very
17 best. I want the person who will be the most effective in
18 getting this job done."

19 This is an appointment based solely and completely on
20 great merit and tremendous professionalism to one of the
21 Federal Government's most important posts in the
22 continuing struggle against crime.

23 None of us should be under any illusions about the
24 gravity of the problems our nation faces, concerning drug
25 trafficking and the incredible amount of violent crime

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1 caused by drugs •

2 Starkly put, they are the worst crime problems that
3 we face. Statistics show it. Surveys show it. And the
4 testimony of individual citizens all across this country
5 confirms, every single day, the seriousness of this
6 problem and the demand of our country, the rightful demand
7 of our people, that we solve it effectively.

8 Each of us in government knows that drug trafficking
9 and violent crime at present levels are simply
10 intolerable.

11 It is not an academic debate. Every law enforcement
12 officer in this room and, indeed, every law enforcement
13 officer in this entire nation knows the shocking
14 dimensions of this problem.

15 I listened as Tom Constantine and Louis Freye were
16 talking privately in the other room about how things have
17 changed over the last few decades in the eyes of law
18 enforcement officers, how much more serious the problem is
19 now than it was years ago.

20 We are talking about life and death issues
21 Americans are being murdered, beaten, raped and robbed by
22 criminals whose violence is fueled by drugs.

23 Untold numbers of Americans who use drugs themselves
24 are destroyed by those drugs and often drag down with them
25 their innocent spouses, children, and other families.

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1 This is the reality we face in America today. This
2 is the worst crime problem we have in our nation. The
3 reality of the crime and fear is now spread to every
4 corner of our land.

5 As we gather here this morning, people are being
6 killed by drugs. And there can simply be no excuse for
7 letting it continue.

8 We all understand how complex the problem is, how
9 difficult it is to solve. We all understand that there
10 has to be many efforts conducted simultaneously.

11 But our first task is to prevent the drug and violent
12 crime problems from becoming any worse, and then to begin
13 the monumental task of rolling back the tidal wave of
14 drugs and violence.

15 To put it bluntly, to sharply reduce drug trafficking
16 and crime will take a very long time. Let us be
17 realistic.

18 It will be harder than it was to put an astronaut on
19 the moon. It will rank, when we do it, with the greatest
20 challenges to face the United States in the 20th Century,
21 including wars and the Great Depression.

22 This is a deadly threat to our nation. But there is
23 no choice. It has to be done.

24 But the basic questions are there for all to see. Do
25 we want drug trafficking and violent crime to remain as

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1 dreadful as they are? Do we want drug trafficking and
2 violent crime to grow even worse in the coming years?

3 It will not be easy. Not any single step of it will
4 be easy. But it must be done. And an essential part of
5 our hoped-for success rests with selecting the right
6 persons to lead this law enforcement campaign.

7 In all of his appointments to top-level criminal
8 justice positions in the government, President Clinton has
9 placed the absolute and sole premium on merit.

10 We need, in these posts, men and women whose goals
11 are clear, the protection of our people, the triumph of
12 the rule of law in our nation.

13 The selection of Tom Constantine to be head of DEA is
14 another key step in bringing people of the utmost ability
15 into government, to devise and carry out a winning
16 strategy against drugs and crime.

17 DEA is the leading edge of the Federal Government's
18 fight against drugs. The men and women of DEA perform
19 their work with great skill and tremendous personal
20 courage.

21 And we believe that Tom Constantine will be an
22 inspiring leader and an essential architect of the
23 strategy that will finally make great inroads against
24 drugs.

25 Tom's abilities and strengths have been forged in the

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1 most impressive way, more than 30 years of law enforcement
2 experience.

3 He began as a patrol officer and worked his way up to
4 superintendent by sheer professionalism and commitment to
5 excellence.

6 He has also got heart. Another part of that
7 conversation I referred to included his reference to the
8 emotional feeling that law enforcement officers have when
9 they interact with the victims of crime, and how necessary
10 it is to respond forcefully and to do justice.

11 His extensive experience has also made him a firm
12 believer in cooperation among all law enforcement
13 agencies.

14 I know for a fact that he places a premium on
15 developing the best possible ties with all Federal
16 agencies, as well as those on the state level and the
17 local level.

18 And there is something else we know about Tom
19 Constantine. He firmly believes that this struggle
20 against drugs can be won.

21 We are confident that he will make an enormous
22 contribution.

23 And it is a great honor to make this announcement on
24 behalf of President Clinton today, and to present to you
25 the new head of DEA, Tom Constantine.

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[Applause.]

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1 STATEMENT OF THOMAS A CONSTANTINE, NOMINATED TO BE
2 ADMINISTRATOR OF THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

3 Mr. Constantine: Vice President Gore, I thank you
4 very much, and on behalf of President Clinton, that you
5 are here to announce this.

6 I think it means a great deal to the DEA. It means a
7 great deal to those of us who are involved in the criminal
8 justice system.

9 To Attorney General Reno, she has been a fantastic
10 person in dealing with me, first, as a member of the IACP,
11 in three or four meetings that have been conducted about
12 violent crime in particular.

13 And now to be in a position where I will be working
14 for the Justice Department of the United States is an
15 honor that I do not know if everybody in this room can
16 actually understand how big it is for me.

17 I suspect only my brother, knowing where we come from
18 and where we started in life -- to believe that you would
19 be on the dias with the Vice President of the United
20 States is almost difficult to fathom. So I can tell you
21 it is a distinct honor.

22 The introductions have been done of my family. I am
23 not going to put you through that again. The kids have
24 been good. So I will move through this so that they can
25 relax for a while.

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1 [Laughter.]

2 Mr. Constantine: They have been fantastic. My wife
3 started off with me as a 20-year-old girl when I was a 20-
4 year-old young man starting off in law enforcement.

5 And at that point in time, when you started with the
6 State Police, you lived in barracks. And their policy was
7 to send you as far as they could away from your home.

8 So she stayed home and started to raise a family,
9 while I lived in State Police barracks, working around the
10 clock, around the state.

11 And so when you see all of these kids and all of
12 their successes, and they have all turned out to be
13 productive adults, a great deal of that comes from her.

14 There are people here from the State Police. It is
15 obviously an institution that gave me a start in life,
16 somebody who had originally worked at an American radiator
17 plant, had a high school degree.

18 And I suspect even my parents wondered where I was
19 headed to in life and what, if any, successes I would
20 achieve. But it was an agency that I fell in love with
21 It was an occupation that I could not get enough of.

22 I believe that people do not have to be victims of
23 crime. I abhor bullies. I abhor predators. I found
24 myself in a profession that was just suited to my personal
25 philosophy.

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1 And I had tremendous opportunities, as I went along,
2 of people who were very good to me. Our own Governor of
3 New York State, Governor Cuomo, has been very good to me
4 personally in appointing me as superintendent. And he had
5 never met me before the interview process, and they are
6 very good to the State Police.

7 The family and the State Police were two of the
8 primary considerations during the interview process that
9 caused me a great deal of concern. The other concern is
10 whether I would be acceptable to the Justice Department.

11 But on my own personal list was, "How do I separate
12 myself from something I am so close with, in that family
13 and the State Police?"

14 My family came together and told me, as I now see it,
15 that it would be an honor and that I should pursue it.

16 The State Police carried me through some very
17 difficult times over the last two or three months as this
18 was going on.

19 And we will simultaneously being involved in some of
20 the bigger cases in our state, serial homicides, crazy
21 bombers who were randomly blowing up people; and a case
22 that we did not know if we would ever solve, the case of
23 Sarah Ann Wood.

24 Excuse me. We solved it this weekend. And today in
25 Raquette Lake, where it is about ten or twenty degrees

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1 below zero, hopefully, they will find her body at this
2 -- and put an end to the suffering of her parents.

3 So you have kind of heard where I have been in law
4 enforcement in all of these years. In 33 years, I have
5 seen a degradation caused by violence and drugs in our
6 society that I would have thought unfathomable when I
7 started in law enforcement; the numbers of crimes and
8 randomness and the violence that occurs to our citizens.

9 I am so impressed now that on a national level and a
10 state level and in the media, it is now on the front
11 burner. And people are paying attention to it.

12 I have always believed that there is something wrong
13 when, just because people are poor or they are elderly,
14 that they have to held captives in their home from a bunch
15 of thugs who control drug gangs, or muggers or robbers,
16 that they cannot send their kids to school, unless the
17 kids are wearing Kevlar vests, or the kids have to sleep
18 in bathtubs at night so that the gangbangers do not shoot
19 through the apartment walls.

20 There are a lot of strategies, as the Vice President
21 has mentioned. We have worked on a number of them. Some
22 people are experts. And they will help us a great deal.
23 And they want us to -- and we should -- provide more
24 resources for prevention.

25 There are people in the medical field who believe

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1 more emphasis should be placed on treatment and
2 rehabilitation. And I know people are working on that
3 presently.

4 In my position of law enforcement, every day of the
5 week in my office, I get letters and phone calls demanding
6 that we protect them from the tyranny of drug violence.

7 Many subscribe to a priority of close cooperation in
8 interdiction of countries that are growing these
9 substances.

10 In reality, all of these strategies are essential to
11 eventual improvement. But the DEA plays a key and major
12 role, some of it in education, some of it in prevention.
13 But their major responsibility is clear. And that
14 responsibility is the most effective enforcement programs
15 possible under a rule of law.

16 This is an awesome responsibility for one agency. It
17 takes a great deal of effort, a substantial amount of
18 funding and, thank God, something that they already have,
19 agents of the highest caliber.

20 When you consider the harsh reality that there are
21 only 3,300 sworn DEA officers covering, in essence, this
22 entire world, it certainly probably does not even match
23 the resources in personnel, money or equipment of one of
24 the Colombian cocaine cartels.

25 But there is one experience that I have found in law

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1 enforcement that I hope that I can make true on a Federal
2 level as I did on a state level.

3 And that is, if you can adopt it, you can multiply
4 the forces of good. If you do not adopt it, you only
5 serve to enhance the objectives of criminal gangs. And
6 that strategy is cooperation among and between law
7 enforcement at all levels.

8 I know, from my perspective for the last seven years
9 as head of the State Police, that our efforts were
10 dramatically more successful when we entered into
11 cooperative efforts without worrying who was the lead or
12 who was going to get the credit.

13 I have been treated fantastic as the head of a local
14 law enforcement agency by the DEA and New York State and
15 Bob Briden, who was here before him, Bob Stuckman, and
16 Bruce Jensen, the FBI, Lou Freye, Jim Fox, Tommy Sheer,
17 people who reached out to the State police and cooperated
18 with us. And there was never any great concern over turf
19 or jurisdictional issues.

20 I think those same things can be done. And from what
21 I have heard today and people who, as part of the thrill
22 of today also -- because most of these people I only see
23 on C-SPAN.

24 [Laughter.]

25 Mr. Constantine: And to hear what they have to say

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1 about law enforcement and cooperation, obviously,
2 everybody has a head start.

3 Already, we are working in the IACP and with the FBI
4 and the DEA on kind of an unusual problem. I know the
5 violence has occurred -- and it was our hope that
6 technology would help us.

7 Now, we are caught in the strange situation where
8 technology may be causing us some difficulties. I am not
9 a technician, as my family would be quick to tell you.

10 [Laughter.]

11 Mr. Constantine: But one thing I can tell you. It
12 is called digital telethaney -- and people should remember
13 that phrase, because what it will do to the ability of law
14 enforcement at the Federal and state level to interdict
15 violent criminals, home invasion robbers, kidnappers,
16 terrorists, bombers, will be of great consequence unless
17 not remedied by legislation.

18 It will make it virtually impossible for court-
19 ordered wire tapping, which is the major way that these
20 large conspiratorial crimes have been solved -- and I
21 think more will be done, and I know I will be working with
22 the IACP in Greensboro, North Carolina.

23 I apologize for the fact that because of the weather
24 a fellow named Sylvester Dotrey, Chief of Police in
25 Greensboro and the current president of the IACP, flew all

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1 the way up here and is stuck in Baltimore and could not be
2 here today.

3 But I just want to tell you that he and Lee Brown
4 -- when I decided to run as a vice president of the
5 International Association of Chiefs of Police, and a very
6 short notice to represent the State Police agencies around
7 the country, it was Sylvester and Lee who gave me all of
8 the brochures, all of the advice over the phone. And I am
9 deeply indebted to them.

10 A little comment about DEA agents who I have known
11 and worked with since it was the FBN, since the mid-
12 sixties. They are outstanding people.

13 And thank God, we have gotten young people of that
14 caliber who are willing to step up to the plate in a
15 tremendously stressful, very dangerous, very violent
16 occupation.

17 It is the same in law enforcement -- and I have been
18 touched by this in my career. I have seen the dangers
19 that can occur. And there is a great debt of gratitude
20 that, I think, society must recognize for people in law
21 enforcement.

22 My roommate in troop school, Bill Doyle, was shot and
23 killed 20 years ago today. I was a lieutenant at the
24 State Police Academy, a class of 140 recruits.

25 Within three years -- within eight years, three of

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1 those young people were shot and killed in the line of
2 duty.

3 So I always keep this in my mind, when I am dealing
4 with personnel, and when they are going to be placed at
5 risk, in harm's way, so that, in many ways, that we
6 recognize that there is a great deal of danger.

7 I look forward to this. It has been a great deal of
8 soul searching to decide whether I would disrupt what was
9 a very comfortable life; in all honesty, an agency that I
10 knew everything about, a family that called their mom
11 every day and virtually was over at the house every
12 weekend.

13 One of the facts was a young man named Joey Uversa,
14 one of our troopers, the last one killed in the line of
15 duty. He was the all-American boy, Golden Gloves boxer,
16 college student.

17 His dad was a former New York City cop, who had moved
18 him out of the city as a young man. To get him out of New
19 York City and the violence was the intent.

20 He came on the State Police. The family was so proud
21 of him. Joey volunteered to go back down to New York City
22 to fight the drug traffic.

23 His father pleaded with him not to do it. He did it
24 And in March of 1990, he gave his life for it. And my
25 sense is. If he can make a sacrifice like that, then I

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1 can make the sacrifice of shedding some of the comfort,
2 what would be a real challenge.

3 The only thing that I would ask is -- all of my
4 relationships with DEA have come from being part of an
5 external agency. I would ask that you help me, teach me,
6 and accept me as one of your own.

7 Thank you very much.

8 [Applause.]

9 Attorney General Reno: Now, you see why we are so
10 excited.

11 [Laughter.]

12 Attorney General Reno: Two other people have just
13 come in that are essential parts of this great partnership
14 we are forging.

15 Joe Wright of the National Organization of Black Law
16 Enforcement Executives, I believe, is here now; and Vic
17 O'Boski of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers
18 Association.

19 In addition, I have noticed representatives of the
20 Diplomatic Corps here. And I am so touched that you would
21 be here with us today.

22 It is so important that we work with our friends and
23 allies around the world in dealing with the problem of
24 crime and drugs. And we pledge you our total and complete
25 support and extend our gratitude for your being here

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1 Ladies and gentlemen, we have much to do. Let us go
2 to work.

3 [Applause.]

4 (Whereupon, at 10 45 a.m., the presentation was
5 concluded.)

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