

**I. GOOD MORNING AND THANK YOU**

*- a little history & leg  
up date what's happening  
about h.e. -  
at least from my  
perspective -*

**II. 1994 MY INTEREST IN MUNICIPAL POLICE DEPART**

**A. RISING CRIME (ESPECIALLY VIOLENT)**

**B. MY EFFORTS FOCUSED ON LAW ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITIES**

1. IN TALKING TO OUR LOCAL GOV'T PEOPLE AND OTHER RESEARCH DISCOVERED TWO SALIENT THINGS.

a. MUNICIPAL BUDGETS WERE REACHING THE BREAKING POINT IN SUPPORT OF THE NEEDS OF THE POLICE

(1) ESPECIALLY IN POOR COMMUNITES

*- Catch 22 -*

(2) THAT COPS WERE OUTGUNNED IN MANY WAYS BY THE CROOKS

b. THE STATE HADN'T DONE ANYTHING EXCEPT PROVIDE FOR TRAINING AND ALLOWED FOR THE PURCHASE OF PIGGY BACK BUYING FROM STATE CONTRACTS

**C. IT BECAME APPARENT TO ME THAT THE STATE HAS SOME OBLIGATION**

1. INTRODUCED BILL THAT WOULD PROVIDE 2% LOAN PROGRAM ( PASSED THE HOUSE IN LATE 94)

2. REINTRODUCE THE FOLLOWING SESSION BUT ALSO DID MAILING

a. SENT 6000 QUESTIONAIRES

b. RECEIVED OVERWHELMING RESPONSE NOT ONLY TO THIS BILL BUT GENERALLY A CRY FOR HELP FROM STATE

3. FORMED THE HOUSE DEMOCRAT TASK FORCE ON LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY

a. HAD HEARING ALL OVER THE STATE

b. BECAME APPARENT THAT WE NEEDED TO DO SOMETHING

*78 witness's  
most of whom  
were people sitting  
in this room -*

- Harjo -*
- c. RECOMMENDED A NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE MUNICIPAL POLICE SITUATION

**D. GOVERNOR RIDGE ELECTION MAJOR FOCUS ON CRIME**

1. SPECIAL SESSION ON CRIME
2. PASSED FORTY BILLS BUT NOT ONE FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT
3. WE SOUGHT TO EXTEND THE CRIME SESSION BEYOND THE ARBITRARY LIMIT SET BY THE GOV, BUT TO NO AVAIL

**E. BUT OUR PUSH FOR THIS LEGISLATION AND SENATE NOW BEING INTERESTED AND THE OVERWHELMING DATA SUPPORTING OUR CONTENTION THAT THE STATE SHARES SOME RESPONSIBILITY HAS FORCED THE ISSUE**

1. CONSEQUENTLY WE PASSED A JOINT RESOLUTION # 167 THAT ESTABLISHED A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE ENTIRE ISSUE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT IN THIS STATE
2. TO LOOK AT THE ALL THE NEEDS FROM PERSONNEL TO EQUIPMENT TO JURISDICTION TO FUNDING AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS
3. MADE UP OF 6 SENATORS AND 6 HOUSE MEMBERS AND ABOUT 35 OTHER REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY.
4. HIRED IUP CONSULTANTS TO HELP SIFT THROUGH THE DATA
5. FORMED A SUBCOMMITTEE TO DEAL WITH SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS--FIRST MEETING THIS WEDNESDAY
6. ASKED TO FORWARD RECOMMENDATIONS

**F. MY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM STUDY OF ISSUE AND INFO RECEIVED FROM HEARINGS**

1. DEDICATED SOURCE OF FUNDING FOR LOCAL MUNICIPAL POLICE
  - a. \$25 FINE ON FELONY CONVICTIONS

*But nothing really happened - passed 270 program - at least 4 times -*

b. FINES COLLECTED LOCALLY STAY 100% AT LOCAL LEVEL

2. STATE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR REGIONALIZATION AND CONTRACTING OF SERVICES

3. PORTABILITY OF PENSIONS (SIMILAR TO EDUCATION FUND)

4. ADVOCACY FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT IN THE HIGHEST COUNCILS OF STATE GOVERNMENT BOTH A COMMISSIONERS POSITION TO BE THE ADVOCATE IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES IN BOTH HOUSE AND SENATE ESTABLISHED TO FOCUS EXCLUSIVELY ON LAW ENFORCEMENT MATTERS

***G. IT SEEMS THAT FINALLY THE STATE IS GETTING SERIOUS ABOUT HELP FOR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT I HOPE THAT'S THE CASE.***

1. I HOPE THE TASK FORCE'S RECOMMENDATIONS ARE TAKEN SERIOUS BY THE GOV'S OFFICE AND CAN FINISH WHAT AMOUNTS TO PARTIALLY CONCLUDED SPEICAL SESSION ON CRIME

2. FUTHER HOPE NEXT YEAR CAN RETURN TO REPORT THAT WE HAVE PASSED SOME MAJOR EFFORTS ON YOUR BEHALF

## Talking Points -- Police Chiefs

July 13, 1998

(General chronology/narrative of involvement with local law enforcement issues)

-- It became apparent in the early 1990s that rising crime -- especially violent crime -- was a growing concern to the public.

-- My interest in this issue immediately focused on law enforcement capabilities and resources as it seemed the logical place to start in any effort to prevent or reduce crime.

-- Discovered that only two items of legislation had been passed to strengthen local law enforcement during recent decades -- the Municipal Police Training Act in 1974 and later legislation on "piggyback" purchases.

-- In 1994, introduced low-interest loan bill which passed the House unanimously but died in the Senate.

-- Reintroduced the bill in 1995 and again passed the House by overwhelming margin, but again stalled in the Senate.

-- The loan program has been approved by the House three or four times now, either as an amendment or a free-standing bill, but has never received Senate consideration.

-2-

-- In 1995, along comes the Special Legislative Session on Crime. I thought surely, now we are going to see some attention to the needs of local law enforcement agencies. The first line of defense against crime is law enforcement, right? That's where we need to put more of our resources.

-- Guess what. The crime session came and went. Passed about 40 new laws -- including laws that add to the police workload -- -- but nothing to assist police in the performance of their duties.

-- In what we thought could make a significant contribution to the crime session, we formed a House Democratic Policy Committee Task Force on Law Enforcement which I chaired.

-- We sought to extend the crime session beyond its limited scope to address local law enforcement needs and issues. We were ignored in the haste to close out the crime session and declare victory against the forces of lawlessness.

-- The Task Force that I chaired did get the ball rolling, however, and it was followed by a similar study from the Senate Majority Caucus which developed recommendations that sounded a lot like our own. Obviously, the perception was spreading that this was an area that deserved the legislature's attention.

-3-

-- Those developments, combined with the Administration's proposal on local government payment for state police services, ultimately led to the creation of the House Resolution 167 Task Force which began its work last December.

-- (Describe workings of Local Government Commission Task Force and the hope that it will begin to address the needs of local law enforcement for police personnel, equipment, technology, etc.)

-- Your own recommendations include dedicated sources of funding for local law enforcement needs, advocacy for local law enforcement "in the highest councils" of state government, statewide pension system with portability for police personnel.

-- Urge support for House Resolution 167 Task Force.

-- (Optional closing) When I began my examination of these issues back about five years ago, I made what for most people would be a natural assumption -- that police resources and operations could directly help to prevent and reduce crime.

I came to this conclusion as a novice in this area and with a layman's understanding of the crime problem and how to approach it.

It was as only through my involvement in the past five years that I learned how urgent is the need to help provide local police with the tools and resources they need to do their job...and how much more attention the legislature and the administration need to pay to this issue.

-4-

The response that we had in the crime session was not at all encouraging, just another example of how the importance of policing has been overlooked for many years.

But things are beginning to change. All around the nation, police agencies are getting credit for their role in reducing crime. We are getting past the notion that police mainly become involved only after crime has been committed and, therefore, have little impact on actual crime prevention.

From the White House on down to the borough council, there's a new awareness of the importance of pro-active policing, and that awareness is also growing in the state legislature.

I'm happy to have been part of providing that momentum for change. And I look forward to advancing it even further as we proceed with the work of the Local Government Commission's Task Force.