

CRIME SUMMARY SPEECH

My opponent has based virtually his entire campaign on one assertion, that he supposedly has done a good job in managing the police department and therefore as Mayor would be a good administrator.

First of all, the people of Detroit need more than an administrator. We certainly do not need a commanding officer. Detroit needs a leader.

But since my opponent asks your votes strictly on the question of his ability as a manager, we must look at his performance. The facts are these:

1. Crime was higher in Detroit when Mr. Nichols was retired by Mayor Gribbs as commissioner than it was when he became Detroit's "top cop," the superintendent, four years earlier. Comparing 1968 to 1972 you find that total crime in Detroit went up 14 per cent, homicides went up 80 per cent and robberies went up 25 per cent. Those are FBI figures.

Is that the record of a good manager? I say no.

2. Taking more recent figures, again from the FBI, compare the first quarter of 1973 with the first quarter of 1972 and what do we find? Homicides went up 31 per cent, rapes up 29 per cent, and aggravated assaults up 10 per cent.

This is Mr. Nichols' record toward the end of his stewardship as commissioner. It is clearly a record of poor management.

3. The New York Times on Oct. 16 compared the FBI crime figures for America's 25 largest cities. They said two categories of crime -- homicides and robberies -- have special significance. Homicides, because they are very accurate statistics, since the number of bodies speak for themselves. Robberies, because they often involve violence and give a good indication of the overall crime climate of a city.

In both of these categories -- homicides and robberies -- Detroit in 1972, under Mr. Nichols as police commissioner, led the entire list of the 25 largest cities right there for the world to see in the New York Times.

Mr. Nichols is upset at these figures, as he should be. But his rage should be directed at the crime problem, or at FBI, or the New York Times, or at the Detroit Police Department's record bureau, because that is where the figures come from.

Again, the story is one of a job that simply was not done.

In many of the nation's large cities, crime is down. Under Mr. Nichols in Detroit it went up.

In many of the nation's cities, crimes against persons have been declining. Under Mr. Nichols in Detroit crimes against persons -- homicides, assaults, rapes -- were going up and up right to the time he was retired.

All this at a time when the total number of police was being increased, and when police pay properly was being raised year after year.

I say Detroit has good, dedicated policemen. By far, the great majority are dedicated and competent. There are a few bad apples, but the ambulance chasers and those in the drug traffic are on borrowed time.

So why then, has the Detroit Police Department been unable to cope with crime? A good part of the answer has to be a lack of leadership at top, a lack of a good manager.

Fortunately, things seem to be looking up at the police department under Commissioner Tannian. He has a reputation as a good administrator as well as a professional law enforcement officer in the FBI. His start has been impressive.

Commissioner Tannian is the type of police commissioner Detroit needs, and I wish him well in his difficult task.

#####

II. Program

A. General Posture

- "Safe streets are a necessity. No criminal or thug, Black or White, can expect special favors from me."
- "I will bring law & order
- with justice - to the city of Detroit through more effective use of police manpower, through long needed reforms in the department and through fresh new programs and procedures."
- I will set priorities that will concentrate our preventive and enforcement efforts on the most vicious and violent crimes. I will reassign officers to get more manpower working on such crimes.
- We now have only 400 officers on the streets.
 - Most in scout cars - on any given shift.
- There are nearly 5,500 officers in the department. With four shifts required, this means less than 2,000 of the 5,500 officers are on the streets. Even considering the special operations for detectives, etc. This means far too little of the force is really serving the people.
- I propose to increase substantially, the number of officers on the streets. I'm certain we can get at least 1/2 of the 5,500 officers on the street. If we need more people for paper work and other non-law enforcement work, it can be accomplished by hiring civilian personnel - releasing uniformed police to do their most important task.

B. Drug Traffic

I propose

More undercover investigations aimed at major drug traffickers and bankrollers of the drug traffic.

- More effective coordination of federal, state, county and city law enforcement activities related to drug traffic.

- Investigative teams to be assigned to Jr. High and High School drug prevention activities to drive the pushers away from the schools.

One pusher is as bad as any other -- whether they wear business suits -- or super fly hats.

- Full scale investigations to be made of the numerous rumors of police corruption with drugs. The investigations will be made by outside teams of experienced investigators.

C. Police Department Reforms

- Training must be improved for officers at all levels. The training programs should be developed and delivered by well qualified civilians in equal numbers with police officers.

- On the job developmental counseling should be provided by civilian specialists for officers at all levels in matters relating to professionalism and community relations.

- New requirements will be developed for holding supervisors responsible and accountable for controlling the actions of their subordinates.

- Hire the best possible available experts from other law enforcement agencies to fill certain police needs -- A narcotics expert, for instance, to work on drug problems.
- Improve recruitment programs to bring in larger percentages of minority police in order to improve overall departmental effectiveness through having a force without racial composition more nearly reflects the racial composition of the citizens it serves.

D. Juvenile Delinquency

- Expedite and expand the new juvenile facilities network being established in Wayne County. This effort is establishing youth centers in various locations throughout the county that will perform a variety of youth development and crime prevention services.
- I will assure - in my city/county crime coordinating role - that the city of Detroit gets maximum benefits from this new program.
- I will provide volunteer counselors for parents of juvenile delinquents to counsel these parents on youth development methods and problems.
- One of my executive staff assistants will be assigned major responsibility for coordinating and improving all city programs related to youth development and juvenile delinquency.

E. The People and the Police Will Work Together

- Mini Police Officers - staffed with small police squads - aided by civilian office workers, - will be established in neighborhoods and in commercial centers. I will seek special federal and state grants to pay for this innovative program.
- More police will walk the beats to know and work more closely with the people and the shop keepers in the neighborhoods.
- Civilian professionalism specialists will work in each precinct to counsel and develop precinct police officers in professionalism and community relations.
- Police and civilian speakers teams will be formed and trained to make recruitment presentations in neighborhoods, schools, churches and block club meetings. High Schools will be asked to have new pre-cadet police training and orientation programs.
- New citizens complaint procedures will involve civilian investigation and open sharing of final decisions on complaints.

F. Peoples Crime Prevention Crusade

- A great corps of citizen volunteers will be formed to work on matters like:
 - Counseling parents of juvenile delinquents in youth development and juvenile delinquency.
 - Assisting in efforts to recruit minorities .

- Training community residents on non weapon security methods and techniques.

- Sponsoring local forums where police and neighborhood citizens discuss crime prevention and justice.

G. Laws, Courts, Prosecutor and Corrections

- I will vigorously press the prosecutors office and the courts to enforce the several existing gun control laws.

- Promote better cooperation between judicial bodies, prosecutors, correction facilities and police to improve the whole safety and justice system.

- Seek tougher state laws to deal with major drug traffickers and bankrollers of drug traffic.

- Seek state laws to provide compensation for medical and related costs for victims of crime.