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President Richard M. Nixon to Donald E. Santarelli, 4 June 1974


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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 4, 1974

Dear Don:

It is with deep gratitude for your contributions to the conduct of our law enforcement programs that I accept your resignation as Administrator of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, effective upon selection of a successor.

During your more than five years at the Department of Justice, you have worked tirelessly toward reform of our system of criminal justice and have added distinction to your own outstanding career. As Administrator of LEAA, you installed a new sense of enthusiasm and purpose in improving all segments of the criminal justice system, and your own insights which you have brought to bear have added immeasurably to these results.

As you move on to other challenges, I take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the services you have rendered this Administration and our Nation. You may be sure you have my best wishes for every success and happiness in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

Richard N.

The Honorable Donald E. Santarelli
Administrator
Law Enforcement Assistance Administration
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

There is no greater privilege and no greater satisfaction than to serve one's country. I am both honored and grateful for that opportunity provided me for the past five years by President Nixon. LEAA has been one of the principal thrusts of President Nixon's Administration to reduce crime and improve the quality of criminal justice in this country, and it has enjoyed his unqualified and vigorous support throughout its five years plus of existence.

I am greatly distressed by recent misleading reports of remarks attributed to me suggesting criticism of the President. That suggestion is incorrect. I have supported the President since joining his Administration in 1969 and I support him today. I have determined, however, that these misleading reports have compromised my ability to continue to serve credibly and effectively as Administrator of LEAA, and therefore, have submitted my resignation to the President.

To have been able to play a role in one of the brightest programs in this Administration, has been an exciting and rewarding experience.

END OF STATEMENT