ENFORCEMENT AND EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY

The people of our State are by nature God-fearing and law abiding, and have a keen and wholesome respect for law and order. They want and expect the laws of the State to be enforced by the Governor as Chief Magistrate under the Constitution, without fear or favor, and without partiality or privilege. It is the duty of the Governor to see that this is done, and as Governor I shall do my best to cooperate with the local authorities in each county, city or town to the end that the wishes of the people shall be carried out.

It is particularly important, in view of the increase of crime in other parts of the country as the aftermath of war, that we have a Governor for the next four years who is determined to see that lawlessness shall not be tolerated in our State.

And when the courts have tried law violators, I shall try to use the power of clemency to change their sentences or to spare them from the punishment which they have earned.

I have already shown my respect for the courts of the State by resigning from the bench when I offered for Governor, so that the courts might not, to the slightest extent, be involved in political discussion; and I shall exercise the power of clemency only in those rare cases where it was intended by the Constitution to be used. The power of clemency was written into the Constitution to serve the ends of public justice, and not to enable a Governor to act like an emperor or like Santa Claus with it.

While I shall never abuse the pardoning power as Governor, it is my intention to recommend to the General Assembly that an amendment to the Constitution be submitted to the people by which the unlimited power of clemency now reposed in the Governor shall be changed in whatever way is best calculated to end all possible abuses in the future.