

## Gen Sec speech 20<sup>th</sup> October Stratford.

Some very motivating words from our Chair Tony. But, before we go through PNB/PAB issues I feel that in these unprecedented times it is incumbent upon me as your General Secretary to also address you with some poignant thoughts and views.

Colleagues, against a backdrop of government fiscal meltdown, I genuinely believe that being a police officer is the epitome of being in public service.

My creed is that public service must be more than doing a job efficiently and honestly.

It must be dedication to the people we serve with full recognition that every person is entitled to courtesy and consideration, that is how we police.

We must accept constructive criticism and equally seek it ourselves. Smears are not only to be expected but fought, and that justice is to be earned, not bought.

It is sad therefore, that our role – as public servants –officers of the law - is not understood by some politicians.

The government have quickly drawn deep financial lines in the sand; they have called-the-mark and created a basis for a renewed haemorrhaging of the police service.

They have set a course to break a rare unwritten commitment ....that of the unique relationship between government and the police service.

It was the Greek philosopher Aristotle who said “the intention marks the crime” .....”The intention marks the crime”. In their intransigence not to support policing they have committed a crime towards us and more so to the public we serve.

We are now in a time zone where the theatre of politics will see legislators regarding the passage of fiscal policy much more important than the results of our enforcement.

I'm sure that none of this has passed you by. Government spin over the past week in anticipation of the cuts has made the public

and media giddy. It's certainly made me giddy and sick.

Recent government announcements on policing are not only saddening but make me angry and exasperated. This is because the aftermath of such decisions will be left for the police to mop up. We face a crime tsunami with an **ever decreasing circle** of experienced officers and diminishing resources in its wake, particularly for our rank!

In my own force of North Wales, there are 54 officers who have been advised that their services are to be disposed of under Regulation A19 notices. That is a loss of sixteen hundred, plus the wealth those years of experience offer. And you don't recover from that easily. Across the UK this total increases rapidly and the loss of experience will be immeasurable.

It may be flippant of me to say, but I'll say it anyway - but the only recent reference to the number nineteen that I can find, is in the Government's Cabinet - where there are nineteen millionaires!

Thomas Jefferson once famously said, "I have the consolation of having added nothing to my

private fortune during my public service, and of retiring with hands clean, as they are empty.”

I fear that with government reviews placed upon our entire police service, we will see a return to the pre- Edmund Davies era.

But, the difference today..... and its a big difference .... is that you have at the forefront of our service (as you have heard from Tony) a professional, swept up, motivated ICC, I can assure you that the ICC will not be in the habit of rolling over and if necessary will go down fighting; battered and bruised to protect you, our membership.

The government don't own the country...they are mere custodians of it. Of this we will remind them.

Remember government, all governments.....become unpopular.

The present set-up has very quickly nailed its two colours to the mast. It has made universally unpopular and harsh decisions early in its running of the country.

However, the Police Federation and in particular the ICC has it's own mast-pole....we

too can raise the colours and I shall play my part along with my ICC colleagues, in lobbying and raising your concerns at every available opportunity, cogently to all policing stakeholders, government ministers (as we did on Monday with Nick Herbert, the Police Minister) ,to the media and most importantly to our members.

Ooh I feel much better now that I got that of my chest!!!!

I took the liberty of forwarding to you the most recent PNB/PAB updates in an effort to save some time today and not to bore you senseless but I am more than happy to take any questions that you may have in relation to them.

Thank you

Any questions?