

but it's not a blanket condemnation of all of them. If we don't allow them to exercise their discretion, law enforcement as we know it cannot possibly function. An officer cannot enforce every single law, every single time he or she sees it violated. A law against jaywalking, for example, would lead to a tremendous outcry if every time jaywalking occurred the officer ticketed that person because business people and others would be ticketed and the very society that wanted that in place will holler the loudest if it's enforced. If you don't trust the officers, say so and implement better training. Do better screening so you get trustworthy people, but I will not accept the principle, even though I've been critical of some things that individual officers do. I will not accept the general principle that these people cannot be trusted to write traffic tickets when they ought to be written. When have you seen with fanfare the announcement or pronouncement of some other new principle or departure? I hope that if there are others who feel the way that I do, you don't have to say it on the floor, you don't have to publicly say it, but let the Colonel know that this is not what ought to be done. I don't think that traffic enforcement is the biggest problem facing this state. Did we arm...well, you all armed those weigh station operators so they can run out here and write some traffic tickets in the area where they're working on the weigh station? I didn't hear one person say that they need guns so they can write tickets. They were talking about much more substantive, significant problems and I would hate to see the image of the patrol sullied and made suspect in the minds of the public because everybody now who gets a ticket which is in that questionable range will feel that I am the victim of the Colonel's quota system. Most people's only contact with a law enforcement officer will be in a traffic context and they will generalize from that one negative contact to all people in uniforms, all people in police cars, no matter whether it's State Patrol, county sheriff or local law enforcement. You all may think that I'm overreacting, that I'm overstating, but the reason I know that I'm not, in addition to my common sense and the reading I've done, two or three years ago I was the keynote speaker at a police officers convention in Dallas and at that time they were toying, the administration, with imposing quota systems on tickets in various parts of the city. It had the city and the officers in an uproar, not that they didn't want to enforce the law but they didn't need that additional hammer of saying that the most important thing is to write this ticket. Here comes one of the Senators who will usually blow by me when I'm coming down here 105 miles an hour.