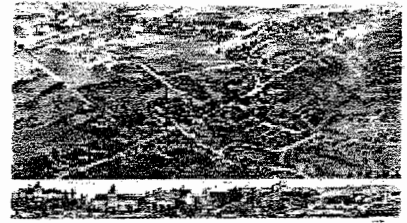


November 25, 2007

Tim Slocum
1285 Lilac Court
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Tel: Home 272-0652 Bus. 272-3529 Email: tslocum@snet.net



Lawrence Cafero
House Republican Leader
L.O.B. Room 4200
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

RE: Public Hearing on Tougher Sentencing Laws
 November 27, 2007
 The Judiciary Committee, legislative oversight panel
 L.O.B. Room 2500

Dear Representative Cafero,

I am unable to attend the public hearing regarding tougher sentencing laws. I would like to express my grave concerns surrounding the issue and encourage the Republican caucus to restore reason to legislative process that will affect tougher sentencing and strengthen existing state laws.

In the intervening months since the Petit home invasion and triple murders the newspapers have been filled with stories regarding overcrowding in our prisons, increased risks to prison personnel and the threat of huge costs associated with building new prisons. There has been coverage regarding the angst of the families of those incarcerated and stories about the various churches in opposition to the death penalty. I even had to suffer an editorial by Senator Thomas Gaffey in my local paper who blamed the Roland administration for the sorry state of the criminal justice system. I recall the Roland administration governed with a Democratic majority, Governor Roland is gone and Sen. Gaffey is still onboard.

Some twenty four years ago the Mianus River Bridge collapsed. That was Governor Bill O'Neill's fault. A bridge collapsed in Minnesota last summer and that was the president's fault. A discouraged public hears this and knows it is political subterfuge. So many things need fixing where do we begin?

A good friend of mine will sometimes remind me that thunder makes a lot of noise but lightning illuminates. In the thunder that has rumbled... the outcry from of the horrific murders wrought upon the Petit family of Cheshire July 23rd, I hope these hearings will serve to illuminate and enlighten.

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We need change. The time for thunder is passed. Commit today to your sworn obligations to all of the citizens of Connecticut. Commit to your sworn obligations to protect and uphold the laws of our great State.

You must do so by;

Correcting constitutional flaws pointed out by the state Supreme Court in September that *will* eliminate judicial discretion in imposing longer sentences for violent repeat offenders.

Increasing penalties for burglars and defining burglary as a “violent crime” and therefore subject to the state’s sentencing statutes

Increasing penalties for home invasion

Forcing repeat burglars to serve at least 85 percent of their sentences instead of the current 50 percent

Creating a real **“Three Strikes and You Are Out”** law that makes repeat violent felons subject to a lifetime behind bars

Sincerely,

TIM SLOCUM

Tim Slocum
Cheshire, CT

cc Rep. Al Adinolfi
 Senator Sam Caligiuri