

IN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 1974

Present: Chairman John C. Powers, John E. Taft, and William F. Toomey

The Board of Selectmen reconvened its meeting of Friday, August 23, 1974, at 8:30 a.m., for the purpose of finalizing a public statement relative to the Highway investigation.

Highway Investigation - Public Statement

After discussion, the Board agreed to issue the following statement at this evening's regular meeting:

The reputation of a town's government, like that of a person's is a cherished thing. It is handed down as an inheritance from one age to another much as a family name is passed from generation to generation. Sudbury's high standard of government has been a proud inheritance.

The Board of Selectmen, therefore, wishes to express its profound sense of shock and distress at the series of tragic events which, so far, have led to the indictment of Highway Superintendent Edward Blaine by the Middlesex County Grand Jury. That sense of shock is deepened by the knowledge that the Attorney General's office is continuing with the investigation and has indicated that there are further matters to be presented to the Grand Jury.

Since we became aware of the first discoveries of apparent improprieties on May 21, 1974, the Selectmen have been reluctant to make public statements about this matter, in order to insure the proper conduct of the investigation by higher authority and to protect the reputation of the parties involved. As far back as May 24, we jointly agreed with the Highway Commission that we would make no further statements until the investigation and accompanying action, if any, was taken by the Attorney General.

The course and direction of that action, while not yet complete, has become clear. So, too, has become our duty to speak out. In the Sudbury tradition, plain talk, we think is best.

We recognize the heavy responsibilities of the Highway Commission in performing its separate and most painful duty regarding the suspension of Mr. Blaine. We are confident, however, that they will agree that Sudbury wants no part of "stonewalling".

We call upon those who have been offering public opinions about this tragic affair, or its size or scope, to have the decency to suspend comment until the investigation is completed and those entrusted by law with the responsibility of presenting the evidence have done so.

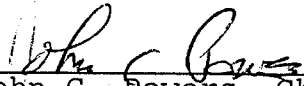
We rebuke those who have, upon the first indictments only, sought to measure their importance against the cost of the investigation and audit. The enormity of the lack of morality in such a suggested test for larceny is staggering.

Finally, we would remind our citizens that these matters were discovered by proper governmental checks and balances and have been handled into the investigation stages by the unanimous concord of both the Highway Commission and the Board of Selectmen.

This is as it should be.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Attest:



John C. Powers, Chairman
Board of Selectmen