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Attorney General Bill McCollum: This young woman right here, if can we pass the microphone right to her?

Child: What was the umm oldest sex offender that you caught?

Attorney General Bill McCollum: I don't know. The oldest could be seventy or so, it's not unusual. You will not find, you will find listen you might find some. That's why the pictures up there are so startling. Somebody could be 80 or 90 years old and they could be on the internet pretending to be a 12 year old boy or girl. It would be very easy for them to do that. How are you going to know? They post a picture their picture and somebody else picture. Alright who else have a question? Who else has the microphone? We will take one or two more? We got one over here, okay. Yes sir.

Child: (faintly speaking)

Attorney General Bill McCollum: Disgusting?

Child: Yes.

Attorney General Bill McCollum: Yea, it's disgusting alright.

Attorney General Bill McCollum: I don't think I understand the question.

Child: Have you ever caught a kid being sexual offender?

Attorney General Bill McCollum: A kid being a sex offender?

Child: Yea

Attorney General Bill McCollum: Well there are kids that will do things that they shouldn't be doing on the internet. There's no question about it, but our job is to go after the older people who go after you guys to do something offensive to you. But you should be aware that it's a dangerous world out there and there are some people your own age that can cause can problems too. Yes?

Child: Hi, umm. If you're catching people who have previously been arrested, then why are the judges still putting them for a short period of time in jail?

Attorney General Bill McCollum: Well the question is why do judges put them for a short period of time. A lot of people think that they should be locked up and kept there forever. But let me tell you the problem with that is that our society doesn't necessarily do that. Try to rehabilitation people, I don't know if these folks can be, but you should not be faulted, founded

in a false sense of illusion. I gave you an example of Danny up here and one other case that we had. But remember out of the 51 cases we made out of the Attorney General's office in two year only one was a previous sex offender. There are all kinds of new people out there. Sheriff Grady Jude over in Polk County has a program we work with him on twice this year. Once around Easter, he went up with officers and we joined him on a Thursday with people going undercover like Dateline people pretending to be kids and getting people to travel to meet. By Monday morning, by Monday morning, only starting this process of going up on the internet and getting into conversation, 28 people had been arrested. None of whom had a previously convicted sex record. None of them were previously convicted sex offender, our office prosecuting 22 of those right now. It's not usually. I'll take one or two more literally then we have to go. Who, where is the microphone at this point? Okay.

Child: What's the average, what's the average number of kids raped every year?

Attorney General Bill McCollum: I have no idea what the average number that are, she asked what the average number of kids raped. I do not know that, but it's unfortunate that there are a lot of them. We have we have crisis centers; we have victim advocates, if any of you know someone who wants to talk to a victim's advocate. Let me tell you one last thing we've got a law enforcement official sitting up here on stage, the best possible thing that you can do if you know of somebody who is a victim of any age, no matter who the perpetrator is whether it's a rape victim or a victim of some solicitation on the internet if you are willing to you should talk to your school resource officer. You should talk to the office in your school. If not the very least you should talk to your parents and if you're not willing to do that you should go on the internet to safeflorida.net and report it. Last one.

Woman: Hi, Mr. McCollum. I just wanted to make you aware that as a health educator at this school I'll be inviting the organization, Missing and Exploited Children...

Attorney General Bill McCollum: Great.

Woman: ...and they come in and they do a presentation...

Attorney General Bill McCollum: Super.

Woman: ... on exactly what you're speaking about today. That's in seventh grade, so about 300 students a year or so benefit from that program. I hope we can keep that program going.

Attorney General Bill McCollum: I hope you can keep it going too. The National Center for the Missing and Exploited Children is a tremendous resource for all of us. I wish every school did that. I wish every school system did what your school system is doing and broadcasting this for school children to see. It needs to be done every year, and again you can be cyber cops. Anybody can go online and do this in the sense of getting at least the emblem. Now Alex is going to be a part of our team. What he's going to do that's unique to this school and unique for

us. Where forming about 15 or 20 kids all over the state who are going to advise our Cyber Crime Unit and help us keep up to speed and up to date on everything that's modern, what you guys are talking about so we can keep ahead on the bad guys. But he's just going to be on that group. Anyone here can go and be a cyber cop, get an emblem, and help us identify people and spread the word and get other kids in other state. Not every state has a program like this. Not every county has a program like this. Not every school has a program like you do. So if you have cousins, if you have friends in other place other part of this state, Ohio, Mississippi, New York, Massachusetts tell them about safeflorida.net. They can get it and they can go there and lets all be safer for it. I want to thank you for letting me come out today, Mr. Thompson and team this has be great and lets go have a safe Florida and a safe future. Good luck, okay! Go Cougars! Alright, Thank You. Mr. Mayor

(Applause)

Mayor: I sure want to talk the Attorney General for sharing all that with us. I know that has the father of an eighth grader myself very informative. Maybe the ahh, you'll like get more parents to listening to the presentations as well. I don't know if you know that, cause we don't advertise this very much but Boca Raton is the spam capital of the world. Because we have about seven of the top ten spammer operating in Boca. Which of course if the kids tell you, we all get spam and it's all very annoying and we don't like, but it's not compared to the harmful stuff that can come over the internet that the Attorney General just described. So it's up to you to be very cautious about that and we can turn Boca Raton from the spam capital of the world to the cyber safety capital. So we appreciate all your help with that. Thank you.

(Applause)

Attorney General Bill McCollum: Thank you. Thank you.

(Applause)

Principal Thompson: Mr. McCollum who would say truly thank you for being here today and bringing to our students not only I would say to the entire system of Palm beach County because this afternoon this presentation will be shown to all the schools in Palm Beach County thanks to Dr. Johnson and his initiative and a team oh he's gone Dr. Johnson just walked out. Has help to make that a reality for Palm Beach County students. So thank you so very very much for doing and being the person you are because you're making a difference. And to our students like I've always told you are the best of the best and you are going to be...

(Applause)

Principal Thompson: ...tomorrow's leaders. And being tomorrow's leaders this is where we have to start sometimes and share with others the kind of things that we need to know in order to protect ourselves, and for you to protect your family, your love ones, your classmates. So pass the word, pass the word that is good. The things you heard today pass it on. Pass it on to your little brother, your little sisters, your little neighbors pass it on. Make sure that they too are aware. Pass it on. Give that kind of information those to help protect our love ones, ourselves, and everyone. And has the Mayor have just stated let's make Boca Raton and Palm Beach County the safest safe sited place to live. To that respect, have a nice day and return back to your first period class and I thank you all.

(Applause)