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FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL PROSECUTORS / THE ROSE GARDEN
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1990, 2:00 P.M.

THANK YOU. MR. ATTORNEY GENERAL, U.S. ATTORNEYS,
STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL, LOCAL D.A.'S, AND OTHER LAW
ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS: IT IS AN HONOR TO WELCOME OUR
NATION'S PROSECUTORS TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE SPENT THE MORNING WITH DICK
THORNBURGH, DISCUSSING THE LEGAL CHANGES WE NEED TO
MAKE TO HELP YOU DO YOUR JOBS MORE EFFECTIVELY. AND I
KNOW THAT OTHER SUBJECTS ARE PREOCCUPYING ALL OF US
THESE DAYS.

- 2 -

BUT I REPEAT TODAY WHAT I SAID LAST WEEK: DRUGS
AND VIOLENT CRIME REMAIN A TOP PRIORITY. AND ON BEHALF
OF ALL THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR
WORKING TO HELP US "TAKE BACK THE STREETS."

WE KNOW THE LIFE OF A PROSECUTOR IS NOT EASY. FOR
GIFTED, HARDWORKING LAWYERS LIKE YOURSELVES, THE
FINANCIAL SACRIFICE IS IMMENSE.

MORE IMPORTANTLY, OVER THE PAST 30 YEARS, AMERICA'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM HAS BECOME BOGGED DOWN WITH TECHNICALITIES THAT STYMIE OUR PROSECUTORS' SIMPLE GOALS:

TO SEE THE TRUTH COME OUT, THE GUILTY PUNISHED, THE LAW UPHELD, AND JUSTICE DONE.

TOO MANY TIMES, IN TOO MANY CASES, TOO MANY CRIMINALS GO FREE BECAUSE THE SCALES OF JUSTICE ARE UNFAIRLY LOADED AGAINST DEDICATED LAWYERS AND WOMEN LIKE YOU.

SINCE TAKING OFFICE, WE'VE WORKED WITH MANY OF YOU TO TRY TO STEADY THE SCALES OF JUSTICE, TO SEEK A FAIR BALANCE BETWEEN THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF CRIMINAL SUSPECTS, AND SOCIETY'S RIGHT TO PROTECT ITSELF FROM EVIL PREDATORS.

AND AMERICA TOOK AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARDS
BALANCING THOSE SCALES WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE TO NAME A
TOUGH, FAIR-MINDED, INTELLECTUALLY BRILLIANT JUDGE AS
MY FIRST NOMINEE TO THE SUPREME COURT -- NEW
HAMPSHIRE'S JUDGE DAVID SOUTER.

WITH A DECADE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPERIENCE PRIOR
TO BEING ELEVATED TO THE BENCH, JUDGE SOUTER COMES FROM
YOUR OWN RANKS.

THE SENATE WILL BEGIN CONFIRMATION HEARINGS TOMORROW,
AND I CALL ON THEM TO ACT SWIFTLY SO THAT HE CAN TAKE
HIS PLACE AS THE ONLY CAREER PROSECUTOR ON THE COURT,
IN TIME FOR THE COURT'S FIRST SITTING.

AND WE'RE VERY PLEASED THAT THE AMERICAN BAR
ASSOCIATION GAVE JUDGE SOUTER THEIR HIGHEST RATING BY A
UNANIMOUS VOTE.

- 7 -

AND WE'RE ESPECIALLY PLEASED THAT THE NATIONAL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION ENDORSED JUDGE SOUTER FOR THE SUPREME COURT, PRAISING HIM AS A "TOUGH ANTI-CRIME JUDGE." \ \

THIS IS A GROUP THAT KNOWS ALL TOO WELL THE PROBLEMS WITH A CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM THAT, ALL TOO OFTEN, SIMPLY DOES NOT WORK.

- 8 -

THAT'S WHY I STOOD BEFORE THE CAPITOL ON THAT RAINY DAY IN MAY LAST YEAR -- MANY OF YOU WERE THERE -- CALLING ON CONGRESS TO PASS LEGISLATION TO GIVE OUR PROSECUTORS AND POLICE THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO FIGHT BACK AGAINST THE EPIDEMIC OF VIOLENT CRIME STILL RAGING IN AMERICA.

- 9 -

THAT WAS OVER A YEAR AGO, AND DESPITE THE URGENCY OF THE PROBLEM, THE CONGRESS HAS FAILED TO ACT ON KEY ASPECTS OF MY PROPOSAL. WHAT IS WORSE, SEVERAL MEASURES RECEIVING SERIOUS CONSIDERATION IN THE HOUSE THIS WEEK WOULD ACTUALLY WEAKEN LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND HAMPER YOUR EFFORTS TO PROTECT THE CITIZENS OF THIS NATION.

- 10 -

BUT YOUR PRESENCE HERE TODAY SENDS A POWERFUL WARNING TO CONGRESS, A SHOT ACROSS THE BOW OF A SHIP THAT IS MOVING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION. WE WILL NOT ACCEPT A CRIME BILL THAT IS TOUGHER ON LAW ENFORCEMENT THAN IT IS ON CRIMINALS. \\\

WE NEED A CRIME BILL THAT WILL STOP THE ENDLESS ABUSE OF HABEAS CORPUS, THAT GUARANTEES THAT CRIMINALS WHO USE SERIOUS WEAPONS FACE SERIOUS WEAPONS CHARGES AND SERIOUS TIME, AND THAT ENSURE THAT EVIDENCE GATHERED BY GOOD COPS ACTING IN GOOD FAITH ISN'T BARRED BY TECHNICALITIES THAT LET BAD PEOPLE GO FREE.

AND FOR THE MOST UNSPEAKABLE OF CRIMES, WE NEED A WORKABLE DEATH PENALTY -- WHICH IS TO SAY -- A REAL DEATH PENALTY. \\\

I WON'T ACCEPT ANYTHING THAT ROLLS BACK THE CLOCK ON AMERICA'S ABILITY TO FIGHT CRIME AND PUNISH WRONGDOERS. THE BOTTOM LINE IS THIS: I WILL NOT SIGN A CRIME BILL THAT HANDCUFFS POLICE. \\\

I WILL NOT SIGN A BILL THAT OVERTURNS RECENT SUPREME COURT DECISIONS LIMITING FRIVOLOUS HABEAS CORPUS PETITIONS, THAT EXPANDS THE COVERAGE OF THE EXCLUSIONARY RULE, OR THAT CREATES A RACIAL QUOTA SYSTEM FOR CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

- 13 -

YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MY PROPOSALS, WHICH GIVE YOU THE LEGAL TOOLS YOU NEED TO WIN THIS FIGHT, AND THE ANTI-LAW ENFORCEMENT PROPOSALS SOME IN CONGRESS ARE ATTEMPTING TO PEDDLE AS A CRIME BILL. \\
\\

- 14 -

FOR THE PAST TWO WEEKS, AMERICA'S BEEN GRIPPED BY CHILLING HEADLINES THAT TELL OF KIDS GOING BACK TO SCHOOL IN BULLETPROOF COATS, AND A VISITING UTAH MAN -- A KID, REALLY -- KILLED WHILE DEFENDING HIS MOTHER FROM A NEW YORK SUBWAY GANG, SAID TO BE AFTER POCKET MONEY SO THEY COULD GO DANCING.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE FED UP. I URGE THE CONGRESS TO HEED THE VOICES OF OUR PEOPLE, OUR POLICE, AND OUR PROSECUTORS -- AND SEND ME A CRIME BILL THAT WILL HELP TAKE BACK THE STREETS. \\\\
\\

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATED EFFORTS TO MAKE OUR
COMMUNITIES SAFE. GOOD LUCK. AND GOD BLESS THE UNITED
STATES.**

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 11, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH:

CHRISS WINSTON *EMW CW*

FROM:

EDWARD E. McNALLY *EMW*

SUBJECT:

REMARKS TO FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL PROSECUTORS

I. SUMMARY

On Wednesday, Sept. 11, at 2:00 p.m., you will give brief remarks to a group of United State Attorneys, state attorneys general, and local prosecutors assembled in the Rose Garden. The group was called to Washington by Attorney General Thornburgh to support the Administration's anti-crime initiative in Congress.

II. DISCUSSION

The remarks (6 minutes, on cards) send a strongly worded message to Congress that you will not sign a "phony" crime bill now being considered by the House that ties the hands of prosecutors while making it easier for criminals to go free. The draft thanks the prosecutors for supporting the Administration's position, and also, for supporting the nomination of Judge David Souter.

(McNally/Simon)
Sept. 11, 1990
Draft Three (B:NAAG)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL PROSECUTORS
THE ROSE GARDEN
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1990, 2:00 P.M.

Thank you. Mr. Attorney General, U.S. Attorneys, State Attorneys General, local D.A.'s, and other law enforcement officials: It is an honor to welcome our Nation's prosecutors to the White House.

I know that you have spent the morning with Dick Thornburgh, discussing the legal changes we need to make to help you do your jobs more effectively. And I know that other subjects are preoccupying all of us these days. But I repeat today what I said last week: Drugs and violent crime remain a top priority. And on behalf of all the American people, I want to thank you for working to help us "Take Back The Streets."

We know the life of a prosecutor is not easy. For gifted, hardworking lawyers like yourselves, the financial sacrifice is immense. More importantly, over the past 30 years, America's criminal justice system has become bogged down with technicalities that stymie our prosecutors' simple goals: To see the truth come out, the guilty punished, the law upheld, and justice done.

Too many times, in too many cases, too many criminals go free because the scales of justice are unfairly loaded against dedicated lawmen and women like you.

Since taking office, we've worked with many of you to try to steady the scales of justice, to seek a fair balance between the

legitimate rights of criminal suspects, and society's right to protect itself from evil predators. And America took an important step towards balancing those scales when I had the chance to name a tough, fair-minded, law-and-order judge as my first nominee to the Supreme Court -- New Hampshire's Judge David Souter.

With a decade of law enforcement experience prior to being elevated to the bench, Judge Souter comes from your own ranks. The Senate will begin confirmation hearings tomorrow, and I call on them to act swiftly so that he can take his place as the only career prosecutor on the Court, in time for the Court's first sitting. And we're very pleased that -- as with the A.B.A. -- the National Association of Attorneys General gave Judge Souter their highest rating, by a unanimous vote. And we're especially pleased that the National District Attorneys Association endorsed Judge Souter for the Supreme Court, praising him as a "tough anti-crime judge." It's clear that he will not handcuff police by inventing new rules not found in the Constitution.

But this group knows all too well that judge-made laws are not the only problem with a criminal justice system that, all too often, simply does not work. That's why I stood before the Capitol on that rainy day in May last year -- many of you were there -- calling on Congress to pass legislation to give our prosecutors and police the tools they need to fight back against the epidemic of violent crime still raging in America.

That was over a year ago, and despite the urgency of the problem, the Congress has failed to act on key aspects of my proposal. What is worse, several measures receiving serious consideration in the House this week would actually weaken law enforcement, and hamper your efforts to protect the citizens of this Nation.

But your presence here today sends a powerful warning to Congress, a shot across the bow of a ship that is moving in the wrong direction. America's prosecutors will not accept a phony crime bill that is tougher on law enforcement than it is on criminals. \\\

We need a crime bill that will stop the endless abuse of habeas corpus, that guarantees that criminals who use serious weapons face serious weapons charges and serious time, and that ensure that evidence gathered by good cops acting in good faith isn't barred by technicalities that let bad people go free. And for the most unspeakable of crimes, we need a workable death penalty -- which is to say -- a real death penalty. \\\

I won't accept anything that rolls back the clock on America's ability to fight crime and punish wrong-doers. The bottom line is this: I will not sign a phony crime bill. I will not sign a bill that overturns recent Supreme Court decisions limiting frivolous habeas corpus petitions, that expands the coverage of the exclusionary rule, or that creates a racial quota system for capital punishment.

You know the difference between my proposals, which give you the legal tools you need to win this fight, and the anti-law enforcement proposals some in Congress are attempting to peddle as a crime bill. \\
\\

For the past two weeks, America's been gripped by chilling headlines that tell of kids going back to school in bulletproof coats, and a visiting Utah man -- a kid, really -- killed while defending his mother from a New York subway gang, said to be after pocket money so they could go dancing. The American people are fed up. I urge the Congress to heed the voices of our people, our police, and our prosecutors -- and send me a crime bill that will help take back the streets.

Thank you for your dedicated efforts to make our communities safe. Good luck. And God bless the United States.

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(McNally/Simon)
Sept. 10, 1990
Draft Two (B:NAAG)

80 SEP 16 1990
PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL PROSECUTORS
ROOM 450, O.E.O.B.
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1990, 2:00 P.M.

Thank you. Mr. Attorney General, U.S. Attorneys, State Attorneys General, other officials and local D.A.'s: It is an honor to welcome our Nation's prosecutors to the White House.

speech
9-5-90
When Bill Bennett and I met last week to take stock of America's important new progress in the War on Drugs, we noted that other subjects are preoccupying all of us these days. But I said then and I repeat today: Drugs and violent crime remain our number one priority. And on behalf of all the American people, I want to thank you for working to help us "Take Back The Streets."

We know the life of a prosecutor is not easy. For gifted, hardworking lawyers like yourselves, the financial sacrifice is immense. More importantly, over the past 30 years, America's criminal justice system has become bogged down with technicalities that stymie our prosecutors' simple goals: To see the truth come out, the guilty punished, the law upheld, and justice done.

Too many times, in too many cases, too many criminals go free because the scales of justice are unfairly loaded against dedicated lawmen and women like you.

Since taking office, we've worked with many of you to try to steady the scales of justice, to seek a fair balance between the legitimate rights of criminal suspects, and society's right to protect itself from evil predators. And America took an important step towards balancing those scales when I had the chance to

name a tough, fair-minded, law-and-order judge as my first nominee to the Supreme Court -- New Hampshire's Judge David Souter.

With a decade of law enforcement experience prior to being elevated to the bench, Judge Souter is one of your own, hopefully soon to take his place as the only career prosecutor on the Court. And we're very pleased that -- as with the A.B.A. -- the

National Association of Attorneys General rated Judge Souter

"well-qualified" by a unanimous vote. And we're especially pleased that the National District Attorney's Association

endorsed Judge Souter for the Supreme Court, praising him as a "tough anti-crime judge." It's clear that he will not handcuff

police by creating new rules not found in the Constitution.

But this group knows all too well that judge-made laws are not the only problem with a criminal justice system that all too

often simply does not work. That's why I stood before the Capitol on that rainy day in May last year -- many of you were

there -- calling on Congress to give our prosecutors and police the tools they need to fight back against the epidemic of violent crime still raging in America.

That was over a year ago, and despite the urgency of the problem, the Congress has failed to act on our proposals. What is worse, several measures receiving serious consideration on the Hill would actually weaken law enforcement, and hamper your efforts to protect the citizens of this Nation.

But your presence here today sends a powerful warning to Congress, a shot across the bow of a ship that is moving in the

Robert Biesenbach
628-0435

see
file

5-15-89
speech

wrong direction. America's prosecutors will not accept a phony crime bill that is tougher on law enforcement than it is on criminals. \\\

We need a crime bill that will stop the endless abuse of habeas corpus, that guarantees that criminals who use serious weapons face serious weapons charges and serious time, and that ensure that evidence gathered by good cops acting in good faith isn't barred by technicalities that let bad people go free. And for the most unspeakable of crimes, we need a workable death penalty -- which is to say -- a real death penalty. \\\

I won't accept anything that rolls back the clock on America's ability to fight crime and punish wrong-doers. The bottom line is this: I will not sign a phony crime bill. I will not sign a bill that overturns recent Supreme Court decisions limiting frivolous appeals, that expands the coverage of the exclusionary rule, or that creates a racial quota system for capital punishment.

X
Merrill
Ms. Gettys
+
Nelson Lund
+
Rob Portman

You know the difference between my proposals, which give you the legal tools you need to win this fight, and the anti-law enforcement proposals some in Congress are attempting to peddle as a crime bill. I urge the Congress to heed the voices of our people, our police, and our prosecutors -- and send me a crime bill that will help take back the streets.

Thank you for your dedicated efforts to makes our cities safe. Good luck. And God bless the United States.

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NEWS RELEASE

National District Attorneys Association

1033 N. Fairfax Street, Suite 200, Alexandria, Va. 22314 • (703) 549-9222

Information Contact:

Release: For Immediate Release.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
August 31, 1990

CONTACT: Anne Haskell
703/549-9222

NDAА ENDORSES JUDGE SOUTER FOR SUPREME COURT

ALEXANDRIA, VA. — The National District Attorneys Association has endorsed the nomination of Judge David H. Souter to the United States Supreme Court.

"Judge Souter has outstanding qualifications, having served with distinction as a trial court judge, a State Supreme Court Justice and a member of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit," said Richard P. Ieyoub, President of the National District Attorneys Association, in making the announcement.

"Additionally, Judge Souter has an excellent background in law enforcement which includes service as Attorney General of New Hampshire. His decisions as a State Supreme Court Justice indicate that he would be a tough anti-crime Justice who will interpret the Constitution rather than change it through judicial activism," Ieyoub added. "These facts make him highly acceptable to prosecutors to fill the Supreme Court vacancy."

Founded in 1950, the National District Attorneys Association is a 6500-member organization representing elected and appointed prosecutors nationwide. Together with its technical assistance affiliate, NDAА operates two national programs: The National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse and the National Drug Prosecution Center.

-30-
*N.A.A. G rated Souter "well qualified" by a
unanimous vote.*

(McNally/Simon)
Sept. 10, 1990
Draft One (B:NAAG)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL PROSECUTORS
Room 450 ~~THE EAST ROOM, THE WHITE HOUSE~~
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1990, 2:00 P.M.

Thank you. Mr. Attorney General, U.S. Attorneys, State Attorneys General, other officials and local D.A.'s: It is an honor to welcome our Nation's prosecutors to the White House.

When Bill Bennett and I met last week to take stock of America's important new progress in the War on Drugs, we noted that other subjects are preoccupying all of us these days. But I said then and I repeat today: Drugs and violent crime remain our number one priority. And on behalf of all the American people, I want to thank you for working to help us "Take Back The Streets."

We know the life of a prosecutor is not easy. For gifted, hardworking lawyers like yourselves, the financial sacrifice is immense. More importantly, over the past 30 years, America's criminal justice system has become bogged down with technicalities that stymie our prosecutors' simple goals: To see the truth come out, the guilty punished, the law upheld, and justice done.

Too many times, in too many cases, too many criminals go free because the scales of justice are unfairly loaded against dedicated lawmen and women like you.

Since taking office, we have worked with many of you to try to steady the scales of justice, to seek a fair balance between society's right to protect itself from evil predators and the legitimate rights of those suspected of crime. And America took an important step towards balancing those scales when I had the

chance to name a tough, fair-minded, law-and-order judge as my first nominee to the Supreme Court -- New Hampshire's Judge David Souter. \\\

With a decade of law enforcement experience prior to being elevated to the bench, Judge Souter is one of your own, hopefully soon to take his place as the only career prosecutor on the Court. And we're very pleased that -- as with the A.B.A. -- the National Association of Attorneys General rated Judge Souter "well-qualified" by a unanimous vote. And we're especially pleased that the National District Attorney's Association endorsed Judge Souter for the Supreme Court, praising him as a "tough anti-crime judge." It's clear that he will not handcuff police by creating new rules not found in the Constitution.

But this group knows all too well that judge-made laws are not the only problem with a criminal justice system that all too often simply does not work. That's why I stood before the Capitol on that rainy day in May last year -- many of you were there -- calling on Congress to give our prosecutors and police the tools they need to fight back against the epidemic of violent crime still raging in America.

That was over a year ago, and despite the urgency of the problem, the Congress has failed to act on our proposals. What is worse, several measures receiving serious consideration on the Hill would actually weaken law enforcement, and hamper your efforts to protect the citizens of this Nation.

But your presence here today sends a powerful warning to

Congress, a shot across the bow of a ship that is moving in the wrong direction. America's prosecutors will not accept a phony crime bill that is tougher on law enforcement than it is on criminals. \\\

We need a crime bill that will stop the endless abuse of the appeals process, that guarantees that criminals who use serious weapons face serious weapons charges, and that ensure that evidence gathered by good cops acting in good faith isn't barred by technicalities that let bad people go free. And for the most unspeakable of crimes, we need a workable death penalty -- which is to say -- a real death penalty. \\\

I won't accept anything that rolls back the clock on America's ability to fight crime and punish wrong-doers. The bottom line is this: I will not sign a phony crime bill. I will not sign a bill that overturns recent Supreme Court decisions limiting frivolous appeals, that expands the coverage of the exclusionary rule, or that creates a racial quota system for capital punishment.

You know the difference between my proposals, which give you the legal tools you need to win this fight, and the anti-law enforcement proposals some in Congress are attempting to peddle as a crime bill. I urge the Congress to heed the voices of our people, our police, and our prosecutors -- and send me a crime bill that will help take back the streets.

Thank you. Good luck. And God bless the United States.

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Presidential Remarks to Federal, State and Local
Prosecutors Concerning Anti-Crime Legislation

September 12, 1990

Mr. Attorney General, United States Attorneys, State Attorneys General and their staff and local District Attorneys, it is an honor to have you all -- the Nation's prosecutors -- here at the White House. On behalf of all the American people, I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for your commitment to taking violent criminals off our Nation's streets.

None of you needs to be reminded that the life of a prosecutor is not an easy one. You are called upon to make a significant financial sacrifice in comparison with your colleagues who work in the private sector. In addition, in the last thirty years, our criminal justice system has become laden with legal traps and technicalities that frustrate the prosecutor's goal of seeing that the facts come out, and that the guilty are properly punished. Today, in many situations, the scales of justice are unfairly loaded against the prosecution.

Recently, we have started down the road to a more reasonable balance between society's interest in punishing violent criminals and the legitimate rights of those suspected or accused of crime. I believe I took another step in the right direction when I nominated Judge David Souter to be an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. Judge Souter's opinions on the New Hampshire Supreme Court demonstrate a sensitivity to the practical realities of law enforcement gained in his service as New Hampshire Attorney General. Judge Souter shows no inclination to hamper law enforcement by creating new rules or procedures not found in the Constitution itself. Senate confirmation of Judge Souter will help ensure that the prosecutor's point of view gets a fair hearing in our Nation's Highest Court.

This Administration took another important step to assist prosecutors when I sent to Congress a comprehensive legislative package to deal with the epidemic of violent crime that threatens our citizens' most basic civil rights. My proposals include a death penalty for the most heinous of federal crimes, reforms that will stop the federal courts from being used to nullify state death penalty laws through inordinate delays, stiff new sentences for the criminal use of firearms, and a new measure to ensure that evidence gathered by the police in good faith can be used against criminals in court.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

A.G.s

37 states oppose nullification
of death penalty currently
in bill

Bill Burr - ~~now~~ deadline

That was over a year ago, and despite the urgency of the problem, the Congress has failed to act on my proposals. What is worse, several measures receiving serious consideration in the Congress would actually weaken law enforcement, and hamper your efforts to see that the guilty are convicted and punished.

The American people deserve new laws that will help police and prosecutors to lock up the violent criminals that infest too many of our streets and neighborhoods. We need a workable federal death penalty. We need to reform the delay-ridden habeas corpus system, which allows convicted felons to challenge their convictions and sentences over and over again, even where there is no issue as to their guilt. We need to let juries consider all of the evidence the police have gathered while doing their jobs in good faith. And we need to boost the penalties for misuse of guns.

Your presence here today sends a warning to the Congress. The Nation's prosecutors will not accept a phony crime bill that actually weakens law enforcement. Let me assure you, I will not sign such a bill. I will not sign a bill that overturns recent Supreme Court decisions on habeas corpus and effectively nullifies state death penalty laws by encouraging further delay. I will not sign a bill that expands the coverage of the exclusionary rule. And I will not sign a bill that would create a racial quota system for capital punishment.

You, our Nation's prosecutors, are charged with defending our citizens' most basic civil rights -- freedom from fear, freedom from physical assault, and freedom to move about on our Nation's streets day or night. You know the difference between my proposals which give you the legal tools you need to win this fight, and the anti-law enforcement proposals some Members of Congress are attempting to peddle as a crime bill. I urge the Congress to heed the voices of our Nation's prosecutors and send me a crime bill that will help make every town in America a safer place to live and work.

(McNally/Simon)
Sept. 12, 1990
Draft Four (B:NAAG)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL PROSECUTORS
THE ROSE GARDEN
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1990, 2:00 P.M.

Thank you. Mr. Attorney General, U.S. Attorneys, State Attorneys General, local D.A.'s, and other law enforcement officials: **It is an honor to welcome our Nation's prosecutors to the White House.**

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But I repeat today what I said last week: **Drugs and violent crime remain a top priority.** And on behalf of all the American people, I want to thank you for working to help us "**Take Back The Streets.**" **A**

We know the life of a prosecutor is not easy. For gifted, hardworking lawyers like yourselves, the financial sacrifice is immense. More importantly, over the past 30 years, America's criminal justice system has become bogged down with technicalities that stymie our prosecutors' simple goals:

To see the truth come out, the guilty punished, the law upheld, and justice done.

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And America took an important step towards balancing those scales when I had the chance to name a tough, fair-minded, intellectually brilliant judge as my first nominee to the Supreme Court -- New Hampshire's Judge David Souter. A

With a decade of law enforcement experience prior to being elevated to the bench, Judge Souter comes from your own ranks. The Senate will begin confirmation hearings tomorrow, and I call on them to act swiftly so that he can take his place as the only career prosecutor on the Court, in time for the Court's first sitting.

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But this group knows all too well ~~that judge-made laws are not the only problem~~ with a criminal justice system that, all too often, simply does not work. That's why I stood before the Capitol on that rainy day in May last year -- many of you were there -- calling on Congress to pass legislation to give our

prosecutors and police the tools they need to fight back against the epidemic of violent crime still raging in America.

That was over a year ago, and despite the urgency of the problem, the Congress has failed to act on key aspects of my proposal. What is worse, several measures receiving serious consideration in the House this week would actually weaken law enforcement, and hamper your efforts to protect the citizens of this Nation.

But your presence here today sends a powerful warning to Congress, a shot across the bow of a ship that is moving in the wrong direction. We will not accept a crime bill that is tougher on law enforcement than it is on criminals. \\\ A

We need a crime bill that will stop the endless abuse of habeas corpus, that guarantees that criminals who use serious weapons face serious weapons charges and serious time, and that ensure that evidence gathered by good cops acting in good faith isn't barred by technicalities that let bad people go free.

And for the most unspeakable of crimes, we need a workable death penalty -- which is to say -- a real death penalty. \\\ A

I won't accept anything that rolls back the clock on America's ability to fight crime and punish wrong-doers. The bottom line is this: I will not sign a crime bill that handcuffs police. \\\ A

I will not sign a bill that overturns recent Supreme Court decisions limiting frivolous habeas corpus petitions, that

expands the coverage of the exclusionary rule, or that creates a racial quota system for capital punishment.

You know the difference between my proposals, which give you the legal tools you need to win this fight, and the anti-law enforcement proposals some in Congress are attempting to peddle as a crime bill. \\

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**The American people are fed up. I urge the Congress to heed the voices of our people, our police, and our prosecutors -- and send me a crime bill that will help take back the streets. **

Thank you for your dedicated efforts to make our communities safe. Good luck. And God bless the United States.

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