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Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
Collection/Office of Origin: Speechwriting, White House Office of
Series: Speech File Backup Files
Subseries: Chron File, 1989-1993

OA/ID Number: 13835
Folder ID Number: 13835-007

Folder Title:
Crime--St. Louis, Missouri 9/28/92 [OA 7581] [1]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	23	1	4

* June 15, 1989 Crime Bill Submitted

Crime Statistics: 9/25/92

SOURCE: St. Louis Metropolitan Police Dept. figures violent crime in Fox Park [mid 89-8/31/92]

DATE	MURDER	FORCIBLE RAPE	ROBBERY	AGGRIVATED ASSAULT	
1992	1	5	19	67	
1991	2	9	85	94	
1990	1	2	46	72	
1989	0	1	35	67	7-12
TOTALS	4	17	185	300	

SOURCE: David Nemecek, Dir. National Crime Info Center [324-2606] referred me to Vicky Major [324-5015]
*1992 numbers from St. Louis Metropolitan Police

St. Louis / Violent Crimes [1989-91]:

DATE	MURDER	FORCIBLE RAPE	ROBBERY	AGGRIVATED ASSAULT	OFFICERS ASSAULTED	
1992*	111	252	3,189	5,264	--	
1991	260	342	5,294	8,180	715	
1990	177	331	4,708	8,466	778	
1989	83	188	2,308	4,253	360	7-12
TOTALS	631	1,113	15,499	26,163	1,853	

SOURCE: FBI //Uniform Crime Report // Carlos Davis [estimates] 324-3827
Vicky Major [324-5015]

*Estimated Violent Crime Offenses in the UNITED STATES [89-91]:

DATE	MURDER	FORCIBLE RAPE	ROBBERY	AGGRIVATED ASSAULT	
1991	24,700	106,590	687,730	1,092,740	
1990	23,440	102,560	639,270	1,054,860	
1989	11,395	49,896	307,093	495,841	[July-Dec]*
TOTALS	59,535	259,046	1,634,093	2,643,441	

(Askew/Bunton)
September 27, 1992
3:00 p.m.
CRIME

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DeSALES CATHOLIC CHURCH
FOX PARK, MISSOURI
SEPTEMBER 28, 1992
10:00 A.M.

Thank you for that kind introduction, and good morning, everybody.

It's delightful to be in Fox Park. St. Louis is such a friendly city. It really warms my heart. So thank you for your wonderful Missouri welcome.

I want to apologize to everyone who was counting on the usual Sunday Bingo game last night. I hear the Secret Service spoiled your fun when they had to check out the building. Well, I'm sorry you missed the game, but it was smart to stay away. Believe me, you don't want to be jumping up suddenly and yelling "Bingo!" around these guys.//

I want to talk to you today about what I consider government's first and most-basic function.

I know what you're thinking. You've been listening to that other fellow... and all you can think about is taxes. Well, I'm not going to talk about taxes today. But I think it's only fair to warn you that for years down in Arkansas, my opponent has been trying to declare April 15th a religious holiday.//

But what I do want to talk about is the fundamental duty of our government... to protect every American citizen from violence -- at home, on the streets, and abroad.

FA. RICHARD BOSCHKOPF
ST. FRANCIS DESALES CATHOLIC CHURCH
314-771-3100

Now... that's nothing new. Security is one big reason government was created in the first place.

What's new... are the terrible forms violence has taken recently... beyond anything our founding fathers could've imagined.

A whole generation has grown up with the threat of nuclear terror hanging like a sword over its head. And it's been horrible. Our kids had nightmares. It seemed like it would never end.

Well, it did end. And today I can stand up here and say something no President could ever say before.

The Cold War is over. Freedom finished first.//

Now, we need to win the peace... right here at home and in the streets of Fox Park.//

What's the point, after all... of winning a Cold War if our grandparents and grandchildren lock themselves behind the bars on their windows, afraid to come out from a jail called home?

Now, I'm not saying we haven't made progress against violent crime. We certainly have. We've slowed it dramatically the past twelve years. And we're beginning to turn the tide on the drugs that so often fuel it.

But we got soft on crime in the 1960s, and we paid for it. By the time we cracked down again in the 80s, violent crime had gone up 400% in twenty years. Since we cracked down, it's gone up just 27% in a little over ten years, and the overall crime index is actually down.

DAN LEVINE 005/46 BAKR
514-3892

So we've stemmed the tide... prevented millions of crimes... but of course, that's not enough. It's never enough.

The face of crime is changing fast, and we need our laws to react just as quickly... so we can beat it.

Carjacking, for a timely example -- a brand-new word for a brand-new crime. Someone figured out it's easy to steal a car when it's already running, with the keys in the ignition. Of course, the owner's behind the wheel. So they use a gun.

It makes me sick to think about it... but just a few weeks ago, in a nice neighborhood near Baltimore, a woman was sitting in her car at a stop sign. In broad daylight, two men forced her out of her car and drove off.

But she hung onto her seat-belt from outside the car. What mother wouldn't? Because her baby was in the back seat. The mother was dragged for almost two miles. The thieves tried to knock her off by banging into a fence. And she finally died.

And you know what they did with her little baby? They tossed her out of the car like so much trash.

Miraculously, that baby survived.

And you know what? America's going to survive, too. We don't have to put up with this kind of depravity.//

These people have no place in a decent society. And as far as this President's concerned, they can go to jail... they can stay in jail... and they can rot in jail.//

3

And for that to happen, we need tough laws that don't bend over backwards protecting the criminal... while saying to the victim, "Tough luck, buddy."//

Now, my opponent has learned to talk tough on crime. But let me tell you: When push comes to shove, what he really believes is that same old hogwash that says it's society's fault when someone gets mugged. And society should suffer.

Well, [POTUS REMARKS SPRINGFIELD, MO. 9/22/92 maybe that's why most inmates in Arkansas serve less than one-fifth of their sentence.] Maybe that's why violent crime in Arkansas went up almost 60 percent (More than 58) in the 80s -- over twice the national average. [POTUS REMARKS SPRINGFIELD, MO. 9/22/92 Maybe that's why, in the 80s, Arkansas had the nation's biggest increase in overall crime] -- [and the third-biggest in violent crime. DAN LEVINE COS/AG BARR]

If you don't believe me... just ask the Fraternal Order of Police in Little Rock, Arkansas. They're endorsing me for President. Because they know my record.

[POTUS REMARKS SPRINGFIELD, MO. 9/22/92]

And because they know better than anyone... that we're all vulnerable: Men, women, children; white, black, brown; young, old; rich and poor. To a bullet or a blade -- we all look just the same.

And Americans deserve a government that goes after the problem -- that prevents and punishes crime, and helps victims.//

That's why I want to see America make a move at the Federal level... to step forward and support state and local police around the country -- in real, concrete ways. We need to help them fight.//

That's why, twelve-hundred and one days ago, on June 15, 1989 -- the same day Gorbachev first hinted the Berlin Wall might come down -- I sent a comprehensive crime bill to Capitol Hill. I offered the hand of partnership to Congress, and asked it to help me fight crime on a national level.

- CLER'S OFFICE

WASHINGTON POST, P. A1, June 16, 1989

You know, since I first sent that bill to the Hill in 1989, here in the United States, we've had almost 60,000 murders, 260,000 rapes, 1,600,000 robberies and 2,600,000 assaults. 506 of those violent crimes took place right here in Fox Park.

VICKY MAJOR FBI/UCR 324-3827

ST. LOUIS METRO POLICE CHIEF CLARENCE HARMON 314-444-5624

I know the numbers are staggering. I know that Americans sit down in front of their TVs at night... watch the news and say... why doesn't somebody do something about this incredible mess? People are dying in the streets, for God's sake.

Well... twelve-hundred and one days later... Congress still hasn't acted on my Bill.

I think if they had a glacier on Capitol Hill, they'd name it "Speedy."//

But frustrating as this crime bill has been for me... it's still my job as President to get results. There are good people on both sides of the issue, working in good faith for a compromise... and I will not rest until this matter is settled.

This very week, we're close to an agreement on a bill the Congress could send me -- and I will sign. The comprehensive bill could include, for example, a workable death-penalty provision for horrible murders... committed by terrorists, assassins, drug lords and others of that nature.

But when it comes to crime, we always -- always -- have more to do. We can never rest.

So I want you to know what's on my crime agenda. I'm not asking for anything but common sense and reasonable justice... especially for women, children and elderly victims of crime.

Specifically, I want a crime bill that helps accomplish the following eight things:

One, apprehend and severely punish carjackers, like the ones I just described. I want to make carjacking a Federal offense with harsh penalties. I want thugs who take cars at gunpoint to stay in a cell so long that when they get out -- they're too old to drive.//

Two, call deadbeat dads onto the carpet. Right now, a single mother here in Missouri can be struggling to keep the kids fed and clothed on her small salary... while their father's up in Chicago, picking out a new Chevy truck with terrycloth pom-poms and a gun rack. He could be a year behind in child-support, but no one can touch him because he's over state lines. Well, I think that's a disgrace, and it's about time the long arm of the law reaches out over that state line... taps that deadbeat dad on the shoulder... and says loud and clear -- time to pay up, buddy. Cough up the cash or go to jail.

Three, strengthen laws dealing with sexual and domestic violence. For starters, we need to protect the victim. And I want repeat sex and domestic-violence offenders behind bars until trial. Today, even a repeat offender can get arrested and be out

on bond hours later... stalking his next victim... or beating his wife and kids for turning him in. I want him detained until trial, and I want the prosecution to be able to use past convictions against him. Right now, so-called little details -- like the fact he's a three-time loser -- can't even be mentioned in court. And that's wrong. Let him pay for what he's done.//

Four, crack down on gang violence. I want gangs to be treated like the criminal enterprises they are. That way, we can go after the leaders, and we can deal harshly with them, and we can untie the hands of good cops so they can clean up decent neighborhoods. I also want to toughen the penalties for using juveniles in crimes. Gangs right now can send under-age kids out to do their dirty work, because they're minors and they'll get off if they're caught. I think the older gang members should be punished harshly for treating these little kids like bullet fodder.//

Five, protection for the elderly. It's absurd that the folks who've contributed to this society all through their lives have to live in terror when they're old and frail, just because some young punks see them as an easy target. They're as low as the thugs who pick on children, and I want to beef up the laws that put them behind bars so they're not on the streets mugging grandmothers. Instead, they'd be in front of a police camera... mugging pictures for their criminal files.//

Six, Habeas Corpus reform. Habeas Corpus is a fancy way of saying, if you're found guilty of something, you can challenge

the decision in court. It's supposed to protect the innocent, but it's turned into a ridiculous perversion of the law. Criminal lawyers use it to postpone justice. A guilty verdict can mean seemingly endless appeals that choke our courts and delay justice. It's about time we put a stop to this travesty. Let them have one Habeas Corpus petition and be done with it.//

Seven, a Federal death penalty. I think certain acts of violence deserve the ultimate penalty. I'm talking about assassinations, murder for hire, terrorism and other depraved acts. These people are merchants of death, who trade in death... so when they kill someone, let's complete the transaction.//

And eight, firearms. This one's short and sweet. I want tougher penalties for any crime committed with a gun. Period.//

(Brief pause.)

Now, I'm not saying that tougher laws are going to fix everything. I'm a firm believer in justice, but I think punishment is only part of the solution.

The other part has a more human face.

Tomorrow's criminals are still just kids today. And while I believe in resources for law enforcement... and in reform for law enforcement... I also believe that at some point early in life, a youngster at a critical juncture can be steered to a life of right... or a life of terrible wrong. It all depends on the kind of soil you plant these kids in... and how you nourish them.

That's why I believe our weed-and-seed program is so very crucial. Weed-and-seed means going into a rough neighborhood...

eradicating the 'weeds' of violent crime that can choke a young life... and replacing them with 'seeds' of social opportunity and reform.

That's what Operation Crackdown in St. Louis is all about: The Federal Government, working with local law enforcement, reclaiming crack houses and giving them back to the community.

And that's what your COPS program, here in Fox Park, is all about, too, on a local level. Real people making real changes in your own neighborhood.

You know, just the other day, only a few blocks from here, police officers raided a crack house on Ohio Avenue. And as those officers came out of the house with those drug-dealers handcuffed, the neighbors -- maybe some of you -- came out to their porches and gave those police a standing ovation and a cheer.

<u>That's</u> what this country's hungry for. Americans want to take crime out of their neighborhoods... and put the <u>neighbors back</u>. We've got to weed the poison growth from the soil... and in its place, plant the seeds of hope.

I know you just want to be able to walk down to Worth's Market, or down to Fox Park for a stroll, or over to Bartlett's Grocery Store for a newspaper or Mary's Restaurant for a cup of coffee ((even if she <u>is</u> a Democrat))... and you want to do it knowing you're safe in your own neighborhood, that you've helped build and kept alive.

I think John Mirgaux said it best. He lives near that old crack house over on Ohio. And he said he and his wife Eleanor had been thinking about selling their house and just moving away from the drugs and all the ugly crime.

But you know... he's lived in Fox Hill his whole life. It's <u>his</u> neighborhood.

And after the raid... he and Eleanor did some thinking. And he put it this way. He said:

"You know, I've been waiting for this to happen. Now... we're going to make a stand."

Please join us... join John and Eleanor... and Ohio Avenue... and Fox Park... and St. Louis... and Missouri... and this whole United States... and make a stand against crime <u>today</u>.

Because the people deserve it.

Thank you... thank you all for listening... God bless Fox Park, Missouri... and God bless the United States of America.

ACKS: FACT CHECK

(Askew/Bunton)
September 27, 1992
1:00 p.m.
CRIME

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DeSALES CATHOLIC CHURCH
FOX PARK, MISSOURI
SEPTEMBER 28, 1992
10:00 A.M.

Thank you for that kind introduction, and good morning, everybody.

It's delightful to be in Fox Park. St. Louis is such a friendly city. It really warms my heart. So thank you for your wonderful Missouri welcome.

FA. RICHARD BOCHSKOPP ST. FRANCIS DESALES CATHOLIC CHURCH 314-771-3100

I want to apologize to everyone who was counting on the usual Sunday Bingo game last night. I hear the Secret Service spoiled your fun when they had to check out the building. Well, I'm sorry you missed the game, but it was smart to stay away. Believe me, you don't want to be jumping up suddenly and yelling "Bingo!" around these guys.//

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I know what you're thinking. You've been listening to that other fellow... and all you can think about is taxes. Well, I'm not going to talk about taxes today. But I think it's only fair to warn you that for years down in Arkansas, my opponent has been trying to declare April 15th a religious holiday.//

But what I do want to talk about is the fundamental duty of our government... to protect every American citizen from violence -- at home, on the streets, and abroad.

Now... that's nothing new. Security is one big reason government was created in the first place.

What's new... are the terrible forms violence has taken recently... beyond anything our founding fathers could've imagined.

A whole generation has grown up with the threat of nuclear terror hanging like a sword over its head. And it's been horrible. Our kids had nightmares. It seemed like it would never end.

Well, it did end. And today I can stand up here and say something no President could ever say before.

The Cold War is over. Freedom finished first.//

Now, we need to win the peace... right here at home and in the streets of Fox Park.//

What's the point, after all... of winning a Cold War if our grandparents and grandchildren lock themselves behind the bars on their windows, afraid to come out from a jail called home?

Now, I'm not saying we haven't made progress against violent crime. We certainly have. We've slowed it dramatically the past twelve years. And we're beginning to turn the tide on the drugs that so often fuel it.

PAN LEVINE COS/AG BARR 514-3892

But we got soft on crime in the 1960s, and we paid for it. By the time we cracked down again in the 80s, violent crime had gone up 400% in twenty years. Since we cracked down, it's gone up just 27% in a little over ten years, and the overall crime index is actually down.

PAN LEVINE COFS AG BARR 514-3892

So we've stemmed the tide... prevented millions of crimes... but of course, that's not enough. It's never enough.

The face of crime is changing fast, and we need our laws to react just as quickly... so we can beat it.

Carjacking, for a timely example -- a brand-new word for a brand-new crime. Someone figured out it's easy to steal a car when it's already running, with the keys in the ignition. Of course, the owner's behind the wheel. So they use a gun.

It makes me sick to think about it... but just a few weeks ago, in a comfortable suburb of Washington. D.C., a woman was sitting in her car at a stop sign. In broad daylight, two men stuck a gun in her face, pushed her out, and took off.

But she hung onto her seat-belt from outside the car. Her baby was in the back seat. She was dragged for almost two miles. The thieves tried to knock her off by banging into a fence. And she finally fell off and died.

And you know what they did with her little baby? They tossed her out of the car like so much trash.

Miraculously, that baby survived.

And you know what? America's going to survive, too. We don't have to put up with this kind of depravity.//

These people have no place in a decent society. And as far as this President's concerned, they can go to jail... they can stay in jail... and they can rot in jail.//

And for that to happen, we need tough laws that don't bend over backwards protecting the criminal... while saying to the victim, "Tough luck, buddy."//

Now, my opponent has learned to talk tough on crime. But let me tell you: When push comes to shove, what he really believes is that same old hogwash that says it's society's fault when someone gets mugged. And society should suffer.

Well, maybe that's why most inmates in Arkansas serve less than one-fifth of their sentence. Maybe that's why violent crime in Arkansas went up almost 77 percent in the 80s -- three times the national average. Maybe that's why, in the 1980s, Arkansas had the nation's biggest increase in overall crime -- and the third-biggest in violent crime.

If you don't believe me... just ask the Fraternal Order of Police in Little Rock, Arkansas. They're endorsing me for President. Because they know my record.

And because they know better than anyone... that we're all vulnerable: Men, women, children; white, black, brown; young, old; rich and poor. To a bullet or a blade -- we all look just the same.

And Americans deserve a government that goes after the problem -- that prevents and punishes crime, and helps victims.//

That why I want to see America make a move at the Federal level... to step forward and support state and local police around the country -- in real, concrete ways. We need to help them fight.//

CLERK'S OFFICE

That's why, twelve-hundred and one days ago, on June 15, 1989 -- the same day Gorbachev first hinted the Berlin Wall might come down -- I sent a comprehensive Crime Bill to Capitol Hill. I offered the hand of partnership to Congress, and asked it to help me fight crime on a national level.

Washington Post, p. A1 June 16, 1989

You know, since I first sent that bill to the Hill in 1989, here in the United States, we've had almost 60,000 murders, 260,000 rapes, 1,700,000 robberies and 2,700,000 assaults. 506 of those violent crimes took place right here in Fox Park.

VICKY MAJOR/ FBI/UCR HQ 324-3829

259,000 1,600,000 2,600,000

ST. LOUIS METRO POLICE CHIEF CLARENCE HARMON 314-444-5624

I know the numbers are staggering. I know that Americans sit down in front of their TVs at night... watch the news and say... why doesn't somebody do something about this incredible mess? People are dying in the streets, for God's sake.

Well... twelve-hundred and one days later... Congress still hasn't acted on my Bill.

I think if they had a glacier on Capitol Hill, they'd name it "Speedy."//

But frustrating as this Crime Bill has been for me... it's still my job as President to get results. There are good people on both sides of the issue, working in good faith for a compromise... and I will not rest until this matter is settled.

This very week, we're close to an agreement on a bill the Congress could send me -- and I will sign. The Comprehensive Bill could include, for example, a workable death-penalty provision for horrible murders... committed by terrorists, assassins, drug lords and others of that nature.

But when it comes to crime, we always -- always -- have more to do. We can never rest.

So I want you to know what's on my crime agenda. I'm not asking for anything but common sense and reasonable justice... especially for women, children and elderly victims of crime.

Specifically, I want to ~~offer Federal money and support to help States~~ do the following eight things:

BETSY ANDERSON (2774)/JANE HAVE (3120) SAID MUST OF THIS DOES NOT INVOLVE MONEY; AND ONLY SOME OF THE PROGRAMS ARE DAILY AT FED. LEVEL NOT STATE.

One, apprehend and severely punish carjackers, like the ones I just described. I want to make carjacking a Federal offense with harsh penalties. I want thugs who take cars at gunpoint to stay in a cell so long that when they get out -- they're too old to drive.//

Two, call deadbeat dads onto the carpet. Right now, a single mother here in Missouri can be struggling to keep the kids fed and clothed on her small salary... while their father's up in Chicago, picking out a new Chevy truck with terrycloth pom-poms and a gun rack. He could be six months behind in child-support, but no one can touch him because he's over state lines. Well, I think that's a disgrace, and it's about time the long arm of the law reaches out over that state line... taps that deadbeat dad on the shoulder... and says loud and clear -- time to pay up, buddy. Cough up the cash or go to jail.

Three, strengthen laws dealing with sexual and domestic violence. To start with, we need to protect the victim's privacy. It's cruel to put her in the spotlight. And I want repeat sex and domestic-violence offenders behind bars until

trial. Today, even a repeat offender can get arrested and be out on bond hours later... stalking his next victim... or beating his wife and kids for turning him in. I want him detained until trial, and I want the prosecution to be able to use past convictions against him. Right now, so-called little details -- like the fact he's a three-time loser -- can't even be mentioned in court. And that's wrong. Let him pay for what he's done.//

Four, crack down on gang violence. I want gangs to be reclassified under the law as criminal enterprises, just like any other organized crime. That way, we can go after the leaders, and we can deal harshly with them, and we can untie the hands of good cops so they can clean up decent neighborhoods. I also want to toughen the penalties for using juveniles in crimes. Gangs right now can send under-age kids out to do their dirty work, because they're minors and they'll get off if they're caught. I think the older gang members should be punished harshly for treating these little kids like bullet fodder.//

Five, protection for the elderly. It's absurd that the folks who've contributed to this society all through their lives have to live in terror when they're old and frail, just because some young punks see them as an easy target. They're as low as the thugs who pick on children, and I want to beef up the laws that put them behind bars so they're not on the streets mugging grandmothers. Instead, they'd be in front of a police camera... mugging pictures for their criminal files.//

Six, Habeas Corpus reform. Habeas Corpus is a fancy way of saying, if you're found guilty of something, you can challenge the decision in court. It's supposed to protect the innocent, but it's turned into a ridiculous perversion of the law. Criminal lawyers use it to postpone justice. A guilty verdict can mean seemingly endless appeals that go on and on, choking our courts and delaying justice. It's about time we put a stop to this travesty of justice. Let them have one Habeas Corpus petition and be done with it.//

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(Brief pause.)

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right... or a life of terrible wrong. It all depends on the kind of soil you plant these kids in... and how you nourish them.

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I know you want to just be able to walk down to Worth's Market, or down to Fox Park for a stroll, or over to Bartlett's Grocery Store for a newspaper and (Mary's Restaurant) for a cup of

She's a bigtime Democrat

coffee... and you want to do it knowing you're safe in your own neighborhood, that you've helped build and kept alive.

I think John Mirgaux said it best. He lives ~~next to that~~ near start old crack house over on Ohio. And he said he and his wife Eleanor had been thinking about selling their house and just moving away from the drugs and all the ugly crime.

But you know... he's lived in Fox Hill his whole life. It's <u>his</u> neighborhood.

And after the raid... he and Eleanor did some thinking. And he put it this way. He said:

"You know, I've been waiting for this to happen. Now... we're going to make a stand."

Please join us... join John and Eleanor... and Ohio Avenue... and Fox Park... and St. Louis... and Missouri... and this whole United States... and make a stand against crime <u>today</u>.

Because the people deserve it.

Thank you... thank you all for listening... God bless Fox Park, Missouri... and God bless the United States of America.

Crime Statistics: 9/25/92

SOURCE: St. Louis Metropolitan Police Dept. figures violent crime in Fox Park [mid 89-8/31/92]

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UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING

Date: 9-25-92 **FAX:** (202) 324-6495

From: Front Office ____
Crime Statistics Unit ____
Research and Analysis Unit ____
Training and Development Unit ____
User Services Unit X

Contact: CARLOS DAVIS **Phone:** 324-3827 or 5015

Number of pages: 2 (including cover sheet)

To: JEANNIE BUNTON (WHITE HOUSE)

ESTIMATED VIOLENT CRIMES FOR SPECIFIC TIME FRAMES IN 1989

Estimated Violent Crime Offense Totals, United States, June 1989 and July - December 1989

	Estimated Murder	Estimated Forcible Rape	Estimated Robbery	Estimated Aggravated Assault	Estimated Violent Crime Total
June	1,763	8,411	43,953	84,702	138,829
July-Dec.	11,395	49,896	307,093	495,841	864,225
Total	21,500	94,500	578,330	951,710	1,646,040

SEP-25-1992 08:32 FROM FBI UCR TO 9202456621B P.02/02

UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING

Date: 9/24/92 **FAX:** (202) 324-6495

From: Front Office ____
Crime Statistics Unit ____
Research and Analysis Unit ____
Training and Development Unit ____
User Services Unit ✓

Contact: Vicki Major **Phone:** (202) 324-5015

Number of pages: 11 (including cover sheet)

To: Jeannie Burton
White House

Nat'l Crime Info. Ctr.

David Nemecek

(Nem-i-check)

324-2606

UCR

Table 1.—Index of Crime, United States, 1972-1991

Population[1]	Crime index total[2]	Modified Crime Index total[3]	Violent crime[4]	Property crime[4]	Murder and non-negligent man-slaughter	Forcible rape	Robbery	Aggra-vated assault	Burglary	Larceny-theft	Motor vehicle theft	Arson[3]
	Number of Offenses											
Population by year:												
1972-208,230,000	8,248,800		834,900	7,413,900	18,670	46,850	376,290	393,090	2,375,500	4,151,200	887,200	
1973-209,851,000	8,718,100		875,910	7,842,200	19,640	51,400	384,220	420,650	2,565,500	4,347,900	928,800	
1974-211,392,000	10,253,400		974,720	9,278,700	20,710	55,400	442,400	456,210	3,039,200	5,262,500	977,100	
1975-213,124,000	11,292,400		1,039,710	10,252,700	20,510	56,090	470,500	492,620	3,265,300	5,977,700	1,009,600	
1976-214,659,000	11,349,700		1,004,210	10,345,500	18,780	57,080	427,810	500,530	3,108,700	6,270,800	966,000	
1977-216,332,000	10,984,500		1,029,580	9,955,000	19,120	63,500	412,610	534,350	3,071,500	5,905,700	977,700	
1978-218,059,000	11,209,000		1,085,550	10,123,400	19,560	67,610	426,930	571,460	3,128,300	5,991,000	1,004,100	
1979-220,099,000	12,249,500		1,208,030	11,041,500	21,460	76,390	480,700	629,480	3,327,700	6,601,000	1,112,800	
1980-225,349,264	13,408,300		1,344,520	12,063,700	23,040	82,990	565,840	672,650	3,795,200	7,136,900	1,131,700	
1981-229,146,000	13,423,800		1,361,820	12,061,900	22,520	82,500	592,910	663,900	3,779,700	7,194,400	1,087,800	
1982-231,534,000	12,974,400		1,322,390	11,652,000	21,010	78,770	553,130	669,480	3,447,100	7,142,500	1,062,400	
1983-233,981,000	12,108,600		1,258,090	10,850,500	19,310	78,920	506,570	653,290	3,129,900	6,712,800	1,007,900	
1984-236,158,000	11,881,800		1,273,280	10,608,500	18,690	84,230	485,010	685,350	2,984,400	6,591,900	1,032,200	
1985-238,740,000	12,431,400		1,328,800	11,102,600	18,980	88,670	497,870	723,250	3,073,300	6,926,400	1,102,900	
1986-241,077,000	13,211,900		1,489,170	11,722,700	20,610	91,460	542,780	834,320	3,241,400	7,257,200	1,224,100	
1987-243,400,000	13,508,700		1,484,000	12,024,700	20,100	91,110	517,700	855,090	3,236,200	7,499,900	1,288,700	
1988-245,807,000	13,923,100		1,566,220	12,356,900	20,680	92,490	542,970	910,090	3,218,100	7,705,900	1,432,900	
1989-248,239,000	14,251,400		1,646,040	12,605,400	21,500	94,500	578,330	951,710	3,168,200	7,872,400	1,564,800	
1990-248,709,873	14,475,600		1,820,130	12,655,500	23,440	102,560	639,270	1,054,860	3,073,900	7,945,700	1,635,900	
1991-252,177,000	14,872,900		1,911,770	12,961,100	24,700	106,590	687,730	1,092,740	3,157,200	8,142,200	1,661,700	
Percent change: number of offenses:												
1991/1990	+2.7		+5.0	+2.4	+5.4	+3.9	+7.6	+3.6	+2.7	+2.5	+1.6	
1991/1987	+10.1		+28.8	+7.8	+22.9	+17.0	+32.8	+27.8	−2.4	+8.6	+28.9	
1991/1982	+14.6		+44.6	+11.2	+17.6	+35.3	+24.3	+63.2	−8.4	+14.0	+56.4	
	Rate per 100,000 Inhabitants											
Year:												
1972	3,961.4		401.0	3,560.4	9.0	22.5	180.7	188.8	1,140.8	1,993.6	426.1	
1973	4,154.4		417.4	3,737.0	9.4	24.5	183.1	200.5	1,222.5	2,071.9	442.6	
1974	4,850.4		461.1	4,389.3	9.8	26.2	209.3	215.8	1,437.7	2,489.5	462.2	
1975	5,298.5		487.8	4,810.7	9.6	26.3	220.8	231.1	1,532.1	2,804.8	473.7	
1976	5,287.3		467.8	4,819.5	8.8	26.6	199.3	233.2	1,448.2	2,921.3	450.0	
1977	5,077.6		475.9	4,601.7	8.8	29.4	190.7	247.0	1,419.8	2,729.9	451.9	
1978	5,140.3		497.8	4,642.5	9.0	31.0	195.8	262.1	1,434.6	2,747.4	460.5	
1979	5,565.5		548.9	5,016.6	9.7	34.7	218.4	286.0	1,511.9	2,999.1	505.6	
1980	5,950.0		596.6	5,353.3	10.2	36.8	251.1	298.5	1,684.1	3,167.0	502.2	
1981	5,858.2		594.3	5,263.9	9.8	36.0	258.7	289.7	1,649.5	3,139.7	474.7	
1982	5,603.6		571.1	5,032.5	9.1	34.0	238.9	289.2	1,488.8	3,084.8	458.8	
1983	5,175.0		537.7	4,637.4	8.3	33.7	216.5	279.2	1,337.7	2,868.9	430.8	
1984	5,031.3		539.2	4,492.1	7.9	35.7	205.4	290.2	1,263.7	2,791.3	437.1	
1985	5,207.1		556.6	4,650.5	7.9	37.1	208.5	302.9	1,287.3	2,901.2	462.0	
1986	5,480.4		617.7	4,862.6	8.6	37.9	225.1	346.1	1,344.6	3,010.3	507.8	
1987	5,550.0		609.7	4,940.3	8.3	37.4	212.7	351.3	1,329.6	3,081.3	529.4	
1988	5,664.2		637.2	5,027.1	8.4	37.6	220.9	370.2	1,309.2	3,134.9	582.9	
1989	5,741.0		663.1	5,077.9	8.7	38.1	233.0	383.4	1,276.3	3,171.3	630.4	
1990	5,820.3		731.8	5,088.5	9.4	41.2	257.0	424.1	1,235.9	3,194.8	657.8	
1991	5,897.8		758.1	5,139.7	9.8	42.3	272.7	433.3	1,252.0	3,228.8	659.0	
Percent change: rate per 100,000 inhabitants:												
1991/1990	+1.3		+3.6	+1.0	+4.3	+2.7	+6.1	+2.2	+1.3	+1.1	+.2	
1991/1987	+6.3		+24.3	+4.1	+18.6	+13.1	+28.2	+23.3	−5.8	+4.8	+24.5	
1991/1982	+5.3		+32.7	+2.1	+7.6	+24.4	+14.1	+49.8	−15.9	+4.7	+43.6	

[1]Populations are Bureau of the Census provisional estimates as of July 1, except 1980 and 1990 which are the decennial census counts.
[2]Because of rounding, the offenses may not add to totals.
[3]Although arson data are included in the trend and clearance tables, sufficient data are not available to estimate totals for this offense.
[4]Violent crimes are offenses of murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Property crimes are offenses of burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft. Data are not included for the property crime of arson.

All rates were calculated on the offenses before rounding.

Data for 1991 were not available for the State of Iowa; therefore, it was necessary that their crime counts be estimated. See "Offense Estimation," page 377 for details.

RETURN A RECORD CARD

89 (YEAR) MO (STATE) SAINT LOUIS (AGENCY) 754 (SMSA) MOSPD00 1 4 (ORI GR DIV) 405,066 (POPULATION) 08/04/90 (DATE)

MONTH	1 MURDER	2 FORCIBLE RAPE	3 ROBBERY	4A-D AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	4E SIMPLE ASSAULT	5 BURGLARY	6 LARCENY-THEFT	7 MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	TOTAL 1-7	8 ARSON	EXPANDED INDEX TOTAL	POLICE OFFICERS KILLED FEL	POLICE OFFICERS KILLED NEG	POLICE OFFICERS ASSAULTED	
JANUARY	18	24	375	575	697	1253	2090	755	5090	51	5141			42	
FEBRUARY	12	16	240	440	580	911	1774	725	4118	39	4157			52	
MARCH	12	25	328	560	804	1072	2145	790	4932	45	4977			36	
3MO. TOT	42	65	943	1575	2081	3236	6009	2270	14140	135	14275			130	
APRIL	8	26	332	702	952	1015	2145	646	4874	46	4920			41	
MAY A	15	25	301	703	951	1041	2247	692	5024	52	5076			65	A
JUNE	10	26	336	703	864	1181	2266	691	5213	50	5263			49	
6MO. TOT	75	142	1912	3683	4748	6473	12667	4299	29251	283	29534			285	
JULY	14	29	352	796	877	1238	2487	868	5784	73	5857			79	
AUGUST	17	31	392	829	980	1417	2756	816	6258	64	6322			40	
SEPTEMBER	11	37	354	738	1175	1206	2299	627	5272	32	5304	1		61	
9MO. TOT	117	239	3010	6046	7756	10334	20209	6610	46565	452	47017	1		465	
OCTOBER	13	26	444	836	1107	1244	2481	736	5780	63	5843			55	
NOVEMBER A	16	38	414	590	923	1226	2243	786	5313	47	5360			63	A
DECEMBER A	12	27	352	464	774	1033	1736	800	4424	39	4463			62	A
12MO. TOT	83 158	188	330	2308 4220	4253	7936	10564	13837	26669	8932	62082	601	62683	1	645
TOT CLEARED	145	224	1108	4583	7520	2111	4375	1165	13711		13711				
JUV CLEARED	17	21	129	601	592	220	373	405	1766		1766				

MONTH	RAPE FORCIBLE	RAPE ATTEMPT	ROBBERY GUN	ROBBERY KNIFE	ROBBERY OTHER WEAPON	ROBBERY STRONG-ARM	AGGRAVATED ASSAULT GUN	AGGRAVATED ASSAULT KNIFE	AGGRAVATED ASSAULT OTHER WEAPON	AGGRAVATED ASSAULT PERSONAL WEAPON	BURGLARY FORCIBLE ENTRY	BURGLARY UNLAWFUL ENTRY	BURGLARY ATTEMPTED ENTRY	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT AUTOS	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT TRUCKS BUSES	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT OTHER
JANUARY	19	5	118	24	42	191	235	128	198	14	869	265	119	647	103	5
FEBRUARY	11	5	85	16	21	118	198	73	144	25	665	178	68	654	65	6
MARCH	22	3	89	31	24	184	193	140	205	22	765	195	112	712	70	8
3MO. TOT	52	13	292	71	87	493	626	341	547	61	2299	638	299	2013	238	19
APRIL	20	6	71	37	42	182	224	152	304	22	684	246	85	565	73	8
MAY A	21	4	92	27	26	156	247	125	308	23	683	270	88	605	78	9
JUNE	22	4	65	34	39	198	252	143	279	29	767	328	86	606	75	10
6MO. TOT	115	27	520	169	194	1029	1349	761	1438	135	4433	1482	558	3789	464	46
JULY	23	6	82	33	40	197	264	152	350	30	815	323	100	775	71	22
AUGUST	28	3	108	30	43	211	301	150	347	31	950	366	101	723	79	14
SEPTEMBER	30	7	97	30	40	187	277	136	291	34	783	310	113	546	69	12
9MO. TOT	196	43	807	262	317	1624	2191	1199	2426	230	6981	2481	872	5833	683	94
OCTOBER	25	1	156	46	43	199	337	179	301	19	819	302	123	651	78	7
NOVEMBER A	34	4	156	33	38	187	227	119	220	24	837	272	117	684	98	4
DECEMBER A	24	3	152	23	29	148	192	91	166	15	754	209	70	720	73	7
12MO. TOT	279	51	1271	364	427	2158	2947	1588	3113	288	9391	3264	1182	7888	932	112
T CLEARED	193	31	269	90	112	637	1569	1097	1758	159	1491	473	147	1067	85	13
J CLEARED	19	2	26	6	21	76	239	81	259	22	157	40	23	369	29	7

FORM X320 (11/80)

SEP-24-1992 16:08 FROM FBI UCR TO 94566218 P.11/11

RETURN A RECORD CARD

90 (YEAR) MO (STATE) SAINT LOUIS (AGENCY) 754 (SMSA) MOSPD00 1 4 (ORI GR DIV) 396,685 (POPULATION) 02/21/92 (DATE)

MONTH	1 MURDER	2 FORCIBLE RAPE	3 ROBBERY	4A-D AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	4E SIMPLE ASSAULT	5 BURGLARY	6 LARCENY-THEFT	7 MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	TOTAL 1-7	8 ARSON	EXPANDED INDEX TOTAL	POLICE OFFICERS KILLED FEL	KILLED NEG	ASSAULTED
JANUARY	10	24	408	609	923	1073	2108	794	5026	51	5077			64
FEBRUARY	16	22	350	571	883	899	1794	671	4323	45	4368			63
MARCH	10	37	368	672	1034	856	1869	679	4491	33	4524			80
3MO. TOT	36	83	1126	1852	2840	2828	5771	2144	13840	129	13969			207
APRIL	8	20	348	671	985	820	1789	500	4156	52	4208			48
MAY	16	32	354	868	1099	857	2021	617	4765	63	4828			64
JUNE	16	23	376	828	1031	817	2044	626	4730	46	4776	1		85
6MO. TOT	76	158	2204	4219	5905	5322	11625	3887	27491	290	27781	1		404
JULY	16	41	389	894	1105	996	2330	738	5404	74	5478			67
AUGUST	15	27	468	803	1015	1072	2237	775	5397	68	5465			79
SEPTEMBER	14	31	408	783	917	1077	2017	694	5024	73	5097			83
9MO. TOT	121	257	3469	6699	8942	8467	18209	6094	43316	505	43821	1		633
OCTOBER	17	21	413	690	911	1041	2198	736	5116	65	5181			47
NOVEMBER	22	23	415	571	855	961	2183	772	4947	67	5014			56
DECEMBER	17	30	411	506	675	1062	1974	820	4820	50	4870			42
12MO. TOT	177	331	4708	8466	11383	11531	24564	8422	58199	687	58886	1		778
TOT CLEARED	155	218	1220	4829	8142	1624	4061	1166	13273		13273			
JUV CLEARED	17	30	168	591	715	233	346	361	1746		1746			

MONTH	RAPE FORCIBLE	RAPE ATTEMPT	ROBBERY GUN	ROBBERY KNIFE	ROBBERY OTHER WEAPON	ROBBERY STRONG-ARM	AGGRAVATED ASSAULT GUN	AGGRAVATED ASSAULT KNIFE	AGGRAVATED ASSAULT OTHER WEAPON	AGGRAVATED ASSAULT PERSONAL WEAPON	BURGLARY FORCIBLE ENTRY	BURGLARY UNLAWFUL ENTRY	BURGLARY ATTEMPTED ENTRY	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT AUTOS	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT TRUCKS BUSES	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT OTHER
JANUARY	17	7	143	35	41	189	230	137	225	17	765	224	84	675	110	9
FEBRUARY	20	2	134	40	22	154	201	122	229	19	634	179	86	588	80	3
MARCH	31	6	114	39	37	178	232	143	281	16	591	196	69	617	58	4
3MO. TOT	68	15	391	114	100	521	663	402	735	52	1990	599	239	1880	248	16
APRIL	19	1	104	38	34	172	286	129	233	23	540	214	66	443	47	10
MAY	30	2	145	29	46	134	400	138	303	27	570	211	76	556	49	12
JUNE	21	2	133	30	36	177	326	176	294	32	515	215	87	556	55	15
6MO. TOT	138	20	773	211	216	1004	1675	845	1565	134	3615	1239	468	3435	399	53
JULY	35	6	164	19	36	170	372	141	353	28	645	259	92	635	93	10
AUGUST	22	5	169	35	48	216	286	144	350	23	713	264	95	690	69	16
SEPTEMBER	24	7	154	32	38	184	315	135	309	24	728	262	87	614	73	7
9MO. TOT	219	38	1260	297	338	1574	2648	1265	2577	209	5701	2024	742	5374	634	86
OCTOBER	16	5	140	28	32	213	286	148	233	23	713	241	87	637	88	11
NOVEMBER	21	2	146	40	41	188	223	112	213	23	649	219	93	672	89	11
DECEMBER	24	6	179	34	26	172	219	104	165	18	775	205	82	706	109	5
12MO. TOT	280	51	1725	399	437	2147	3376	1629	3188	273	7838	2689	1004	7389	920	113
T CLEARED	185	33	383	107	100	630	1723	1158	1795	153	1162	367	95	1059	90	17
J CLEARED	25	5	58	9	16	85	260	109	210	12	176	46	11	324	31	6

FORM X-320 (12/80)

SEP-24-1992 16:05 FROM FBI UCR TO 94566218 P.08/11

RETURN A RECORD CARD

91 YEAR	MO STATE	SAINT LOUIS AGENCY	754 SMSA	MOSPD00 1 4 ORI GR DIV	399,858 POPULATION	07/30/92 DATE

MONTH	1 MURDER	2 FORCIBLE RAPE	3 ROBBERY	4A-O AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	4E SIMPLE ASSAULT	5 BURGLARY	6 LARCENY-THEFT	7 MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	TOTAL 1-7	8 ARSON	EXPANDED INDEX TOTAL	POLICE OFFICERS KILLED FEL	KILLED NEG	POLICE OFFICERS ASSAULTED	
JANUARY	21	30	434	406	723	941	1898	713	4443	30	4473			57	
FEBRUARY	12	17	353	464	819	927	1947	677	4397	58	4455			79	
MARCH	20	24	423	604	873	1054	2208	716	5049	70	5119			44	
3MO. TOT	53	71	1210	1474	2415	2922	6053	2106	13889	158	14047			180	
APRIL	17	31	430	669	958	963	2143	663	4916	71	4987			59	
MAY	21	23	394	851	1101	1127	2396	686	5498	82	5580			74	
JUNE	23	19	446	841	1145	1067	2259	810	5465	97	5562			56	
6MO. TOT	114	144	2480	3835	5619	6079	12851	4265	29768	408	30176			369	
JULY	27	35	477	888	1116	1416	2749	916	6508	89	6597			57	
AUGUST	22	45	452	863	991	1424	2649	761	6216	76	6292			50	
SEPTEMBER	35	19	461	840	942	1192	2325	753	5625	90	5715			61	
9MO. TOT	198	243	3870	6426	8668	10111	20574	6695	48117	663	48780			537	
OCTOBER	26	37	521	645	866	1102	2369	771	5471	76	5547			63	
NOVEMBER	15	28	427	512	759	1033	2216	911	5142	59	5201			49	
DECEMBER A	21	34	476	597	712	1150	2222	873	5373	69	5442			66	A
12MO. TOT	260	342	5294	8180	11005	13396	27381	9250	64103	867	64970			715	
TOT CLEARED	207	221	1285	4634	7676	1805	4596	1185	13933		13933				
JUV CLEARED	24	26	135	554	608	224	312	340	1615		1615				

MONTH	RAPE FO	ROBBERY	AGGRAVATED ASSAULT GUN	KNIFE	OTHER WEAPON	PERSONAL WEAPON	BURGLARY FORCIBLE ENTRY	UNLAWFUL ENTRY	ATTEMPTED ENTRY	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT AUTOS	TRUCKS BUSES	OTHER
JANUARY			180	92	123	11	680	186	75	615	94	4
FEBRUARY			176	101	170	17	663	169	95	586	85	6
MARCH			240	130	219	15	774	204	76	612	99	5
3MO. TOT			596	323	512	43	2117	559	246	1813	278	15
APRIL			300	120	225	24	628	244	91	553	96	14
MAY			338	164	316	33	733	286	108	582	93	11
JUNE			325	169	317	30	702	282	83	702	87	21
6MO. TOT			1559	776	1370	130	4180	1371	528	3650	554	61
JULY			383	132	348	25	978	324	114	789	108	19
AUGUST			417	130	285	31	979	339	106	644	110	7
SEPTEMBER			419	138	258	25	811	282	99	633	108	12
9MO. TOT			2778	1176	2261	211	6948	2316	847	5716	880	99
OCTOBER			295	124	209	17	747	257	98	685	78	8
NOVEMBER			224	86	180	22	718	230	85	797	105	9
DECEMBER A			268	112	197	20	837	225	88	754	119	
12MO. TOT			3565	1498	2847	270	9250	3028	1118	7952	1182	116
T CLEARED			1702	1148	1651	133	1300	402	103	1081	100	4
J CLEARED			249	94	195	16	162	47	15	307	33	

Jeannie - We need to find out St. Louis METRO population + get to Dan - Ka

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DRAFT

Crime

1992 Presidential Campaign

Asked if he favored the President's crime bill, Clinton told Larry King, "I favor large parts of it. I'm for a lot of the tough law enforcement provisions that he talks about, but I have to say once again, the President has on crime said one thing and done another. He could have had the Brady Bill, a year ago, ... and he didn't want that. He has actually cut back on aid to local law enforcement officials, the kind of things that would enable us to hire more street police, to have community policing and do things we know reduce crime. So, I'm for tougher penalties. I'm a supporter of capital punishment. We have it here at home. I'm for stronger penalties for serious offenders. I've built a lot more prison cells. But I also think the police on the street need more help, and we ought to pass the Brady Bill, and that's where he ought to direct his energy. So he's playing politics with the crime bill, too."[1]

In his definitive "New Covenant" policy speech at Georgetown University on October 23, 1991, Clinton referred only in passing to the problem of crime in America. He offered no program for dealing with increasing crime, rather he challenged its victims to "do the rest" once government has "offered them the chance to develop their God-given abilities." Clinton proposed this anti-crime package: inner city young people should "play by the rules, stay off drugs, stay in school, and keep out of the streets, stop having children if they're not prepared to support them, and for those young people who do get into trouble, we'll give them one chance to avoid prison, by setting up community boot camps for first-time non-violent offenders -- where they can learn discipline, get drug treatment if necessary, continue their education, and do useful work for their community." He makes no mention of specific anti-drug programs, sentencing reform, or any other major crime issues. Clinton's approach to stopping crime was evident during the summer of 1991, when gang violence unexpectedly erupted in Little Rock. Clinton, either unable or unwilling, took no decisive action; he appointed a panel to make recommendations on possible solutions. After several unproductive meetings and amid mounting criticism from local and state leaders, Clinton attended a panel meeting and suggested, "Let's hear from the young people, what the heck they want us to do."[2] Little to no substantive state action was taken and the violence has subsided, but Clinton since has been criticized for his response and failure to supply meaningful state assistance.

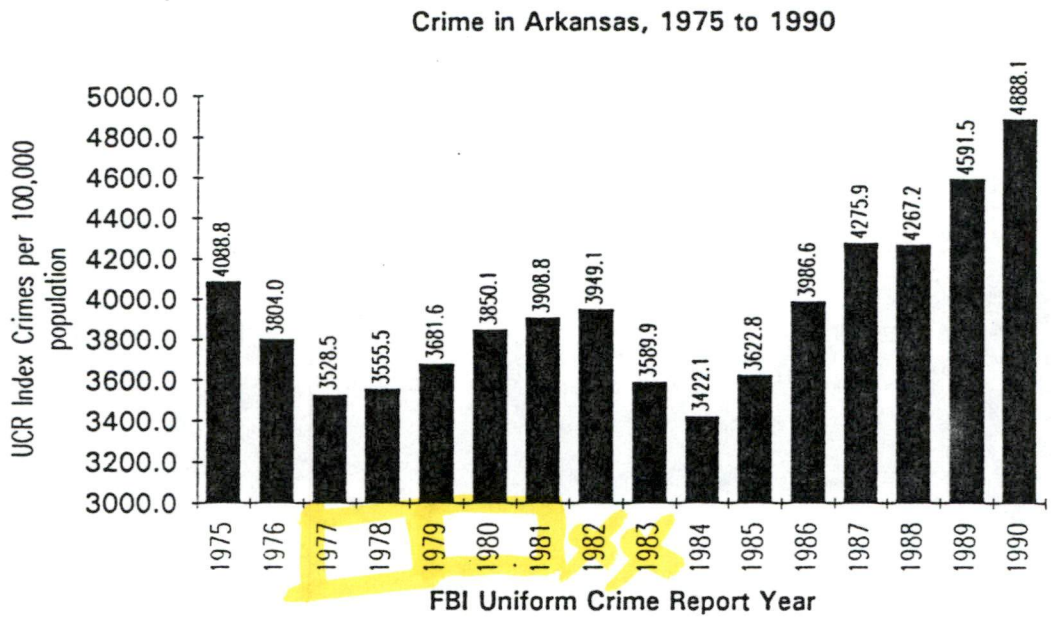
Crime in Arkansas

A recent study by the New York City Police Department rated Little Rock first on a list of 46 cities of comparable size for major crimes, with a crime rate increase of 73 percent from 1984 to 1990.[3] This statistic fits into the larger picture of increasing crime in Arkansas during Clinton's tenure.

According to a 1991 report by the Arkansas Crime Information Center (ACIC), violent crime in Arkansas has nearly doubled in the last 10 years, increasing 95 percent

between 1981 and 1991.[4] A similar report in 1990 showed a 10-year increase of 81 percent. The increase just since 1986 was 49 percent. And according to a U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee report, Arkansas violent crime increased 8.9 percent from 1989 to 1990.[5] However, a study by ACIC showed violent crime increasing 14 percent over the same time period. Among the 15 rural states examined in the Senate Judiciary Committee report, Arkansas ranked fifth in the total number of violent crimes.[6] The ACIC study also showed that, from 1989 to 1990, murder increased 12.6 percent and rape 16.2 percent.[7] And the figures for the first half of 1991 were up 8 percent compared to the same period in 1990. In 1990, Arkansas saw a record number of both murders, 239, and rapes, 1,009.[8]

The chart below summarizes the Uniform Crime Report figures compiled by the FBI between 1975 and 1990. Note that under the Clinton administrations, 1979-81 and 1983 to the present, crime is trending upward. During the 1981-83 period while Clinton was out of office, crime trends peaked and headed sharply downward. It is also relevant to note that Clinton, as Arkansas Attorney General, was the state's chief law enforcement officer from 1977 to 1979. Crime rose during that period after dropping prior to his tenure.



Source: Crime In Arkansas, Arkansas Crime Information Center, various years.

Corrections in Arkansas

In the 1984 Democratic Governors' Association's "View from the States," Clinton wrote that the Arkansas strategy for meeting the challenge of effective prison management can be decribed as: "Nobody should be held in maximum custody who can be managed in less rigorous conditions. Nobody should be held in prison who can be

safely released to community supervision. And nobody should be supervised more closely than safety requires." Clinton continues, writing that his "philosophy of prison management is based on two sound principles. First, ... lowering supervision, where appropriate, will help curtail the growing costs of building and staffing facilities. Second, by offering prisoners the opportunity to enjoy greater freedom we increase the incentives for rehabilitation."[9]

Clinton has apparently followed this plan since then. Corrections Board Chairman James Mason said in March 1991 that the average *sentence* for convicts in Arkansas is "144 months, 12 years. I know of only two other states [Hawaii and Ohio] that have longer ones." In December 1986, Clinton told the Adult Probation Commission that inmates actually *served* an average of 44 months and that, in 1977, when he was attorney general, inmates *served* an average of 27 months in prison.[10] State Board of Parole and Community Rehabilitation Chairman Mike Gaines said in 1991 that, "Arkansas prison inmates *serve* between six months and 18 months on average, regardless of their original sentences, and numbers like that leave the public with little confidence in the justice system."[11] Gaines also said one of the biggest concerns is that almost no inmate serves a full sentence. One reason maybe lenient plea bargaigning: during the first six months of operation in 1990, for example, one state drug task force won convictions in 13 cases, but every defendent avoided a prison sentence by "handing over money and cars."[12]

Incarceration Statistics: The 1991 *Arkansas Abstract* reports the incarceration rate in 1988 was 223.4 per 100,000 in population; this figure climbed to 262 in 1989. Arkansas ranked 5th lowest among 15 southern states in this category in the latter year. The racial make-up of the inmate population is as follows: 49.3 percent white, 50.3 percent black; 94.4 percent male, 5.6 percent female. 27 inmates were on death row in 1988; by 1991 the number had grown to 35.[13] (See below for more information concerning the death penalty in Arkansas.)

A 1990 survey of state corrections departments showed Arkansas has the lowest per inmate spending per day in the country. And Arkansas ranked 8th in the least inmate escapes. The same study showed Arkansas spends only two-thirds the national average on a maximum security prison bed. Arkansas Department of Correction spokesman David White said, "With regard to inmate spending ... much of the saving comes from the department's farming operation."[14] Of the 30 states that gave corrections assistance to localities in 1987 (latest year of available data), Arkansas ranked 27th, with Clinton sending a total of $848,000 to municipalities. In prior years, Arkansas' ranks and amount of local aid were as follows:

1986 - 26th out of 33, $$1.322 million
1985 - 28th out of 31, $636,000
1984 - 25th out of 29, $409,000
1983 - 27th out of 28, $204,000

In early January 1992, Board of Corrections Chairman James Mason, whom Clinton appointed in 1987, resigned amid reports of strained relations with Clinton. Clinton had publicly criticized some of Mason's spending of publicly funded expense accounts in the summer of 1990. Mason claimed Clinton was playing politics during

the gubernatorial election season, but Clinton denied the charges. Mason's replacement is Janis McSpadden Walmsley, wife of former state Senator Bill Walmsley. Walmsley is currently seeking an exclusive state contract to dispose of scrap tires under terms of a recent and Clinton-backed revision of state contracting law.

Prison Conditions and Overcrowding: Darnell Stone, an inmate at the Tucker unit of the Arkansas Department of Corrections serving a six-year sentence for battery, died April 3, 1992 after suffering what prison officials called "a dramatic seizure." Although Stone had suffered since childhood from and took medication for a condition that did cause seizures, the state medical examiner, Dr. Charles Sturner, reported that Stone's death was the result of complications from a "severe blow" in the abdominal area: "[T]his is a homicide and it is under investigation." Apparently, Stone's small intestine had ruptured and the infection led to peritonitis, which supposedly went unnoticed by prison medical staff until Stone stumbled into the infirmary, apparently went into a seizure, and died. (It was reported that a person with this disease shows very clear and often dramatic symptoms.) Prison officials claim Stone had been involved in a fight a few days prior to his death, but the medical examiner said the blow which ruptured Stone's intestine occured well before the day of the fight. Prison system spokesman David White said, "Our preliminary information is that it was trauma-related .... It could have occured as the result of a fall."[15] An investigation by the Arkansas State Police failed to identify the responsible party in the death. Jefferson County Prosecuting Attorney Wayne Matthews said police were "not able to determine anyone responsible. Matthews added, "The investigation did not address the reported lack of treatment." Thus ended the investigation.[16]

Arkansas, like many states around the nation, has experienced severe prison overcrowding throughout much of Clinton's tenure. Gaines says the Arkansas Department of Correction has been full for years, now responsible for 7,226 prisoners but with only a 6,985-inmate capacity (as of August 1991).[17] A new prison has recently been completed, but that will only temporarily relieve the longstanding overcrowding. Correction Department Director A.L. Lockhart said in January 1992, "We've got one more year before inmates start backing up (in county jails) again." Lockhart said the prison population has been growing at a rate of more than 1,000 inmates a year.[18] The situation was worst during Clinton's first term when the prison system was under federal supervision, imposed in 1978 due to its unconstitutional overcrowding. The system was released from federal oversight in 1982, during the White administration. However, Correction Department officials said in 1986 that the system had been at or over full capacity every month since August 1983, shortly after Clinton regained the state house. The prison population has nearly tripled since 1980, from 2,811 to 7,508 in 1991. The Corrections budget has increased from $13.3 million in 1980 to $77 million in 1991.[19] After the 1991 legislative session, Clinton appointed one of his famous commissions to explore solutions to overcrowding which did not require new prison construction. As yet, no report or other information is available.

While Clinton was attorney general, Arkansas passed new sentencing laws that required first time convicts to serve at least one-third of their sentences, second time

offenders at least half, and so on. This began to swell the inmate population. In October 1986, state prisons were 180 inmates over their limit, and 341 convicts were having to stay in county jails. As the gubernatorial election approached, Clinton was criticized for what the *Arkansas Gazette* described as "the deaths, stabbings, and sexual assaults" that were increasing in the overcrowded state prisons. The Correction Board considered using a 1983 Clinton-enacted law allowing the governor to commute sentences by 90 days in an overcrowding emergency upon the Board's request.[20] Clinton originally said it was up to the Board to make the request, but when they did in January 1987, Clinton refused to invoke the law. Finally, in April 1987, Clinton did invoke the law and one of the inmates released early, Larry Dean Robertson, later stabbed a woman to death.[21]

In May 1990 (another election year), "634 state inmates were backed up in county jails. Another 95 prison inmates were 'farmed out' to counties to keep the prison system within its 6,130-bed capacity." The emergency release law, which Clinton did not use in 1986, has been invoked every month from June 1989 through September 1991.[22] Tom McRae, Clinton's 1990 Democratic primary opponent, blamed the crisis on a lack of leadership from the governor. Using what has since become a familiar refrain on the 1992 presidential campaign trail, Clinton said then that the problem in Arkansas was no worse than in other states, claiming that the prisoner backlog was only 7 to 8 percent of the inmate population.

The prison population in Arkansas' state facilities has been growing at a rate of 1,000 inmates each year recently. The system's 13 facilities currently can handle 7,335 inmates (as of January 1992) and a 600-bed facility currently under construction will increase that to about 8,000. But, prison director A.L. Lockhart says, "[T]hose are our last beds," and that "we've got one more year before inmates start backing up again." The overflow is usually held in county jails, many of which are financially unable to sustain the kinds of numbers that have consistently been required due to the lack of beds in state prisons. With the help of state prosecutors, Clinton developed the Fast Track plan, which attempts to get short-term inmates out of county jails and into the state facilities so they will be out of the system quickly, making room for the longer term inmates. The program has not been entirely sucessful, and many sheriffs are against it.[23]

Although Clinton has approved the building of new prisons over the years, not all of them have been without controversy. The state Board of Correction considered in 1986 building a new prison in Calico Rock, a small north-central Arkansas town reliant on tourism (the area is near the Ozark National Forest) and the influx of retirees. A public outcry arose when the Board chose Calico Rock for its new prison in 1987. The local citizens formed the Prison Opposition Committee to oppose its construction, but, according to its members, were excluded from the decision-making process by the state's politicians. Construction began in fall 1988 and was still under construction as of May 1991.[24]

The Federal Bureau of Prisons is also considering building a prison complex, including a 500-bed high-security facility, at Forrest City, Arkansas. As of a January 30, 1992 report, the decision had not been made and could be another year off, after an environmental impact study is completed. Forrest City has an extremely high

unemployment rate, making the projected 150 local jobs very attractive. The complex would bring some $32 million into the local economy.[25]

Boot Camps: One of Clinton's favorite prison reform ideas is boot camps for first-time, non-violent offenders. He is advocating them in his presidential stump speeches and he has instituted a boot camp program in Arkansas. In summer 1991, however, the commander of the state Department of Correction boot camp program resigned.[26] "I quit because the program is going backwards and I wasn't going to be a part of that. It is slowly being chipped away," boot camp program director Capt. Tom Matthews asserted. Matthews cited infighting within the Department of Corrections, saying some want the boot camp program to fail. "I think the senior staff looks at it like a threat because this place takes prisoners and rehabilitates them and puts them back on the street."[27]

Not everyone is sold on the success of the boot camps, however. "There's no evidence anywhere that the boot camps work," says Jerry Miller, director of the National Center on Institutions and Alternatives. The Center advocates prison reform and runs correctional programs in Maryland. Dale Parent, a policy consultant with Abt Associates in Cambridge, Mass., conducted a 1987-88 Justice Department study of prison boot camps in eight states. He said, "My general understanding is that so far, we haven't really shown that the boot camps are effective in changing post-release behavior."[28] Yet, as Arkansas Corrections Department spokesman David White pointed out in 1991, "The cost per prisoner per day is higher for boot camp than the $26.60 average for the entire prison system."[29]

Corrections Budget and Operations: The graph below shows the budget for the Arkansas Department of Corrections (DoC) from 1979 to 1993. Note that budget allocations for the remainder of fiscal year 1992 and 1993 may be changed due to overall revenue shortfalls requiring budget cuts in certain departments. Information on specific cuts in the Corrections Department is not yet available.

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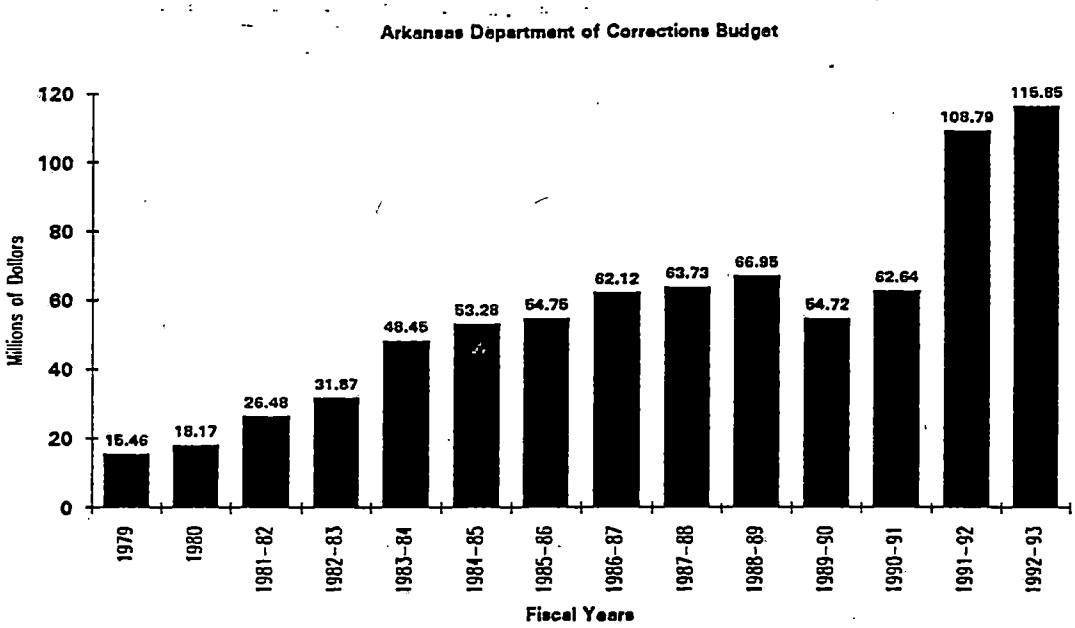

Within the Department are various divisions which are designed to rehabilitate prisoners and, in some cases, provide revenue-generating services to the Department itself. The Agriculture Division uses prisoners to produce consumable foodstuffs for the inmate population. (This program has also provided free food and goods to many top-level Department employees, over and above their legislated salaries. This benefit has recently come under fire. For more, see below.) The prison farms also turn a profit helping to offset the operating expeditures of the department. Among the crops produced on about 11,000 acres of department owned cropland are cotton, rice, soybeans, wheat, and corn; a 4,000 acre beef ranch is also operated.

The Department of Corrections Industry Division is a self-supporting vocational training program which consists of a duplicating plant and a sign shop, a graphic arts program, a garment factory, and a mattress factory. The items are sold to other state agencies at a minimal cost and, at the same time, provides job training for inmates. In 1985, a program in which inmates transcribe textbooks into Braille was started. The Construction Division uses inmate labor to building new facilities and repair existing ones. This use of prison labor saves the DoC an estimated 50 percent on labor costs.

The DoC School District was created in 1973. The inmates' curriculum is non-graded, provides for continual progress, and operates on a 10-month scholastic year. Students are given time off from their job assignments in order to take classes. The typical yearly participation rate was around 600 to 700 inmates. In 1979, and similarly in later years, the average participant's IQ was 96.4; the average education level was fifth grade. The program seeks to graduate 10 percent of the inmates each year.

The vocational education program, which seeks to train inmates in skills which will help them gain employment upon release, is partially funded through federal job training programs.

The substance abuse program was initiated in 1980 to serve 300 inmates. The program was begun to deal with the 75 to 80 percent of inmates whose crimes were drug and alcohol related.

Clemency Record: In the January 19, 1992 Democratic debate, Clinton said "no parole is appropriate for sex offenders." But during his first term as governor, Clinton commuted the life sentences of five rapists as well as the lesser sentence of another rapist. One of these six cases involved the rape of a 5-year-old girl. Frank White, Clinton's Republican opponent in 1982, ran an ad criticizing Clinton for this decision; Clinton responded at the time by saying, "[T]he man was 70 years old, had served 15 years, was crippled with cancer and law enforcement officials hadn't objected."[30]

During his first two-year term as governor, Clinton commuted 70 prison sentences, including 40 life sentences which had been imposed for murder or rape. After losing the 1980 race, partly due to this record, Clinton won back the governorship while promising "not to commute so many sentences if ... given another chance"[31] and that "he would never again commute the sentence of someone serving a life term."[32] Clinton's clemency policy reversal came, according to spokesman Mike Gauldin, because "[h]e [Clinton] just felt like the policy he previously used was not in line with what the people of Arkansas expected and wanted."[33] He lived up to his 1982 campaign promise until he commuted three life sentences in 1988 and another in 1991, among a total of 7 commutations from 1983 through 1991 (one each in 1983, 1986 and 1991, and four in 1988).

One of the murderers whose sentence was commuted by Clinton in 1979 was James L. Surridge. Surridge had been in jail since 1964 and was 73 years old and near death when released. Surridge's sentence was commuted on November 28, 1979 and he was released on February 13, 1980. Surridge later that year, shot and killed Russell Ratliff, 61, in a robbery in Pine Bluff. Asked in a 1989 interview about the case, Clinton said, "You always think about something like that. That old man was not as sick as people thought he was."[34]

More recently, Clinton refused to grant clemency to one death row inmate, Rickey Ray Rector, who was brain-damaged. Rector was executed in January 1992 (see below). Clinton also delegated to Lt. Governor Jim Guy Tucker the decision of whether to grant clemency to Wayne Dumond, convicted of rape and castrated in his home by unidentified assailants while awaiting trial on bail.[35] Dumond's victim was a relative of Clinton's and Clinton had refused to grant clemency since the 1985 emasculation.

Below is the clemency record of Governor Clinton from 1979 through 1985 (note: for comparison purposes, 1981-82 is Republican Governor Frank White's record).

YEAR	Clemency referrals	Clemency granted
1979	93	37
1980	108	101
1981-82	143	20

1983-84	95	23
1984	41	0
1985	59	22

Extradition cases: In May 1985, Clinton refused to extradite Little Rock resident Cathy Cowan who was wanted in New York on felony cocaine charges. The reason: Clinton felt that New York's mandatory sentence for first time felony drug offenders was too harsh and extraditing her would have been "unconscionable."[36] Cowan was arrested at Kennedy International Airport on April 23, 1984 upon returning from a cocaine-buying trip to Venezuela with her boyfriend. The two were students at Choate Rosemary Hall prep school in Connecticut at the time. The cocaine they purchased was allegedly being sold to other students. New York's minimum sentence for this level of drug trafficking called for a 15 year to life without parole sentence. Eventually the two were also charged by federal authorities. The most recent evidence suggests that the state of New York would drop its charges as the federal counts would be pre-emptive. The case was part of a 1984 "60 Minutes" segment.

Cowan's lawyer in Little Rock was a friend and campaign contributor of Clinton's and worked at the same firm that represented Clinton's brother Roger when he was brought up on cocaine trafficking charges in 1984.

On May 31, 1985, "a mildly agitated Governor Bill Clinton" said he would agree to the extradition only if the state of New York would reduce the charges and the possible prison sentence to between one and six years with early parole or probation. In response, the Queen's district attorney stated he had entered plea bargaining offers with Cowan's lawyer which had been publicly reported, adding that Clinton "is aware of the plea negotiations process" and saying, "He [Clinton] should understand that we in New York have compassion, even as we seek to enforce our laws against a common danger to all states: The importation of dangerous drugs."

The same day, Clinton spoke to reporters about the case and, according to reports, at one point told an argumentative radio reporter: "I made the decision, and I'm the governor, and it was my decision to make. Perhaps you disagree with that decision. If you disagree, then perhaps you should try to succeed me."[37]

Clinton took a contradictory position when he was seeking the extradition from California of an escaped convict in 1980. He was angry that another state would claim jurisdiction over the case. The California Supreme Court blocked the extradition of Jimmy Dean Walker (whose conviction was suspect to begin with) due to the conditions of Arkansas prisons, which the California court claimed violated Walker's 8th amendment rights to protection against cruel and unusual punishment. At the time, Clinton made these statements: "I'm so angry. Who do they think they are? Are we under their jurisdiction? ... This is a real affront to the integrity of this state. It's just outrageous. We're going to fight until the last dog dies." Ultimately, Walker was extradited but apparently the California high court's concerns were justified as the federal court with jurisdiction decided Walker would be safer in a federal prison in Oklahoma.

DRAFT

Arkansas Furlough Programs

The primary objective of the Work Release/Pre-release Program is to instill good working habits, financial responsibility for themselves and their families, and an understanding of the law in order to become law-abiding and productive citizens.

In April 1992, Clinton suspended good behavior furloughs after Charles Lloyd Patterson, serving a 40-year prison sentence for soliciting to commit murder among other charges, escaped while on furlough and hijacked a small plane and fled. Clinton ordered state law enforcement agencies to cooperate with the FBI, which had jurisdiction in the hijacking case. Patterson boarded the chartered plane and forced the pilot at gunpoint to land in Carlisle. After forcing the pilot to leave the plane, Patterson then flew himself to Sulphur Springs, Texas, where the plane, but not Patterson, was found three days later. Patterson was also being sought for robbing a Batesville, Arkansas couple of $700 the day he escaped. Clinton had asked for a review of the furlough system in January. After this incident, Clinton again asked the Corrections Board for an "immediate and thorough review" of the system. David White, Corrections Board spokesman, said, "The number of problems as a result of meritorious furloughs compared with the number granted is miniscule." Patterson was formerly with the state Alcohol Beverage Control Department, but was fired in 1977 after being charged with bribery.[38]

Reports that "[a]n inmate on a five-day furlough from the state Department of Correction in August stabbed a Little Rock woman," surfaced in October 1991. According to the reports, Travis Jones, 34, was released August 12 to go to Clark County, where he has relatives. Although inmates on furlough are supposed to stay in the county to which they are furloughed and report daily to authorities, on August 14, Jones had his brother drive him to Little Rock to the home of Shirley Williams. Jones was supposed to be there to pick up some clothing, but he stayed for an extended period, the police said. Williams went to bed and awoke early in the morning to find Jones in bed with her and her son. She made a comment to Jones and he responded by going to the kitchen, retrieving a butcher knife and returning to stab Williams twice, the police said. Jones took a gun from the home and fled, according to the police report. He was arrested later in the day when he reported to parole officials in Hot Springs. David White, Correction Department spokesman, said Jones' action, although regrettable, won't affect the furlough program.[39] It is ironic that Clinton asked for an immediate and thorough review of the furlough system after a prison stole an airplane, as described above, but not after a prisoner assaulted a woman.

Finally, one furloughed prisoner, David Goff, actually is released each day to work as a city dogcatcher. The system under which he is allowed to do so was signed into law by Clinton in 1983 (Act 309). Though Goff cannot make arrests, he does wear an official uniform, drives a city vehicle, and can write citations. He's paid $5 an hour.

Arkansas Crime Lab Medical Examiner

In September 1991, Fahmy Malak, the Arkansas medical examiner, resigned at the height of controversy concerning his performance in several murder cases. The controversy arose after several families involved in these cases complained to the state Crime Lab Board that Malak had failed to act competently. After the board began an investigation, Clinton was besieged with requests to fire Malak, but he delayed and took no action; his only public response was "that it might be best for Malak to resign."[40] When Malak did finally resign in late 1991, *Clinton publicly responded by saying Malak had performed admirably* under the circumstances but that he had been at it a long time and thought it was the right decision (emphasis added). Then it was learned, contrary to statements by Clinton, that the governor's staff had been involved in negotiating Malak's transfer to another state job, at a salary of about $70,000, with the Health Department. When asked about these events, Clinton declined to comment further.

The day Malak reported to his new job, he was met by protesters who called for his removal and one who carried a sign "Clinton for President. Malak for Surgeon General."[41] Finally, an *Arkansas Democrat* story reported that Malak had been hired at the Health Department despite a hiring freeze and that the job Malak got had not been advertised as open.[42] Investigations into the noted murder cases have been closed and then reopened in a confusing attempt by the Crime Lab Board to end the controversy. Revelations of mixed-up tissue samples and misidentified corpses have since been reported and the Clinton administration remains aloof on the subject.

In May 1992, the NBC news show "Dateline" did a special report on the Malak situation and the link to Clinton's mother, Virginia Kelley. According to the shows report, Clinton's mother, a nurse anaesthetist, was involved in a controversial murder case which Malak ruled on. A woman who had been hit in the face with a rock (thrown by a black man who had been the target of racial slurs by a carload of people including this woman) and gone to the hospital for treatment. When she entered the hospital, the woman was cut and bruised on her face but otherwise okay. Since she required minor surgery, she was put under anaesthesia. When it came time to perform a specific procedure during the operation, Mrs. Kelley failed to accomplish the task quickly enough and the woman fell into a coma and later died. Malak's determination was that the woman died from beig struck by the rock and charges were filed against the black man who was the target of the slurs. Clinton's mother was the subject at the time of a malpractice suit and another incident surely would have jeopardized her job, not to mention her finances. After serving time for a murder he thought he had committed, the man was informed only by the NBC crew that in fact he was most likely not the cause of the death. Charges of a Clinton cover-up have never been absolutely proven.[43]

Gun Control

During the 1990 gubernatorial campaign, Clinton was attacked as a proponent of gun control. His response: "I'm not for gun control."[44] On NBC's "Today" show in October 1991, Clinton was asked what he would promise Americans on the issue of "greater gun control." Clinton said, "Well I was an early and strong supporter of the

Brady bill. I think the Brady bill, with a notice requirement and time to look into people who are unstable mentally ... is absolutely critical to this country's future." Clinton went on to advocate giving cities authority to restrict gun ownership when they have "emergency conditions." "The main thing we've got to do is turn the streets back over to the law abiding citizens and the police," Clinton said."[45] In February 1992, Clinton said he supports a ban on semi-automatic weapons and waiting periods for handgun purchasers.[46] Finally, while campaigning in the New York primary, Clinton reportedly "acquiesc[ed] in gimmicks like gun 'buyback' programs."[47] Regarding his own record in this realm, Clinton has proudly vetoed, on two occasions, legislation that would prohibit local governments from adopting gun control measures. The first time was in the 1989 legislative session, the second time in 1991. After the second veto, a small grassroots Arkansas NRA split-off began airing TV ads saying, "If any honest Arkansan loses his constitutional right [to bear arms], Governor Clinton will bear full responsibility." Clinton said the reason he vetoed the bills was that it would prevent local governments from addressing sudden outbreaks of crime.[48] Clinton also said about the NRA's efforts to pass the bill, "I think it's sad that the NRA doesn't have anything better to do with its time."[49]

NRA

Death Penalty

In January 1992, just prior to the New Hampshire primary, Clinton left the campaign trail to return to Arkansas to oversee the administering of the death penalty. The case was controversial in that the criminal, Rickey Ray Rector (who is black), had been lobotomized as treatment for self-inflicted gunshot wounds to his head. Anti-death penalty activists claimed the convict was incompetent, but Clinton did not accede to their requests for clemency. During this same time period, Clinton was criticizing Democratic rival Sen. Paul Tsongas on his position on the death penalty: "I thought it was a fudge, myself, trying to have it both ways." Tsongas had said he supported the death penalty only for certain crimes against society, citing drug kingpins.[50] Clinton contrasted his own position: "We do support the death penalty for cop killers, multiple murderers, and drug kingpins."[51] (The Arkansas capital crime statutes, see below, include no reference to drug kingpins.) According to spokeman Mike Gauldin, Clinton has never granted clemency to a death row inmate during his 11 years in office.[52]

Arkansas statutes define a capital offense as "Felony murder; arson causing death; intentional murder of a law enforcement officer, murder of prison, jail, court, or correctional personnel, or military personnel acting in the line of duty; multiple murders; intentional murder of public officeholder or candidate; intentional murder while under life sentence; contract murder."[53] On March 21, 1991 Clinton signed legislation (Act 683) providing for the death penalty "where the victim [is] under the age of 14 and the defendant [is] 18 years or older."[54]

In response to opponents of the death penalty Clinton has said, "The appeals process, although lengthy, provides many opportunities for the courts to review sentences and that's where these decisions should be made."[55] However, shortly after the execution of Ronald Gene Simmons was delayed by the U.S. Supreme Court after

receiving a petition from another convicted murderer, Jonas H. Whitmore, Clinton said of the stay, "I think it was a mistake. It really bothers me. ... If we're going to have a death penalty process it ought to have some integrity."[56] Simmons and John Edward Swindler (both white) were both executed in June 1990, the first executions in Arkansas since 1964.

Another death row inmate, Barry Lee Fairchild (also black), was scheduled for execution in 1990 before winning a hearing seeking a new trial. The case was the subject of a "20/20" episode in March 1991. Fairchild's attorney says his (Fairchild's) confession was beaten out of him by Clinton-appointed (and former GOP Congressman) sheriff Tommy Robinson. An *Arkansas Gazette* reporter who viewed Fairchild's videotaped confession claims he paused and looked behind the camera for guidance in answering questions. Also, a former policeman said he saw Fairchild being beaten by deputies and attacked by a police dog, but this testimony was suppressed since the officer had been fired previously. Apparently, Fairchild also named an accomplice who was later proven to be in Colorado at the time of the murder, further suggesting to some observers Fairchild was coerced into the statement. Finally, Clinton must feel something akin to deja vu: Fairchild is retarded, which makes this case similar to the above described case of Rickey Ray Rector. The Fairchild hearing was held mid-April and the conviction and sentence stood. Information on when the execution is scheduled was not available as of this writing.

Finally, Clinton oversaw the execution of Steven Douglas Hill, age 25, on May 7, 1992. Hill (who was white) was convicted in 1984 of killing a state police investigator. Amnesty International spokesman told reporters after a clemency hearing during the week of May 1, 1992 that Clinton is "not dying to be president, but he's killing to be president."[57]

Clinton released in October 1991 a $50,000 grant to the Death Penalty Resource Center, a committee of lawyers and representatives of the federal courts and the state Supreme Court which is reviewing the state's death penalty and seeking ways to reduce the number of appeals death row inmates make to federal courts.[58]

June 1992

- 60 MINUTES
- DATELINE
- 20/20

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Endnotes

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[20] Arkansas Gazette, October 7, 1986.
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[28] *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, November 4, 1991.
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[30] Deborah Orin, *New York Post*, January 23, 1992.
[31] As cited in note 26 of Cobb, Paul Whitlock, Jr., "Reviving Mercy in the Structure of Capital Punishment," Yale Law Journal, November, 1989.
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[36] Arkansas Gazette, June 1, 1985.
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[38] AP, April 10 and 13, 1992.
[39] *Arkansas Gazette*, October 17, 1991.
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[58] *Arkansas Democrat*, October 17, 1991.

23 September 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR KEN ASKEW

FROM: J. BUNTON

SUBJECT: CLINTON RECORD ON CRIME

Oct. 23 1991 New Covenant policy speech at Georgetown Univ. referred only in passing to crime in America. He offered no program ... rather challenged its victims to "do the rest" once government has "offered them the chance to develop their God-given abilities."

Clinton proposed this anti-crime package: inner city young people should "play by the rules, stay off drugs, stay in school, and keep out of the streets, stop having children it they're not prepared to support them, and for those young people who do get into trouble, we'll give them once change to avoid prison, by setting up community boot camps for first-time offenders -- where they can learn discipline, get drug treatment if necessary, continue their education, and do useful work for their community." He makes no mention of specific anti-drug programs, sentencing reform, or any other major crime issues.

Summer 1991 gang violence erupted in Little Rock -- Clinton took no decisive action; appointed a panel to make recommendations on possible solutions. // Clinton attended a panel meeting said: "Let's hear from the young people, what the heck they want us to do." Hunting dogs

Violent crime in Arkansas has nearly doubled in the last 10 years, increasing 95 percent between 1981 and 1991.

Clinton was Arkansas AG from 1977 to 1979 //

Clinton, "Nobody should be held in maximum custody who can be managed in less rigorous conditions. Nobody should be held i prison who can be safely released to community supervision. And nobody would be supervised more closely than safety requires."

The prison population had nearly tripled since 1980, from 2,811 to 7,508 in 1991. The Corrections budget has increased from $13.3 million in 1980 to $77 million in 1991.

In April 1987 Clinton invoked the law [commute sentences by 90 days in a prison overcrowding emergency]] and inmate Larry Dean Robertson was released early -- two days after he was freed -- stabbed a 68 year-old woman to death.

Clinton is advocating boot camps -- boot camp director Capt. Tom Matthews resigned in 1991; "I quit because the program is going backwards and I wasn't going to be a part of that. It is slowly being chipped away."

In Jan 92 debate Clinton said "No parole is appropriate for sex offenders" -- during first term as Gov. he commuted the life sentences of 5 rapists as well as the lesser sentence of another rapist. One case involved the rape of a 5 year-old girl.

During first 2-year term as Gov. he commuted 70 prison sentences, including 40 life sentences imposed for murder or rape. After losing 80 race -- he won back office by promising "not to commute so many sentences if ... given another chance" and that he "would never again commute the sentence of someone serving a life term." He lived up this campaign promise until commuting 3 life sentence in 1988 and one in 1991, among a total of 7 commutations [sounds bad] from 1983 through 1991 [one in 83, 86, 91 and four in 88.]

90 gov.s race Clinton said "I'm not for gun control". Oct. 91 on the Today Show Clinton stated support for Brady Bill and giving cities the authority to restrict gun ownership when they have "emergency conditions." Clinton has proudly vetoed, on 2 occasions, legislation that would prohibit local governments from adopting gun control measures.

In 80 Clinton was furious when California would not grant extradition of an escaped convict -- said "I'm so angry -- who do they think they are ..." yet in 1985 he refuesed to extradite Little Rock resident Cathy Cowan wanted in New York on felony cocaine charges.

CRIME LANGUAGE [Springfield, MO and Shreveport, LA Remarks]
9/22/92

POTUS: During 80s nation's overall crime rate declined

CLINTON: biggest increase in overall crime rate in nation -- nearly 28 percent

CLINTON: violent crime rate went up more than 58 percent -- one of the worst records in the nation

POTUS: Since 1989 -- proposed a 59% increase in federal spending to fight crime

POTUS: increased federal spending by 43% over the last four years

CLINTON: Arkansas ranks near rock bottom in every important per-capita law enforcement expenditure:

prisons	46th;
judicial and legal systems	50th;
spending for police officers	49th.

POTUS: Most federal inmates serve at least 85 percent of their full sentence

CLINTON: most inmates in Arkansas serve less than one-fifth of their sentence; the worst record in the nation [worse than Mario Cuomo, Jim Florio, or Edwin Edwards]

POTUS: Endoresed by Fraternal Order of Police in Little Rock

(Askew/Bunton)
September 25, 1992
12:00 p.m.
CRIME

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DeSALE CATHOLIC CHURCH
FOX PARK, MISSOURI
SEPTEMBER 28, 1992
10:00 A.M.

Thank you for that kind introduction, and good morning, everybody.

It's delightful to be in St. Louis, such a friendly city. It really warms my heart. So thank you for your wonderful Missouri welcome.

And ~~I'm afraid~~ I have to apologize to everyone who was counting on the usual Sunday-evening Bingo game last night. I hear the Secret Service spoiled your fun when they had to check out the building. Well, I'm sorry you missed the game, but believe me, it was smart to stay away. You don't want to be shouting out or making sudden moves around these guys. (("Bingo" could take on a whole new meaning.))//

I want to talk to you today about what I consider government's most basic and maybe its most important function.

I know what you're thinking. You've been listening to that other fellow... and all you can think about is taxes. Well, I'm not going to talk about taxes today. But I think it's only fair to warn you that for years down in Arkansas, my opponent has been trying to declare April 15th a religious holiday.//

But what I do want to talk about is the fundamental duty of our government... to protect every American citizen from violence -- at home, on the streets, and abroad.

Now... that's nothing new. Security's one big reason government was created in the first place.

What's new... are the terrible forms violence has taken recently... beyond anything our founding fathers could've imagined.

A whole generation has grown up with the threat of nuclear terror hanging like a sword over its head. And it's been horrible. Our kids had nightmares. It seemed like it would never end.

Well, it did end. And today I can stand up here and say something no President could ever say before.

The Cold War is over. Freedom finished first.//

Now, we need to win the peace... right here at home and in the streets of Fox Park.//

What's the point, after all... of winning a Cold War if our grandparents and grandchildren lock themselves behind the bars on their windows, afraid to come out from a jail called home?

Now, I'm not saying we haven't made progress against violent crime. We certainly have. We've slowed it dramatically the past twelve years. And we're beginning to turn the tide on the drugs that often fuels it. ((Insert brief description of our greatest areas of progress.))

But the face of crime is changing fast, and we need our laws to react just as fast, if we're ever going to beat it.

Carjacking, for a timely example -- a brand-new word for a brand-new crime. Someone figured out it's easy to steal a car when it's already running, with the keys in the ignition. Of course, that means the owner's behind the wheel. So they use a gun.

It makes me sick to think about it... but just a few weeks ago, in a middle-class suburb of Washington. D.C., a Federal employee -- she worked at (?) -- was sitting in her car at a red light at (time of day). Two men stuck a gun in her face, pushed her out, and took off.

But she hung on to the car. And you know why? Because her baby was in the back seat.

She was dragged for miles. The thieves tried to knock her off by banging into a guard rail. And finally, they did. She fell off. Dead.

And you know what they did with her ((X-month-old)) baby? At forty miles an hour -- they threw her out the window like so much trash. Never even slowed down.

The miracle is, that baby survived.

And you know what? America's going to survive, too. We don't have to put up with this kind of depravity.//

These people have no place in a decent society. And as far as this President's concerned, they can go to jail... they can stay in jail... and they can stew in jail.//

* JUST THIS MONTH, CARJACKERS STOLE THE CAR OF A WOMAN TAKING HER SMALL DAUGHTER TO HER FIRST DAY OF NURSERY SCHOOL. THEY DRAGGED THE WOMAN TO HER DEATH -- AND TOSSED HER BABY OUT THE WINDOW

TOO MUCH DETAIL

But how do we do it? How do we respond to these horrible new forms of crime?

Well, we've had a comprehensive crime strategy in place for some time now... and it's effective. But criminals are working overtime. So it's time to dramatically step up our efforts and stare down the realities of crime in 1992.

And so today I'm challenging Congress to action.

Twelve-hundred and fifteen days ago, on June 15, 1989, back when ((notable occurrence on or around that day)), I sent a comprehensive Crime Bill to Congress.

It never came back.

I've followed up with new versions... tried to work something out with Congress... and still -- nothing.

You know, since I first sent that bill to the Hill in 1989, there have been ((X number of rapes, X number of murders, X number of assaults and X number of robberies)) in the United States. (X number) of those violent crimes took place right here in Fox Park.

I know the numbers are staggering. I know that Americans sit down in front of their TVs at night... watch the news and say... why doesn't somebody do something about this incredible mess? People are dying in the streets, for God's sake.

Well... you've heard me talk about the gridlock Congress. It's a truly amazing phenomenon. If they had an iceberg over there, they'd nickname it "Speedy."

And liberals in Congress like to say that George Bush won't bend on this, won't bend on that. And I admit that I do stick to my principles.

But it's still my job as President to get results.

So today I'm going to say something you don't hear very often from Washington. I'm going to bend a little, for the good of the country. GIVE THE CONGRESS A CHANCE TO HELP OUR COUNTRY A LOT.

Congress wants the Brady Bill. I don't. It calls for a waiting period when someone wants to buy a gun... and I don't think that ~~kind of stuff~~ slows a criminal down one bit.

But I do know that some people in Congress genuinely believe the Brady Bill could save some innocent lives. And they won't support my Crime Bill unless I support their Brady Bill.

So today, I'm prepared to break that logjam.

Congress, I sent over to you this morning eight points of action I want included my Crime Bill. Some of them you've seen before, and some of them are new. But I want to make sure they all get into the Bill. CRIME

You agree to all of them... you pass the comprehensive Bill within the next thirty days... you add the Brady Bill on to the end...

And I'll sign the whole package into law -- including Brady.

Fair enough? Thirty days doesn't seem too short a notice, in view of those 11301 twelve-hundred-and-fifteen that've gone by already. ~~I'll give you the Brady Bill wrapped with a ribbon.~~ ?

Now, folks, in case you're wondering about those eight points I sent over to Congress this morning... let me assure you I'm not asking for anything but common sense and reasonable justice. I want to offer Federal money and support to help States do the following things:

One, apprehend and severely punish carjackers, like the ones I just described. I want to make carjacking a Federal offense with harsh penalties. I want thugs who take cars at gunpoint to stay in a cell so long that when they get out -- they've forgotten how to drive.//

((Two, call deadbeat dads onto the carpet. Right now, a single mother here in Missouri can be struggling to keep the kids fed and clothed on her small salary... while their father's over in East St. Louis, picking out a new Chevy truck with ~~terrycloth~~ pom-poms and a gun rack. He could be six months behind in child-support, but no one can touch him because he's over state lines. Well, I think that's a disgrace, and it's about time the long arm of the law reaches out over that state line... taps that deadbeat dad on the shoulder... and says loud and clear -- time to pay up, buddy. Cough up the cash or go to jail.)) [Do we want to hold this section until Wednesday?]

Three, strengthen laws dealing with sexual and domestic violence. To start with, we need to protect the victim's privacy. It's cruel to put her in the spotlight. And I want repeat sex and domestic-violence offenders behind bars until trial. Today, even a repeat offender can get arrested and be out

on bond hours later... stalking his next victim... or beating his wife and kids for turning him in. I want him detained until trial, and I want the prosecution to be able to use past convictions against him. Right now, little details -- like the fact he's a three-time loser -- can't even be mentioned in court. And that's wrong. Let him pay for what he's done.//

Four, crack down on gang violence. I want gangs to be reclassified under the law as criminal enterprises, just like any other organized crime. That way, we can go after the leaders, and we can deal harshly with them, and we can untie the hands of good cops so they can clean up decent neighborhoods. I also want to toughen the penalties for using juveniles in crimes. Gangs right now can send underage kids out to do their dirty work, because they're minors and they'll get off if they're caught. I think the older gang members should be punished harshly for treating these little kids like personal slaves.//

THIS IS THE ONE DAVID KARP & DOJ AID TO DROP [7 MORE # FROM FEDS.

Five, protection for the elderly. It's absurd that the folks who've contributed to this society all through their lives have to live in terror when they're old and frail, just because some young punks see them as an easy target. They're as low as the thugs who pick on children, and I want to beef up the laws that put them behind bars so they're not on the streets mugging grandmothers.//

Six, Habeas Corpus reform. Habeas Corpus is a fancy way of saying, if you're found guilty of something, you can appeal the decision to a higher court. It's supposed to protect the

innocent, but it's turned into a ridiculous perversion of the law. Criminal lawyers use it to postpone justice. A guilty verdict means an automatic appeal. It goes on and on, sometimes up to ((ten??)) appeals... keeping criminals on the streets and choking our courts. It's about time we put a stop to this travesty of justice. Let them appeal once and be done with it.//

Seven, a Federal death penalty. I think certain acts of violence deserve the ultimate penalty. I'm talking about assassinations, murder for hire, terrorism and other depraved acts. They're an outrage, and should be treated as such.

And eight, firearms. I want tougher penalties for any crime committed with a gun. Period.//

(Brief pause.)

Now, I'm not saying that tougher laws are going to fix everything. I'm a firm believer in justice, but I think punishment is only part of the solution.

The other part has a more human face.

Tomorrow's criminals are still just kids today. And while I believe in resources for law enforcement... and in reform for law enforcement... I also believe that at some point early in life, a youngster at a critical juncture can be steered to a life of right... or a life of terrible wrong. It all depends on the kind of soil you plant these kids in... and how you nourish them.

That's why I believe our weed-and-seed program is so very crucial. Weed-and-seed means going into a rough neighborhood... eradicating the 'weeds' of violent crime that can choke a young

life... and replacing them with 'seeds' of social opportunity and reform.

That's what Operation Crackdown is all about. Taking a crack house and giving it back to the community.

You know, just the other day, only a few blocks from here, police officers raided a crack house on Ohio Avenue. And as those officers came out of the old ((brownstone?)) with those drug-dealers handcuffed, the neighbors -- maybe some of you -- came out onto their porches and gave those police a standing ovation and a cheer.

That's what this country's hungry for. Americans want to take the hoods out of neighborhoods... and give 'em back to the neighbors. We've got to weed the poison growth from the soil... and in its place, plant the seeds of hope.

I know you want to just be able to walk down to ~~Whaley's Five and Dime~~, or ~~Mr. Grady's dry-cleaners,~~ down to Fox Park for a stroll, or over to ~~Peaches and Rufus'~~ for a newspaper ~~and a cup~~ of coffee... and you want to do it knowing you're safe in your own neighborhood, that you've helped build and kept alive.

I think John Mirgaux said it best. He lives next to that old crack house over on Ohio. And he said he and his wife Eleanor had been thinking about selling their house and just moving away from the drugs and all the ugly crime.

But you know... he's lived in Fox Hill his whole life. It's his neighborhood.

And after the raid... he and Eleanor did some thinking. And he put it this way. He said:

"You know, I've been waiting for this to happen. Now... we're going to make a stand."

Congress -- do you hear me? It's time to make a stand.

Not next year. Not next month. Now.

Please join me... join John and Eleanor... and Ohio Avenue... and Fox Park... and St. Louis... and Missouri... and this whole United States... and make a stand against crime <u>today</u>.

Thank you... thank you all for listening... God bless Fox Park, Missouri... and God bless the United States of America.

(Askew/Bunton)
September 24, 1992
8:00 p.m.
CRIME

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DeSALE CATHOLIC CHURCH
FOX PARK, MISSOURI
SEPTEMBER 28, 1992
10:00 A.M.

Thank you for that kind introduction, and good morning, everybody.

It's delightful to be in St. Louis, such a friendly city. It really warms my heart. So thank you for your wonderful Missouri welcome.

DELETE JOKE ABOUT SECRET SERVICE

And I'm afraid I have to apologize to everyone who was counting on the usual Sunday-evening Bingo game last night. I hear the Secret Service spoiled your fun when they had to check out the building. I'm sorry you missed the game, but believe me, it was smart to stay away. You don't want to be shouting out or making sudden moves around these guys. (("Bingo" could take on a whole new meaning.))//

Folks, I want to talk to you today about what I consider government's FIRST AND most basic ~~and maybe its most important~~ function.

RELIGIOUS BE CAREFUL DELETE

I know what you're thinking. You've been listening to that other fellow... and all you can think about is taxes. Well, I'm not going to talk about taxes today... but I think it's only fair to warn you that for years down in Arkansas, my opponent has been trying to declare April 15th a religious holiday.

PROTECTING PEOPLE AND PROPERTY. RIGHT TO FEEL SECURE.

But what I do want to talk about is protecting every American citizen from violence -- at home, on the streets, and abroad.

FOUNDING FATHERS DID NOT CREATE GOVERNMENT

Now... that's nothing new. Security's one big reason the Founding Fathers created government in the first place.

HAVE ALWAYS HAD TERRIBLE FORMS OF VIOLENCE.

What's new... are the terrible forms violence has taken recently... beyond anything our founding fathers could've imagined.

NEED DIFFERENT SEGWAY.

A whole generation has grown up with the threat of nuclear terror hanging like a sword over its head. And it's been horrible. Our kids had nightmares. It seemed like it would never end.

SET OF PRINCIPLES. WHAT I BELIEVE.

Well, it did end. And today I can stand up here and say something no President could ever say before.

The Cold War is over. Freedom finished first.

Now, we need to win the peace... right here at home.

MY STRATEGY WHAT I HAVE DONE.

What's the point, after all... of winning a Cold War if our grandparents and grandchildren lock themselves behind the bars on their windows, afraid to come out from a jail called home?

PROGRESS WE HAVE MADE.

I'm not saying we haven't made progress against violent crime. We've slowed its growth considerably the past twelve years, and we're beginning to turn the tide on drugs. ((May want to insert one or two sentences about our greatest areas of progress.))

SOUNDS DEFENSIVE.

But the face of crime is changing fast, and we need our laws to react just as fast, if we're ever going to beat it.

Carjacking, for a timely example -- a brand-new word for a brand-new crime. Someone figured out it's easy to steal a car when it's already running, with the keys in the ignition. Use a gun -- and it's even easier.

It makes me sick to think about it... but just a few weeks ago, in a middle-class suburb of Washington. D.C., a Federal employee -- she worked at (?) -- was sitting in her car at a red light at (time of day). Two men stuck a gun in her face, pushed her out, and took off.

But she hung on to the car. And you know why? Because her baby was in the back seat.

She was dragged for miles. The thieves tried to knock her off by banging into a guard rail. And finally, they did. She fell off. Dead.

And you know what they did with her ((X-month-old)) baby? At forty miles an hour -- they threw her out the window like so much trash. Never even slowed down.

The miracle is, the baby survived.

And you know what? America's going to survive, too. We don't have to put up with this. We don't have to put up with these murdering animals. As far as this President's concerned, they can <u>go</u> to jail... they can <u>stay</u> in jail... and they can <u>stew</u> in jail. They have no place in a free and decent society.

THIS KIND OF BEHAVIOR MUST NOT STAND.

But how do we do it? How do we respond to these horrible new forms of crime?

Well, we've had a comprehensive crime strategy in place for some time now... and it's working... but it's time to step it up a notch, to stare down the realities of crime in 1992.

And so today I'm challenging Congress to action.

Twelve-hundred and fifteen days ago, on June 15, 1989, back when ((notable occurrence on or around that day)), I sent a comprehensive Crime Bill to Congress.

WE GOT A MINI-CRIME BILL IN 1990.

It never came back.

I've followed up with new versions... tried to work out a compromise with Congress... and still -- nothing.

NEED TO FOCUS ON POSITIVE; THEN BRADY. MITCHELL/DOLE COMPROMISE.

One of the sticking points has been the so-called Brady Bill, named after Jim Brady, Ronald Reagan's press secretary. You remember, he was hurt badly by gunfire when John Hinckley tried to assassinate the President.

Well, the Brady Bill calls for ((a background check??)) and waiting period whenever someone wants to buy a gun.

NEED TO STATE HIS ALTERNATIVE. WHAT HE IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT.

I've never been a big supporter of the bill, nor of any gun-control legislation, because I don't think that this sort of regulation solves anything.

But I know that some people honestly believe the Brady Bill could save some innocent lives. And they wouldn't support my Crime Bill unless I supported their Brady Bill.

So we have a logjam. And today, I'm prepared to break that logjam.

Please understand that even though it doesn't erode the Bill of Rights, I'm still very skeptical of the Brady Bill.

But Congress, I'm giving you the benefit of the doubt. If you believe in it that much -- okay.

Here's my deal. I sent over to you this morning eight points of action I want to add to my Crime Bill.

THESE ARE NOT ALL ADDITIONS

You put them in... you pass the comprehensive Bill within the next thirty days... you add the Brady Bill on to the end...

And I'll sign the whole package into law -- including Brady.

Fair enough? Thirty days doesn't seem too short a notice, in view of those twelve-hundred-and-fifteen that've gone by already. I'll give you the Brady Bill wrapped with a ribbon.

Now, folks, in case you're wondering about those eight points I sent over to Congress this morning... let me assure you I'm not asking for anything but common sense and reasonable justice. I want to offer Federal money and support to help the states do the following things:

Needs expanding

One, severely punish carjackers, like the ones I just described. I want to make carjacking a Federal offense with harsh penalties, and I want to encourage joint research between the police and private companies, so they can come up with better anti-theft devices for cars. We need to do this quickly before the nasty trend turns into a dangerous wave.

Needs clarifying

Two, call deadbeat dads onto the carpet. Right now, a single mother here in Missouri can be struggling to keep the kids fed and clothed on her small salary... while their father's over in East St. Louis, picking out a new Chevy truck with terrycloth pom-poms and a gun rack. He could be six months behind in child-

support, but no one can touch him because he's over state lines. Well, I think that's a disgrace, and it's about time the long arm of the law reaches out over that state line... taps that deadbeat dad on the shoulder... and says loud and clear -- time to pay up, buddy. Cough up the cash or go to jail.

Three, strengthen laws dealing with sexual and domestic violence. To start with, we need to protect the victim's privacy. She's subject to scrutiny right now, and that's cruel. And I want repeat sex and domestic-violence offenders behind bars until trial. Today, even a repeat offender can get arrested and be out on bond hours later... stalking his next victim... or beating his wife and kids for turning him in. I want him detained until trial, and I want the prosecution to be able to use past convictions against him. Right now, little details -- like the fact he's a three-time loser -- can't even be mentioned in court. And that's wrong.

Four, crack down on gang violence. I want gangs to be reclassified under the law as criminal enterprises, just like any other organized crime. That way, we can go after the leaders, and we can deal harshly with them, and we can untie the hands of good cops so they can clean up decent neighborhoods. I also want to toughen the penalties for using juveniles in crimes. Gangs right now can send underage kids out to do their dirty work, because they're minors and they'll get off if they're caught. I think the older gang members should be punished for treating these little kids like personal slaves.

Five, protection for the elderly. It's absurd that the folks who've contributed to this society all through their lives have to live in terror when they're old and frail, just because some young punks see them as an easy target. They're as low as the thugs who pick on children, and I want to beef up the laws that put them in jail.

Six, Habeas Corpus reform. Habeas Corpus is a fancy way of saying, if you're found guilty of something, you can appeal the decision to a higher court. It's supposed to protect the innocent, but it's turned into a ridiculous perversion of the law. Criminal lawyers use it to postpone justice. A guilty verdict means an automatic appeal. It goes on and on, sometimes up to ((ten??)) appeals... keeping criminals on the streets and choking our courts. It's about time we put a stop to this travesty of justice. Let them appeal once and be done with it.

Seven, a Federal death penalty. I think certain acts of violence deserve the ultimate penalty. I'm talking about assassinations, murder for hire, terrorism and other depraved acts. They're an outrage, and should be treated as such.

And eight, firearms. I want tougher penalties for any crime committed with a gun. Period.

Which brings me back to the Brady Bill.

One of the most-frustrating experiences of my administration so far has been the logjam in Congress holding up my Crime Bill. You know, since I first sent that bill to the Hill in 1989, there

have been ((X number of rapes, X number of murders, X number of assaults and X number of robberies)) in St. Louis.

Well, it's time to move. I hope my concession on Brady today, and on other details in the Bill in months gone by, are enough of a compromise to get this critical legislation passed. Let's put the power in back in the hands of our state and local law officers... so they can get to work and do their jobs again.

Now, I'm not saying that tougher laws are going to fix everything. I'm a firm believer in justice, but I think punishment is only part of the solution.

The other part has a more human face.

Tomorrow's criminals are still just kids today. And while I believe in <u>resources</u> for law enforcement... and in <u>reform</u> for law enforcement... I also believe that at some point early in life, a youngster at a critical juncture can be steered to a life of <u>right</u>... or a life of terrible <u>wrong</u>. It all depends on the kind of soil he or she's planted in... and how it's nourished.

That's why I believe our weed-and-seed program is so very crucial. Weed-and-seed means going into a rough neighborhood... cracking down on the 'weeds' of violent crime that can choke a young life... and replacing them with 'seeds' of social opportunity and reform.

That's what Operation Crackdown is all about. Taking a crack house and giving it back to the community.

You know, just the other day, only a few blocks from here, policemen raided a crack house on Ohio Avenue. And as they came

out of the old ((brownstone?)) with those drug-dealers handcuffed, the neighbors -- maybe some of you -- came out onto their porches and gave those police a standing ovation and a cheer.

That's what this country's hungry for. Americans want to take the hoods out of neighborhoods... and give 'em back to the neighbors. We've got to weed the poison from the soil... and in its place, plant the seeds of hope.

You want to be able to walk down to Whaley's Five and Dime, or Mr. Grady's dry-cleaners, down to Fox Park for a stroll, or over to or Peaches and Rufus' for a newspaper and a cup of coffee... and you want to do it knowing you're safe in your own neighborhood, that you helped and keep alive.

I think John Mirgaux said it best. He lives next to that old crack house over on Ohio. And he said he and his wife Eleanor had been thinking about selling their house and just moving away from the drugs and the crime.

But you know... he's lived in Fox Hill his whole life. It's <u>his</u> neighborhood.

And after the raid... he and Eleanor did some thinking. And he put it this way. He said:

"You know, I've been waiting for this to happen. Now... we're going to make a stand."

Congress -- do you hear me? It's time to make a stand.

Not next year. Not next month. Now.

Please join me... join John and Eleanor... and Ohio Avenue... and Fox Park... and St. Louis... and Missouri... and this whole United States... and make a stand against crime today.

Thank you... thank you all for listening... God bless Fox Park, Missouri... and God bless the United States of America.

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The Washington Post

September 15, 1992, Tuesday, Final Edition

SECTION: OPINION EDITORIAL; PAGE A22

LENGTH: 459 words

HEADLINE: Taking Cars by Force

SERIES: Occasional

BODY:

FROM ALEXANDRIA'S Old Town to sections of Montgomery and Howard counties, motorists are having their cars stolen by force. According to a Washington Post study, nearly 250 carjackings occurred between Jan. 1 and Aug. 16 -- that's an average of one a day. Since Friday morning, we've had seven more attempted or successful armed car thefts in the area. Most are the work of young men with guns who strike in the dead of night, primarily in high-crime areas or in suburban shopping centers near highways. But the reach is much wider, with carjackings now escalating into a region-wide, all-day fare, perpetrated by people of all sizes, ages and, now, gender.

The nightmare that occurred a week ago for Pamela Basu, ending with her horrible death and her infant daughter's being tossed from their stolen car, began when they came to a stop sign near their home in Savage, Md. -- at 8:30 in the morning. Other carjackings have been committed by suspects as young as 13. And two suspected carjackers arrested Saturday morning reportedly were 14- and 15-year-old girls armed with a fully loaded 9mm semiautomatic handgun. It doesn't matter whether all the thefts are the acts of impulsive copycats, opportunists or hoodlums looking for a quick getaway from crimes they may have committed or whether the suspects in the Basu case may actually have been unarmed, as now reported. This crime, which is sending waves of fear throughout the area, requires a tough, relentless, coordinated response from area authorities.

It's good to see that the FBI and District police are setting up joint operations using undercover vehicles and decoy units of officers and drivers to catch carjackers in the act. Police from other area jurisdictions should be included in the planning. But anticarjacking efforts by law enforcement, tougher laws (as proposed by the American Automobile Association) and stiffer sentences won't solve the problem by themselves -- though clearly some celebrated arrests and jailings may send the message that this offense won't be tolerated. But neither will instructions to the public on how to become better victims. This kind of crime, which is too easily being chalked up to the urban condition, or the new brazenness (or stupidity) of criminals or the success of antitheft devices, which make unoccupied cars more difficult to steal, can be curtailed. Large-scale police crackdowns have helped lower the rate of carjackings in Los Angeles and Detroit, where they were taking a toll a year ago, local police say. May we add a familiar pitch? As with the rest of the violence that is deforming the lives of so many Americans, the carjackings illustrate the madness of making concealable handguns so readily available in this country.

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The Washington Post, September 15, 1992

TYPE: EDITORIAL

SUBJECT: D.C. METROPOLITAN AREA; AUTOMOBILES AND VANS; BURGLARY AND THEFT AND LARCENY; ROBBERY

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The Washington Times

September 10, 1992, Thursday, Final Edition

SECTION: Part B; METROPOLITAN; Pg. B1

LENGTH: 836 words

HEADLINE: Senseless crime sickens slain mother's friends

BYLINE: Kevin Bell and Darryl Lynette Figueroa; THE WASHINGTON TIMES

BODY:

The day after 34-year-old Pamela Basu was dragged more than a mile to her death on a winding two-lane road near Savage, Md., her neighbors yesterday responded with shock, fear and anger.

They are stunned by the " carjacking, " and surprised an act so violent and random could have occurred in their tranquil patch of suburbia between Baltimore and Washington.

Few of them wanted their names to appear in print. One feared that friends of the young men who drove off in Mrs. Basu's car while she hung on outside a rear door "might show up for someone else who talked."

"It could have been anyone who was waiting at that stop sign," said one resident of the Bowling Brook Farms town houses, where Mrs. Basu and her family lived. "It just says to me that you can't get away from everything."

Those sentiments were echoed by Lori Pedro, one of about 350 people who packed the nearby Forest Ridge Elementary School last night to voice their concerns about the killing.

Mrs. Pedro said she takes her 2-year-old son Alex to a baby sitter through the same intersection where the incident began Tuesday.

"She was doing the same thing I do every morning. It could have happened to me," said Mrs. Pedro.

Residents described Bowling Brook Farms as a haven for young professional couples. The development itself is less than 5 years old, they said, and more construction is going on nearby.

"This is a beautiful place for younger people who probably can't afford to buy a large home but don't really want to live in the city," said one woman who was out walking with her infant son. "There's so much grass and yard space here, and it's better for raising kids than in a big city.

"We haven't figured out how to feel yet," the woman said. "People are just in shock. It's not like they've ever seen this happen. We knew this woman. . . . You can't just accept it like it's an everyday thing."

Many Bowling Brook residents are parents of small children, like Mrs. Basu.

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Cassie Puls, director of the Howard County police Victims' Assistance unit, said neighbors are caring for Mrs. Basu's 22-month-old daughter Sarina, who was tossed from the vehicle by the car thieves, still strapped in her car seat. Sarina was not hurt.

Ms. Puls was stationed outside the Basu home yesterday, shielding the family from reporters.

"I've been doing this for 13 years and there's no way to compare this to anything. . . . You can't say if it's the worst thing you've ever seen because there's nothing to compare it to. When these things happen, they're all devastating," Ms. Puls said.

"I feel really sick about it," said Shanaz Khademi, 42, who lives with her son, Amir, 22, near the Basu home on Horsham Drive.

The Basu family was often seen taking a late-afternoon stroll, said Mrs. Khademi. She said Mrs. Basu and her husband, who has not been publicly identified, would often walk arm in arm as they pushed their only child in a stroller or let her run around them.

"She was a very kind woman," Mrs. Khademi said. "She had a very good position, very educated woman.

Mrs. Basu was a senior research chemist at the W.R. Grace lab in Columbia.

"Everybody was so upset and sad that everyone stayed up and outside last night," said Mrs. Khademi. "We don't much know what we can do."

The helplessness Mrs. Khademi felt mingled with concern for herself and her son. They moved to Bowling Brook Farms just two years ago from the District to get away from crime, they said.

"One of the things the real estate agent said was that Howard County has the lowest crime rate and that this area has the lowest rate of all," she said.

But like so many suburban communities that look safe, this neighborhood is watching in growing alarm as crime makes its way in.

"It creeps up on you," Mr. Khademi said.

Some neighbors had pushed to get a neighborhood watch patrol system started, he said, but not enough residents had been willing to participate. Still, he felt it was tactless for a security company to have come to the area yesterday passing out fliers about alarm systems.

Family and friends streamed in and out of the Basu home throughout yesterday as television crews and photographers parked outside watched.

Another resident who asked not to be named said the nature of Mrs. Basu's death has permanently shattered the neighborhood's serenity.

"It's definitely not going to be the way it was before," she said softly as she pulled on her dog's leash.

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"Pat was so quiet and so sweet, the whole family was. That was the last family this should have happened to because they were so good. It isn't doing any good trying to figure it out because it just doesn't make any sense. I mean, you can see this neighborhood. It just means the violence of the cities is spreading out."

* Jim Keary contributed to this report.

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(Askew/Bunton)
September 27, 1992
6:00 p.m.
CRIME

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DeSALES CATHOLIC CHURCH
FOX PARK, MISSOURI
SEPTEMBER 28, 1992
10:00 A.M.

Thank you for that kind introduction, and good morning, everybody.

It's delightful to be in Fox Park. St. Louis is such a friendly city. It really warms my heart. So thank you for your wonderful Missouri welcome.

I want to apologize to everyone who was counting on the usual Sunday Bingo game last night. I hear the Secret Service spoiled your fun when they had to check out the building. Well, I'm sorry you missed the game, but it was smart to stay away. Believe me, you don't want to be jumping up suddenly and yelling "Bingo!" around these guys.//

I want to talk to you today about what I consider government's first and most-basic function: to protect every American citizen from violence -- at home and on the streets.

Now... that's nothing new. Security is one big reason government was created in the first place.

What's is new... are the terrible forms violence has taken recently... beyond anything our founding fathers could've imagined.

A whole generation has grown up with the threat of nuclear terror hanging like a sword over its head. And it's been

horrible. Our kids had nightmares. It seemed like it would never end.

Well, it did end. And today I can stand up here and say something no President could ever say before.

The Cold War is over. Freedom finished first.//

Now, we need to win the peace... right here at home and in the streets of Fox Park.//

What's the point, after all... of winning a Cold War if our grandparents and grandchildren lock themselves behind the bars on their windows, afraid to come out from a jail called home?

Now, I'm not saying we haven't made progress against violent crime. We certainly have. We've slowed it dramatically the past twelve years. And we're beginning to turn the tide on the drugs that so often fuel it.

But we got soft on crime in the 1960s, and we paid for it. By the time we cracked down again in the 80s, violent crime had gone up 400% in twenty years. Since we cracked down, it's gone up just 27% in a little over ten years, and the overall crime index is actually down.

So we've stemmed the tide... prevented millions of crimes... but of course, that's not enough. It's never enough.

The face of crime is changing fast, and we need our laws to react just as quickly... so we can beat it.

Let me give you a timely example. Carjacking -- a brand-new word for a brand-new crime. Someone figured out it's easy to steal a car when it's already running, with the keys in the

ignition. Of course, the owner's behind the wheel. So the criminal uses a gun.

I want to tell you a story that sickens me, but describes what we're up against. Just a few weeks ago, in a nice neighborhood near Baltimore, a woman was sitting in her car at a stop sign. In broad daylight, two men forced her out of her car and drove off.

But she hung onto her seat-belt from outside the car. What mother wouldn't? Because her baby was in the back seat. The mother was dragged for almost two miles. The thieves tried to knock her off by banging into a fence. And tragically, she died.

And you know what they did with her little baby? They tossed her out of the car like a piece of trash.

Miraculously, that baby survived.

And you know what? <u>America is going to survive, too</u>! We cannot put up with this kind of animal behavior.//

These people have no place in a decent society. And as far as this President's concerned, they can <u>go</u> to jail... they can <u>stay</u> in jail... and they can <u>rot</u> in jail.//

For that to happen, we need tough laws that don't bend over backwards protecting the criminal... while saying to the victim, "Tough luck, buddy."//

Now, my opponent has learned to <u>talk</u> tough on crime. But let me tell you: When push comes to shove, what he <u>really</u> believes is that same old hogwash that says it's <u>society's</u> fault when someone gets mugged. And <u>society</u> should suffer.

Maybe that's why an average inmate in Arkansas served less than one-fifth of his sentence last year. Maybe that's why violent crime in Arkansas went up almost 60 percent in the 80s -- over twice the national average. And maybe that's why Arkansas in the 80s had the nation's biggest increase in overall crime -- and the third-biggest in violent crime.

If you don't believe me... just ask the Fraternal Order of Police in Little Rock, Arkansas. They know Bill Clinton's record best. And they're endorsing me for President.

The police know better than anyone... that we're <u>all</u> vulnerable: Men, women, children. White, black, brown. Young, and old. Rich and poor. <u>To a bullet or a blade -- we all look just the same.</u>

Americans deserve a government that goes after the problem -- that prevents and punishes crime, and helps victims.//

That's why I want to see America make a move at the Federal level... to step forward and support state and local police around the country -- in real, concrete ways. We need to help them fight.//

That's why, twelve-hundred and one days ago, on June 15, 1989 -- the same day Mikhail Gorbachev first <u>hinted</u> the Berlin Wall might someday fall -- I sent a comprehensive crime bill to Capitol Hill. I offered the hand of partnership to Congress, and asked it to help me fight crime on a national level.

Listen to this: Since I first sent that bill to the Hill in 1989, here in the United States, we've had almost 60,000 murders,

260,000 rapes, 1,600,000 robberies and 2,600,000 assaults. By the way, 506 of those violent crimes took place right here in Fox Park.

399,858, pop. FBC UCR '91

Think about that. Enough people to fill the city of St. Louis more than twice over... were brutalized while that bill languished on the Hill.

I know the numbers are staggering. I know that Americans sit down in front of their TVs at night... watch the news and say... why doesn't somebody do something about this incredible mess? People are dying in the streets, for God's sake.

Well... twelve-hundred and one days later... Congress still hasn't acted on my Bill.

I think if they had a glacier on Capitol Hill, they'd name it "Speedy."//

But frustrating as this crime bill has been for me... it's still my job as President to get results. There are good people on both sides of the issue, working in good faith for a compromise... and I will not rest until this matter is settled.

This very week, we're close to an agreement on a bill the Congress could send me -- and I will sign. The compromise bill could include, for example, a workable death-penalty provision for horrible murders... committed by terrorists, assassins and drug lords. And it would target the shocking violence we see on TV -- the drive-by shootings and gang turf-wars. This deadly behavior deserves deadly punishment.

It could include provisions recommended by Supreme Court Justice Powell, to short-circuit an endless process of appeals that make a mockery of justice.

There are other items prompting strong feelings on all sides, but we're making a good-faith effort to reach a compromise.

So I want you to know what's on my crime agenda. I'm not asking for anything but common sense and reasonable justice... especially for women, children and elderly victims of crime.

I think I can get some of these items this year -- then, I'll come back to get more.

First, apprehend and severely punish carjackers, like the ones I just described. I want to make carjacking a Federal offense with harsh penalties. I want thugs who take cars at gunpoint to stay in a cell so long that when they get out -- they're too old to drive.//

Second, call deadbeat dads onto the carpet. Right now, a single mother here in Missouri can be struggling to keep the kids fed and clothed on her small salary... while their father's up in Chicago, picking out a new Chevy truck with terrycloth pom-poms and a gun rack. He could be 'way behind in child-support, but no one can touch him because he's over state lines. Well, I think that's a disgrace, and it's about time the long arm of the law reaches out over that state line... taps that deadbeat dad on the shoulder... and says loud and clear -- time to pay up, buddy. Cough up the cash or go to jail.

Third, strengthen laws dealing with sexual and domestic violence. For starters, we need to protect the victim. It's bad enough a rape victim is attacked in the first place. Then she takes the stand and gets attacked by the rapist's lawyers. I say that two too many attacks.

And I want repeat sex and domestic-violence offenders behind bars until trial. Today, even a repeat offender can get arrested and be out on bond hours later... stalking his next victim... or beating his wife and kids for turning him in. I want him detained until trial, and I want the prosecution to be able to use past convictions against him. Right now, certain details can't even be mentioned in court. So-called little details -- like the fact that everyone and their dog within ten country miles knows the guy acts this way pretty regularly. And that's wrong. Let him pay for what he's done.//

Fourth, crack down on gang violence. I want gangs to be treated like the criminal enterprises they are. That way, we can go after the leaders, and we can deal harshly with them, and we can untie the hands of good cops so they can clean up decent neighborhoods. I also want to toughen the penalties for using juveniles in crimes. Gangs right now can send under-age kids out to do their dirty work, because they're minors and they'll get off if they're caught. I think the older gang members should be punished harshly for treating these little kids like bullet fodder.//

Fifth, protection for the elderly. It's absurd that the folks who've contributed to this society all through their lives have to live in terror when they're old and frail, just because some young punks see them as an easy target. They're as low as the thugs who pick on children, and I want to beef up the laws that put these thugs behind bars -- so instead of being on the streets mugging grandmothers -- they're mugging for the police camera and their criminal file.//

Sixth, Habeas Corpus reform. Habeas Corpus is a fancy way of saying, if you're found guilty of something, you can challenge the decision in court. It's supposed to protect the innocent, but it's turned into a ridiculous perversion of the law. Can you believe that a lot of these petitions drag on for more than a decade? Criminal lawyers use it to postpone justice. A guilty verdict can mean seemingly endless appeals that choke our courts and delay justice. It's about time we put a stop to this travesty. Let them have one Habeas Corpus petition and be done with it.//

Seventh, a Federal death penalty. I think certain acts of violence deserve the ultimate penalty. I'm talking about assassinations, murder for hire, terrorism and other depraved acts. And add to that the new urban violence we see with gangs. Drive-by shootings, random violence, gang massacres -- these people are merchants of death, who trade in death... so when they kill someone, let's complete the transaction.//

And eighth, firearms. This one's short and sweet. I want much-tougher penalties for criminal use of firearms. Period.//

(Brief pause.)

Now, I'm not saying that tougher laws are going to fix everything. I'm a firm believer in justice, but I think punishment is only part of the solution.

The other part has a more human face.

Tomorrow's criminals are still just kids today. And while I believe in resources for law enforcement... and in reform for law enforcement... I also believe that at some point early in life, a youngster at a critical juncture can be steered to a life of right... or a life of terrible wrong. It all depends on the kind of soil you plant these kids in... and how you nourish them.

That's why I believe our weed-and-seed program is so very crucial. Weed-and-seed means going into a rough neighborhood... eradicating the 'weeds' of violent crime that can choke a young life... and replacing them with 'seeds' of social opportunity and reform.

That's what Operation Crackdown in St. Louis is all about: The Federal Government, working with local law enforcement, reclaiming crack houses and giving them back to the community.

And that's what your COPS program, here in Fox Park, is all about, too, on a local level. Real people making real changes in your own neighborhood.

You know, just the other day, only a few blocks from here, police officers raided a crack house on Ohio Avenue. And as

those officers came out of the house with those drug-dealers handcuffed, the neighbors -- maybe some of you -- came out to their porches and gave those police a standing ovation and a cheer.

That's what this country's hungry for. Americans want to take crime out of their neighborhoods... and put the neighbors back. We've got to weed the poison growth from the soil... and in its place, plant the seeds of hope.

I know you just want to be able to walk down to Worth's Market, or down to Fox Park for a stroll, or over to Bartlett's Grocery Store for a newspaper or Mary's Restaurant for a cup of coffee ((even if she is a Democrat))... and you want to do it knowing you're safe in your own neighborhood, that you've helped build and kept alive.

I think John Mirgaux said it best. He lives near that old crack house over on Ohio. And he said he and his wife Eleanor had been thinking about selling their house and just moving away from the drugs and all the ugly crime.

But you know... he's lived in Fox Hill his whole life. It's his neighborhood.

And after the raid... he and Eleanor did some thinking. And he put it this way. He said:

"You know, I've been waiting for this to happen. Now... we're going to make a stand."

Please join us... join John and Eleanor... and Ohio Avenue... and Fox Park... and St. Louis... and Missouri... and this whole United States... and make a stand against crime today.

Because the people deserve it.

Thank you... thank you all for listening... God bless Fox Park, Missouri... and God bless the United States of America.

STATE OF MISSOURI

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Raid Foreshadows Future Drug Efforts

Police Cooperate With City, State In Arrests

By Bill Bryan
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

A coordinated effort by police and city agencies in a raid Tuesday of apartments alleged to be crack houses in the Fox Park neighborhood will become the model for future dealings with problem areas, police said.

Police officers from the Third District, the mobile reserve and narcotics units, together with inspectors from the city's building and health divisions and caseworkers with the Missouri Division of Family Services, linked up in the effort.

> **"The good people were very happy to see us. Many clapped and cheered."**
>
> **CAPT. EVERETT PAGE,** Third District commander

Police with search warrants raided four apartments in the 2900 block of Ohio Avenue and a fifth apartment in the 3000 block of Ohio about 8:30 a.m.

"We've made a dozen undercover purchases on this street during the last month," said Lt. Anton Wagner, deputy commander of the narcotics-force division.

"The area has become widely recognized as the place to go to buy drugs on the South Side."

Four men and two women arrested in the raid were charged Tuesday night with selling cocaine, a felony, the circuit attorney's office said. They were Albert Page, 36, Trevor Robinson, 23, Loretta Robinson, 30, and Elizabeth Pearson, 30, all of the 2900 block of Ohio; Anthony Brandon, 20, of the 2700 block of Shenandoah Avenue; and Timothy Brandon, 18, of the 4000 block of Lafayette Avenue.

Trevor Robinson was charged also with misdemeanor possession of marijuana.

Shawn Robinson, 18, also of the 2900 block of Ohio, was charged with felony possession of cocaine and misdemeanor possession of marijuana.

Police also were seeking three other people.

"We hope our actions can help stabilize this particular neighborhood," said Capt. Everett Page, commander of the Third District.

"Now, it's up to the decent people there to keep it stabilized," Page said. "We'll help them, but they'll have to have zero tolerance for this drug activity."

Page acknowledged that pressure would be put on landlords. Building and health code violations found Tuesday will be reported to the building's owners.

"The drug dealing is coming from the rental property and these landlords are going to have to get tough about what's going on on their property," Page said.

"We're attacking this problem on all levels, and this coordinated effort will serve as a blueprint in the future.

"The good people were very happy to see us," Page said. "Many clapped and cheered.

"That's what it's all about."

Two residents of the area pleased with the raid were Eleanor and John Mirgaux. "I think it's great," said Eleanor Mirgaux, 49.

"I've been waiting for this to happen for six months. I've lived here all my life and I've seen this neighborhood change for the worse in recent years.

"This drug dealing goes on right out on the street and on the porches."

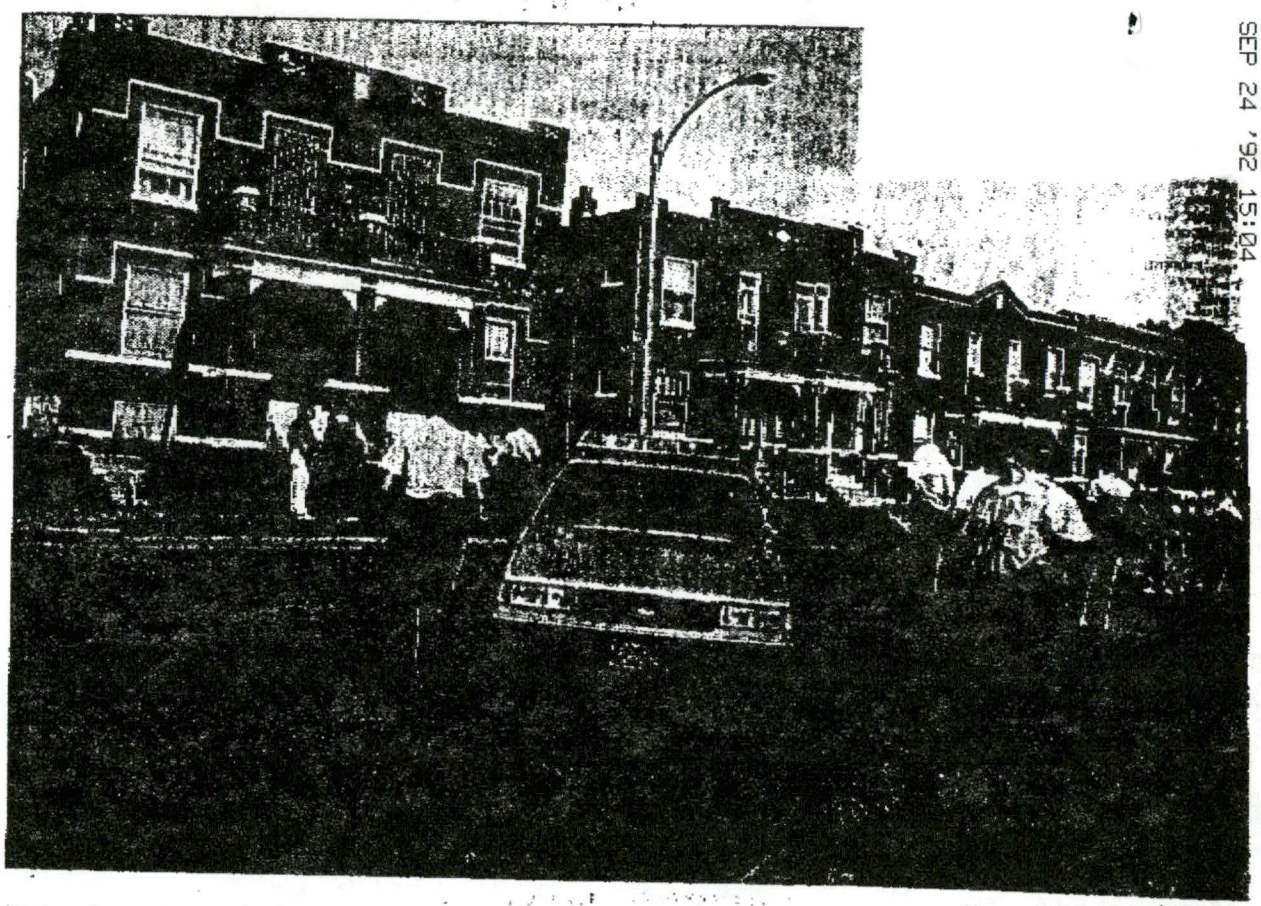
John Mirgaux, 57, said he and his wife had wanted to sell their house but couldn't get much for it. "Now we're going to make a stand," John Mirgaux said.

A girlfriend of one of the arrested men said police had no business breaking down her door.

"My old man is no dealer," said the woman, named Shirley.

"The police had no business arresting him. There are drug dealers using our front porch all the time, and we use the back door."

Shirley's boyfriend conducted five of the 12 drug transactions, Wagner said.



Karen Elshout/Post-Dispatch

St. Louis police officers in the 2900 block of Ohio Avenue on Tuesday during a raid by police and city agencies of apartments alleged to be crack houses in the Fox Park neighborhood.

SEP 24 '92 15:04

COPS - philosophy.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch 9-13-93

Neighbors Reclaim Drug Den

Seized Crack House Will Go To Needy

By Margaret Gillerman
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Last year, 4247 Pleasant Avenue was a "crack house" where drug traffickers streamed in and out, menacing neighbors whose young children played on a nearby empty lot in the shadow of the city's old Water Tower.

On Saturday, the dilapidated house with bars on its windows was returned to the community. The keys were handed over to a church group, the North Side Team Ministry, which plans to rehabilitate the building and turn it over to a family needing a home.

U.S. Attorney Stephen B. Higgins, who was instrumental in Operation Crackdown, the program that turned the house around, said Saturday that he hoped the program could become a model for the nation.

"One single house where drugs can be bought can ultimately destroy an entire neighborhood," Higgins said at a ceremony at the house. "If we don't act, people looking for drugs will continue to stream into ... neighborhoods. The communities need help, and we intend to do everything we can."

Authorities seized the house using federal forfeiture laws that give them the right to confiscate houses where drugs are sold or stored, Higgins said. Ever since Operation Crackdown began a year ago, three houses in St. Louis County and 12 in St. Louis have been seized in drug raids, he said.

The house on Pleasant Avenue was the first to be donated to a neighborhood group.

The program is a joint effort of federal and local law enforcement, the city and neighborhood groups.

"At the heart of this is making neighborhoods safe," said Mayor Vincent C. Schoemehl Jr., who also attended the ceremony. "You can't have a viable neighborhood when you have a drug house openly operating. ...

"The best weapon the city has against a drug dealer is a committed neighborhood," Schoemehl said. "Drug dealers hate neighborhoods that care about what's happening next door and down the block. They hate neighbors who want to make their own streets safer."

Some neighbors and their children gathered around to watch the proceedings, while others played down the block in the Saturday sunshine.

Sybil Canada, 28, had her 9-month-old son in tow. Canada, who has seven children, said she welcomed any effort to rid the neighborhoods of drugs.

"There is so much violence out there, you don't know what's going to happen," she said. "I try to keep my eye on all" of the children.

John Webster, 37, a neighbor and father of two, sported a Bart Simpson T-shirt that said "CRACK KILLS, BLACK POWER."

Mavis Tessa Thompson, a board member of the ministry and a neighborhood resident, said crack houses such as the one on Pleasant breed fear and violence and provide terrible role models for children.

"Neighborhoods are saying we're not going to take it any more," she said. "You want your place safe. You don't want to feel like you're living behind bars and armor. You don't want to be afraid to go out of your house."

U.S. Marshal Willie Greason said the program gives people in neighborhoods "the opportunity to win the war on drugs one neighborhood at a time."

SEP 24 '92 15:05

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

POTUS / intro
Chief Clarence Harmon
Sen. John Danforth
Gov. John Ashcroft

* (Dave Anderson)
Sunday Aft. 4 pm

OFFICE OF
PRESIDENTIAL ADVANCE

COVER PAGE

TO: JEANNIE

FROM: DAVE

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES: 8
(including cover page)

DATE:

TIME:

MESSAGE:

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS WITH THE TRANSMISSION PLEASE CALL.

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
Eastern District of Missouri

US Court and Custom House
1114 Market Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63101

314-539-2200
FAX/314-539-2309

September 24, 1992

Ms. Darlene Davis
Office of Liaison Services
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

RE: Expected Presidential Visit to St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Darlene:

My understanding is that the President will visit a St. Louis, Missouri neighborhood next week where local police detectives recently executed drug search warrants. Since my information about the visit is sketchy, I do not know the precise purpose of the President's decision to visit this particular neighborhood but for the reasons given below, I believe it would be a mistake. If the purpose, however, is to highlight concern for the problems of drugs and urban crime, I believe it is imperative that the White House be told about "Operation Crackdown", a pilot project which we in the U.S. Attorneys office initiated one year ago aimed at ridding neighborhoods of drug houses, using federal asset forfeiture laws.

"Crackdown" was officially launched in September, 1991 as a joint project of the U.S. Attorneys Office for the Eastern District of Missouri, St. Louis City government, the St. Louis Police Department and two federal law enforcement agencies, the DEA and the U.S. Marshal's Service. [See attached clipping] In November, 1991, we formally expanded the program to include St. Louis County government and the St. Louis County Police Department. Since launching our program we have seized 15 drug houses (12 of which were within St. Louis City) and have received overwhelmingly favorable response to our efforts from community organizations, neighborhood groups, and local elected officials. Although we realize that this program will not alone solve the drug problems facing those living in urban areas, in a powerfully symbolic way it empowers neighbors to do something about the drug problems plaguing their neighborhoods.

Although "Crackdown" is not part of Weed and Seed, we began its planning in August, 1990 and believe that we still have the most organized program of its kind in the nation. A key component of "Crackdown" is the deeding back to the community of seized drug houses, which was approved by the office of the Deputy Attorney General in April, 1992.

To that end, on September 12, 1992--one year from the day of its seizure--we conducted a ceremony in front of a house in North St. Louis wherein we deeded to a church group the first crackhouse seized under "Operation Crackdown". I am enclosing a newsclipping about this event, as well as other pertinent articles.

Although I do not know what the White House intended in its selection of Ohio Street as a site for the President's visit, if the purpose is to dramatize what is being done by law enforcement at both the federal and local levels, working with neighborhood groups, I believe most strongly that Operation Crackdown should not only be mentioned, but highlighted in the visit. Unlike the relatively isolated execution of search warrants on Ohio Street last week by local police detectives (working without any federal involvement) our program is ongoing and involves neighborhood and community groups, local government, local Police Departments and federal law enforcement. From my many visits with neighborhood groups and leaders in St. Louis city, I can tell you that it is just this type of program which demonstrates that at the federal law enforcement level we do care about the problems of urban crime and drugs and are doing something. It would be a major mistake to then focus only on the random efforts of local law enforcement, and, since the Ohio Street drug arrests were made without federal help, a visit to that location could very well backfire by (a) calling attention to lack of federal involvement and (b) giving the appearance of taking federal credit for what was simply a local effort.

For these reasons I strongly urge the President to visit the property at 4247 Pleasant Avenue in North St. Louis and to tell the nation about "Crackdown", rather than the proposed Ohio Street site.

On another note, the President may also want to talk about our "Gun-Free School Zone Program", begun by us last February in cooperation with the St. Louis Public School System, the St. Louis Police Department and the DEA and under which we recently obtained our first conviction and six year, no parole sentence. This program uses a new federal law to preserve our schools as gun-free sanctuaries from violence.

Lastly, the President may want to mention our local successes under "Operation Triggerlock", the DOJ program which uses the federal armed career criminal laws to put away the most violent street criminals. As with our other programs, "Triggerlock" is succeeding because of the full cooperation of state and local law enforcement.

Please call if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

Stephen B. Higgins
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Missouri

SBH.j

SEP-25-1992 11:20 FROM ST LOUIS MO STAFF OFFICE TO 12024566218 P.05

Neighbors Reclaim Drug Den

Seized Crack House Will Go To Needy

By Margaret Gillerman
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Last year, 4247 Pleasant Avenue was a "crack house" where drug traffickers streamed in and out, menacing neighbors whose young children played on a nearby empty lot in the shadow of the city's old Water Tower.

On Saturday, the dilapidated house with bars on its windows was returned to the community. The keys were handed over to a church group, the North Side Team Ministry, which plans to rehabilitate the building and turn it over to a family needing a home.

U.S. Attorney Stephen B. Higgins, who was instrumental in Operation Crackdown, the program that turned the house around, said Saturday that he hoped the program could become a model for the nation.

"One single house where drugs can be bought can ultimately destroy an entire neighborhood," Higgins said at a ceremony at the house. "If we don't act, people looking for drugs will continue to stream into ... neighborhoods. The communities need help, and we intend to do everything we can."

Authorities seized the house using federal forfeiture laws that give them the right to confiscate houses where drugs are sold or stored, Higgins said. Ever since Operation Crackdown began a year ago, three houses in St. Louis County and 12 in St. Louis have been seized in drug raids, he said.

The house on Pleasant Avenue was

See HOUSES, Page 4

Larry Williams/Post-Dispatch

Bill Clanton (left) and Mavis Tessa Thompson of North Side Team Ministry at the former crack house at 4247 Pleasant Avenue that their organization will be rehabilitating.

Houses

9-6-92

From page one

the first to be donated to a neighborhood group.

The program is a joint effort of federal and local law enforcement, the city and neighborhood groups.

"At the heart of this is making neighborhoods safe," said Mayor Vincent C. Schoemehl Jr., who also attended the ceremony. "You can't have a viable neighborhood when you have a drug house openly operating. ...

"The best weapon the city has against a drug dealer is a committed neighborhood," Schoemehl said. "Drug dealers hate neighborhoods that care about what's happening next door and down the block. They hate neighbors who want to make their own streets safer."

Some neighbors and their children gathered around to watch the proceedings, while others played down the block in the Saturday sunshine.

Sybil Cereda, 28, and her 8-month-old son in tow. Cereda, who has seven children, said she welcomed any effort to rid the neighborhoods of drugs.

"There is so much violence out there, you don't know what's going to happen," she said. "I try to keep my eye on all of the children.

John Webster, 37, a neighbor and father of two, sported a Bart Simpson T-shirt that said "CRACK KILLS, BLACK POWER."

Mavis Tessa Thompson, a board member of the ministry and a neighborhood resident, said crack houses such as the one on Pleasant breed fear and violence and provide terrible role models for children.

"Neighborhoods are saying we're not going to take it any more," she said. "You want your place safe. You don't want to feel like you're living behind bars and armor. You don't want to be afraid to go out of your house."

U.S. Marshal Willie Greason said the program gives people in neighborhoods "the opportunity to [illegible] drugs one neighborhood at a time."

ST LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

COMMENTARY

A Powerful Weapon Against Drug Suspects

Residents Near Crack Houses Support Seizure Of Assets By Authorities

By Stephen B. Higgins

On Dec. 12 of last year, U.S. marshals and drug enforcement agents served seizure papers prepared by the U.S. attorney's office on seven dope houses in St. Louis. Part of Operation Crackdown — a program designed to save neighborhoods from the scourge of drug dealers — these seizures brought the total to one dozen crack and drug houses shut down and taken away in the past three months.

Even though it was early morning on a dull, rainy December day, neighbors on one street went outside to applaud as police officers and federal agents did their work. On other blocks, residents told TV reporters they were happy the houses had been seized. One man spoke of his 13-year-old daughter, about how he didn't want her to be around a crack house.

No parent does. The purpose of the program and the point of the asset-forfeiture laws is to punish drug dealers by taking away not only their profits, but anything that facilitates their work. Hearth and home are precious to everyone — you, me, even a man or woman trafficking in illegal drugs. But a person who permits in using his residence as a literal drug store runs the risk of losing that house. At the same time, the neighborhood gets a chance to be saved from the deterioration inherent in drug trafficking.

That is what happened on Dec. 12. On seven blocks in St. Louis, seven houses from which drugs were sold were seized under the provisions of the federal asset forfeiture laws. In a painstakingly slow process, we are trying to get drugs off our streets and out of our neighborhoods. The asset-forfeiture laws help.

And the program has been welcomed with widespread support. Operation Crackdown has the full backing and endorsement of the mayor of St. Louis, the St. Louis county executive, the St. Louis chief of police, the director of public safety, Operation Safe Street, Congress, Churches United for Community Action, civic and community groups — as well as cops on their beats, narcotics detectives, DEA and FBI agents.

These are not people who are "hooked on the drug war," but who are horrified by drugs — pure and simple. They don't want to see their neighborhoods destroyed. They would like to know that the investment they made in their house in the city was a sound one. These are people who feel their children should be able to ride their bikes and play outside on the sidewalks — and not run the risk of being murdered by warring drug dealers. These are people who are concerned about the fate of their families and our city.

The asset-forfeiture laws have been the subject of numerous articles — more than a dozen in this paper alone. Evidences of column inches have detailed the negative aspects of asset forfeiture and alleged abuses of various forfeiture programs, state and federal.

However, when an invitation for reporters to go with authorities on an actual seizure was extended, it was ignored. The next day, a short story buried on a page outside and buried in the back pages. Seemingly, documents and procedures that are warranted, welcomed by the community and run within the parameters of the laws get short shrift. They shouldn't.

There are entire blocks in our city that are being decimated by drugs. If taking that dealer's house away from him will put him out of business, then I say, take that house away. And take away his car. Take away his jewels. Take away his cash. Ask destroy his stash of drugs.

And if taking that house away will deter others, will lead them to realize that if they sell drugs in their houses, they run the risk of losing their houses, I say, all the more reason for the program. Every day our neighborhoods are perpetrated by the presence of drug dealers. Children are put at constant risk.

If the seizure is unwarranted, the person is protected — by law. He can file for return of the property; a hearing is held; a judge weighs the evidence and decides whether that house or car or jewelry or cash should be returned. In some cases, it is. In most cases, the owner of the property walks away and makes no attempt at retrieval. And, in most cases, it is not because the owner is too naive to hire an attorney. It is because the owner knows that challenging the seizure will result in subjecting him or her to the scrutiny of the legal process — scrutiny that will expose any illegal transactions going on at the residence.

For example, take the house we recently seized on Pleasant Avenue. In fact, when we announced the launching of Operation Crackdown, we held the press conference in the street in front of that residence. Detectives from the St. Louis Police department put it under surveillance and watched a steady flow of quick visits to the front door. The callers left without actually entering the house. A search warrant was executed and eight bags of crack were discovered hidden in videotapes.

We seized the house. And the owner said fine. He didn't contest it. He didn't complain it. He never filed for its return. He knew who was in the right — and who was doing wrong. The house at 4347 Pleasant is now federal government property.

Or take the time in 1989 when the police got a call from a woman who told them her 14-year-old son and his friends had just brought a large amount of marijuana from the man who owned a house in the 4100 block of Wyoming, in the city of St. Louis. She found some of the dope in a plastic bag in her son's pocket and when confronted, he confessed he was dealing. The man on Wyoming charged him $300 for a quarter pound; her son pocketed any money over that.

The boy also told his mother how he and his friends watched the man on Wyoming weigh out about 10 pounds of marijuana and count out more than $10,000 in cash. The police went to investigate and found a large quantity of marijuana hidden in a suitcase behind the furnace.

This raid had all the hook of the book: a triple-beam balance scale, a kit of zip-lock sandwich bags, a 30-gauge shotgun, a 22-caliber bolt-action single-shot rifle and a 12-gauge shotgun.

The man who owned the house in this commentary, and making plans to kick him out, how he made his living. He was 48 years old, 6 feet 2 inches tall, 270 pounds and had tattoos on both arms. One read: Born to Lose.

If we don't put people like him out of business, we all lose.

Operation Crackdown and the asset-forfeiture laws are tools for federal and local authorities to put drug dealers out of business. Hopefully, the word will reach to other young men and women who think they can make easy money from a trade in, say, cocaine. The profession is for kids starting if they realize that once they are discovered, their home will be taken away by federal authorities.

The mayor, county executive, police chief, community and civic leaders, local and federal law enforcement all agree we need to protect our children, our streets, our blocks and our neighborhoods. Asset-forfeiture laws help us do that. Contrary to what I fear is the prevailing media view, these laws are proving to be effective. I believe strongly that the laws are just.

Asset forfeiture is not a game of cash and carry that the federal and local authorities are playing on innocent people. Asset forfeiture is one more way for law enforcement to harm the drug dealer, to deter those who choose the profession of dealing drugs.

Asset-forfeiture laws are also a meaningful tool to save neighborhoods. This is fact, not merely my opinion. There were people out on their streets before 8 o'clock in the morning on a rainy and dreary December day, cheering as the officers carried their seizure papers.

Ask them. Ask those St. Louis citizens if they would prefer that the local and federal government let those drug houses stand — and not shut them down. Ask those people living on Pleasant and Cora and Kent and Alaska and North Taylor and Carondelet and Terry and Bell and Hilton and beyond. Quite honestly, we believe they should be heard.

Stephen B. Higgins is U.S. attorney for the eastern district of Missouri.

Police Chief Clarence Harmon talking with residents of the 4300 block of Pleasant Street on Friday after a press conference called to announce the closing of five reputed crack houses.

Wayne Crews/Post-Dispatch

To Seize Drug House

Government Will Give Sites To Good Citizens

By Tim Bryant
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

The mayor, the police chief and the U.S. attorney stood Friday outside a two-story rowhouse with bars on the windows, called it a crack house and said they were shutting it down.

The house, at 4317 Pleasant Street, was one of five residences the government moved to seize Friday in what city and federal officials hope will be part of a program in which "dope houses" will be turned over to law-abiding people.

Speaking over bullhorns set up in the street, Mayor Vincent C. Schoemehl Jr. called the program an "energized, focused partnership"

See SEIZURES, Page 6

Seizures

From page 6A

in which city and federal authorities can "take our neighborhoods back from drug dealers."

"There is not going to be a safe corner in St. Louis to deal drugs," Schoemehl said. "St. Louis is tired of it. We're taking our streets back."

City and federal officials at the house, near Fairground Park, applauded. Most of the 50 or so neighborhood residents who had gathered there stood quietly.

Police Chief Clarence Harmon then stepped up to the microphone and told the crowd: "We're getting tough, folks. See what's happening."

U.S. Attorney Stephen B. Higgins said he planned for such seizures to be more than a gimmick. He said he had worked on the program for a year and hoped to persuade the Justice Department to make St. Louis a pilot project in which drug houses seized by the government would become the homes of good citizens.

"We hope this is the start of an ongoing program," Higgins said. "If the program ended with the seizure of these five houses, it would be little more than a publicity stunt."

Police made no arrests Friday. Higgins said the effort was to get the houses away from drug dealers, rather than put people in jail.

Suits were filed Friday in U.S. District Court to seize the house on Pleasant and residences at 5254-56 Terry Avenue, 4121 West Pennrose Street, 1639 Helen Avenue and 2253 Bell Avenue. In at least two of the houses, police suspect tenants, rather than the owners of the house, of drug dealing.

Owners who are not suspected of dealing drugs are protected if they can show that they were unaware of the drug dealing, said Raymond Meyer, an assistant U.S. attorney.

Authorities said police raided the house on Pleasant in March and found crack, a potent form of cocaine, hidden in video games in the basement. Higgins said police had evidence of 19 drug deals in the 4300 block of Pleasant in the last two years.

Mayor Vincent C. Schoemehl Jr. called drug dealers and their accomplices human roaches.

Drug raids were carried out recently at the other residences, authorities said.

In a statement, Schoemehl said: "Drug dealers and their accomplices are human roaches. We're going to chase them out of the places they hide, period."

Under the city and federal plan, called Operation Crackdown, drug houses seized through the federal asset forfeiture program could wind up in the hands of the city's Conserv office.

That office could make the residences available to neighborhood organizations or individuals. Higgins said the details of the program had yet to be decided.

In forfeiture cases like this, drug houses typically become the property of the U.S. Marshal, who sells them to the highest bidder.

In some cases, the buyers are the drug dealers who lived in the houses previously.

Meyer, the assistant U.S. attorney who filed the forfeiture suits Friday, said the residents could stay, for now. But the owners will be on notice that signs of drug dealing will mean immediate evictions.

As the officials, police cars and news crews left the neighborhood, Mary Doyle drove up to Ellen School, a block from the house on Pleasant. While waiting to pick up her two granddaughters from school, she said police should "just bust all these houses that are selling drugs."

But she said seizing houses could be carried too far.

"You shouldn't be able to take the home if the owner is innocent," she said. "A lot of people don't know what's going on in their houses."

Wayne Crews/Post-Dispatch

U.S. Attorney Stephen B. Higgins (foreground) and St. Louis Mayor Vincent C. Schoemehl Jr. at a press conference called Friday to announce the closing of five reputed crack houses.

Our Fire Dept. Is Now 'Smokeless'

Since 8 a.m. Sunday, March 1, the City's Fire Department has been officially "smokeless."

"Smoking any and all forms of tobacco or other products in all Fire Dept. buildings and vehicles is prohibited," acknowledged Fire Chief Neil Svetanics. The ban applies to 30 City firehouses, two airport houses, repair garage, storage warehouse, training tower and headquarters. "The only areas where smoking is allowed are yards, parking lots and sidewalks outside Department buildings," he added.

Chief Svetanics said he instituted the policy, on his own authority as Chief, for three reasons.

"My first consideration is the health and well-being of our employees," Chief Svetanics said. "The Surgeon General is right; smoking really is hazardous to your health.

Secondly, non-smokers need to be protected from the second-hand smoke of others, he said. "The harmful effects of others' tobacco use are well documented, and we can move to reduce or eliminate this unwanted hazard.

"Third, careless smoking is the number one cause of fires in the United States. By their taxes, the citizens have refurbished more than half of all our firehouses, and we want to keep 'em that way."

Chief Svetanics, who admitted that he was a two-pack-a-day man until 10 years ago, said the Department was planning classes to help smokers quit. If enough Firefighters and department employees are interested, classes might be offered at the Headquarters. If not, there will be classes at the Dept. of Personnel.

In the first several days after the order became effective, there has been little reaction. "Of course, the weather's been nice and they can step outside very easily," he noted. "But everyone's been cooperative. Firefighters are good people, and they realize that we're interested in their health and well-being.

"I think we all know the harmful effects of smoking on the body," he continued. "And this job is hard enough without being in less-than-top physical condition."

And what about wisecracks or bad jokes about "smokeaters" or "leatherlungs?"

"I can handle that," he said wryly. "I've been in this business 30 years, and I've heard 'em all."

197 Raided; 12 Seized in 1991

U.S. Attorney Pleased With Drug House Seizures

U.S. Attorney Higgins

United States Attorney Stephen B. Higgins told some 125 neighborhood leaders that he was pleased with the beginning of "Operation Crackdown," this City's first-of-its-kind effort to rid neighborhoods of drug houses.

Higgins said that in 1991, City Police conducted 197 searches of houses being used as a base for drug sales. They resulted in the Federal government seizing ownership of 12 of those houses under the Federal asset forfeiture laws.

"And, if we succeed in convincing the (U.S.) Attorney General, we will begin turning over these houses to neighborhood organizations, to rehabilitate for the welfare of the neighborhood," Higgins said.

Addressing the latest in a series of informational sessions for leaders of neighborhood groups in the City, Higgins described his own personal experience, as a City resident, watching drug buyers stream in and out of certain houses.

Applying asset forfeiture laws, the government can take ownership of some houses, Higgins said, "to send the message to dealers that you can lose your house if you use it to sell drugs."

It took considerable persistence and persuasion to get the U.S. Justice Dept. to buy into "Crackdown's" notion of seizing houses, Higgins noted. And they haven't yet OK'd the turnover of houses to neighborhood groups. "But, after a year and a half of pushing, we're almost there. And it will be a pilot project for the whole country to see how a City can reclaim a neighborhood from the dealers."

Higgins gave strong acknowledgement to **Peter Sortino** of Operation ConServ, whose office suggested the house seizure/turnover idea, and to **Suzanne Hart** and **Kathleen Bechere**r both of Operation SafeStreet, for promoting it.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICHARD H. MC CLURE
Chief of Staff

Jeannie Bunton
White House Speechwriting
fax 202/456-6218

The circled programs are well worth highlighting in the president's remarks - since they utilize federal funds. The school assistance program-tend puts policemen around schools (release attached) also should be mentioned since it involves federal funds.

The U.S. Attorney, Steve Higgins is an excellent source of information. His no. is noted.

Rich McClure

Although "Crackdown" is not part of Weed and Seed, we began its planning in August, 1990 and believe that we still have the most organized program of its kind in the nation. A key component of "Crackdown" is the deeding back to the community of seized drug houses, which was approved by the office of the Deputy Attorney General in April, 1992.

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Although I do not know what the White House intended in its selection of Ohio Street as a site for the President's visit, if the purpose is to dramatize what is being done by law enforcement at both the federal and local levels, working with neighborhood groups, I believe most strongly that Operation Crackdown should not only be mentioned, but highlighted in the visit. Unlike the relatively isolated execution of search warrants on Ohio Street last week by local police detectives (working without any federal involvement) our program is ongoing and involves neighborhood and community groups, local government, local Police Departments and federal law enforcement. From my many visits with neighborhood groups and leaders in St. Louis city, I can tell you that it is just this type of program which demonstrates that at the federal law enforcement level we do care about the problems of urban crime and drugs and are doing something. It would be a major mistake to then focus only on the random efforts of local law enforcement, and, since the Ohio Street drug arrests were made without federal help, a visit to that location could very well backfire by (a) calling attention to lack of federal involvement and (b) giving the appearance of taking federal credit for what was simply a local effort.

(This is resolved)

For these reasons I strongly urge the President to visit the property at 4247 Pleasant Avenue in North St. Louis and to tell the nation about "Crackdown", rather than the proposed Ohio Street site.

On another note, the President may also want to talk about our "Gun-Free School Zone Program", begun by us last February in cooperation with the St. Louis Public School System, the St. Louis Police Department and the DEA and under which we recently obtained our first conviction and six year, no parole sentence. This program uses a new federal law to preserve our schools as gun-free sanctuaries from violence.

Lastly, the President may want to mention our local successes under "Operation Triggerlock", the DOJ program which uses the federal armed career criminal laws to put away the most violent street criminals. As with our other programs, "Triggerlock" is succeeding because of the full cooperation of state and local law enforcement.

Please call if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

Stephen B. Higgins
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Missouri

314/539-2200

SBH.j

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Neighbors Reclaim Drug Den

Seized Crack House Will Go To Needy

By Margaret Gilbertson
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Last year, 4247 Pleasant Avenue was a "crack house" where drug traffickers streamed in and out, menacing neighbors whose young children played on a nearby empty lot in the shadow of the city's old Water Tower.

On Saturday, the dilapidated house with bars on its windows was returned to the community. The keys were handed over to a church group, the North Side Team Ministry, which plans to rehabilitate the building and turn it over to a family needing a home.

U.S. Attorney Stephen B. Higgins, who was instrumental in Operation Crackdown, the program that turned the house around, said Saturday that he hoped the program could become a model for the nation.

"One single house where drugs can be bought can ultimately destroy an entire neighborhood," Higgins said at a ceremony at the house. "If we don't act, people looking for drugs will continue to stream into ... neighborhoods. The communities need help, and we intend to do everything we can."

Authorities seized the house using federal forfeiture laws that give them the right to confiscate houses where drugs are sold or stored, Higgins said. Ever since Operation Crackdown began a year ago, three houses in St. Louis County and 12 in St. Louis have been seized in drug raids, he said.

The house on Pleasant Avenue was

See HOUSES, Page 4

Larry Williams/Post-Dispatch

Bill Charlton (left) and Mavis Tessa Thompson of North Side Team Ministry at the former crack house at 4247 Pleasant Avenue that their organization will be rehabilitating.

Houses

9-6-92

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the first to be donated to a neighborhood group.

The program is a joint effort of federal and local law enforcement, the city and neighborhood groups.

"At the heart of this is making neighborhoods safe," said Mayor Vincent C. Schoemehl Jr., who also attended the ceremony. "You can't have a viable neighborhood when you have a drug house openly operating. ...

"The best weapon the city has against a drug dealer is a committed neighborhood," Schoemehl said. "Drug dealers hate neighborhoods that care about what's happening next door and down the block. They hate neighbors who want to make their own streets safer."

Some neighbors and their children gathered around to watch the proceedings, while others played down the block in the Saturday sunshine.

Sybil Canada, 29, had her 9-month-old son in tow. Canada, who has seven children, said she welcomed any effort to rid the neighborhoods of drugs.

"There is so much violence out there, you don't know what's going to happen," she said. "I try to keep my eye on all" of the children.

John Webster, 37, a neighbor and father of two, sported a Bart Simpson T-shirt that said "CRACK KILLS, BLACK POWER."

Mavis Tessa Thompson, a board member of the ministry and a neighborhood resident, said crack houses such as the one on Pleasant breed fear and violence and provide terrible role models for children.

"Neighborhoods are saying we're not going to take it any more," she said. "You want your place safe. You don't want to feel like you're living behind bars and armor. You don't want to be afraid to go out of your house."

U.S. Marshal Willie Greasom said the program gives people in neighborhoods "the opportunity to win [illegible] drugs one neighborhood at a time."

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

COMMENTARY

A Powerful Weapon Against Drug Suspects

Residents Near Crack Houses Support Seizure Of Assets By Authorities

By Stephen B. Higgins

On Dec. 12 of last year, U.S. marshals and drug enforcement agents served seizure papers prepared by the U.S. attorney's office on seven dope houses in St. Louis. Part of Operation Crackdown — a program designed to save neighborhoods from the scourge of drug dealers — those seizures brought the total to one dozen crack and drug houses shut down and taken away in the past three months.

Even though it was early morning on a dull, rainy December day, neighbors on one street went outside to applaud as police officers and federal agents did their work. On other blocks, residents told TV reporters they were happy the houses had been seized. One man spoke of his 13-year-old daughter, about how he didn't want her to be around a crack house.

No parent does. The purpose of the program and the point of the asset-forfeiture laws is to punish drug dealers by taking away not only their profits, but anything that facilitates their work. Hearth and home are precious to everyone — you, me, even a man or woman trafficking in illegal drugs. But a person who permits to using his residence as a literal drug store runs the risk of losing that home. At the same time, the neighborhood gets a chance to be saved from the deterioration inherent in drug trafficking.

That is what happened on Dec. 12. On seven blocks in St. Louis, seven houses from which drugs were sold were seized under the provisions of the federal asset forfeiture laws. In a painstakingly slow process, we are trying to get drugs off our streets and out of our neighborhoods. The asset-forfeiture laws help.

And the program has been welcomed with widespread support. Operation Crackdown has the full backing and endorsement of the mayor of St. Louis, the St. Louis county executive, the St. Louis chief of police, the director of public safety, Operation Safe Street, ConServ, Churches United for Community Action, civic and community groups — as well as cops on their beats, narcotics detectives, DEA and FBI agents.

These are not people who are "hooked on the drug war," but who are horrified by drugs — pure and simple. They don't want to see their neighborhoods destroyed. They would like to know that the investment they made in their home in the city was a sound one. These are people who feel their children should be able to ride their bikes and play outside on the sidewalks — and not run the risk of being murdered by warring drug dealers. These are people who are concerned about the fate of their families and our city.

The asset-forfeiture laws have been the subject of numerous articles — more than a dozen in this paper alone. Hundreds of column inches have detailed the negative aspects of asset forfeiture and alleged abuses of various forfeiture programs, state and federal.

However, when an invitation for reporters to go with authorities on an actual seizure was extended, it was ignored. The next day, a short story based on a press release was buried in the back pages. Seemingly, seizures and forfeitures that are warranted, welcomed by the community and well within the parameters of the laws get short shrift. They shouldn't.

There are entire blocks in our city that are being decimated by drugs. If taking that dealer's house away from him will put him out of business, then I say, take that house away. And take away his car. Take away his jewels. Take away his cash. And destroy his stash of drugs.

And if taking that house away will deter others, will force them to realize that if they deal drugs in their homes, they run the risk of losing those homes, I say, all the more reason for the program. Every day our neighborhoods are jeopardized by the presence of drug dealers. Children are put at constant risk.

If the seizure is unwarranted, the person is protected — by law. He can file for return of the property; a hearing is held; a judge weighs the evidence and decides whether that home or car or jewelry or cash should be returned. In some cases, it is. In most cases, the owner of the property walks away and makes no attempt at retrieval. And, in most cases, it is not because the owner is too naive to hire an attorney. It is because the owner knows that challenging the seizure will result in subjecting him or her to the scrutiny of the legal process — scrutiny that will expose any illegal transactions going on at the residence.

For example, take the house we recently seized on Pleasant Avenue. In fact, when we announced the launching of Operation Crackdown, we held the press conference in the street in front of that residence. Detectives from the St. Louis Police Department put it under surveillance and watched a steady flow of quick visits to the front door. The callers left without actually entering the house. A search warrant was executed and eight bags of crack were discovered hidden in videogames.

We seized the house. And the owner said fine. He didn't contest it. He didn't question it. He never filed for its return. He knew who was in the right — and who was doing wrong. The house at 4247 Pleasant is now federal government property.

Or take the time in 1989 when the police got a call from a woman who told them her 14-year-old son and his friends had just bought a large amount of marijuana from the man who owned a house in the 4100 block of Wyoming, in the city of St. Louis. She found some of the dope in a plastic bag in her son's pocket and when confronted, he confessed he was dealing. The man on Wyoming charged him $300 for a quarter pound; her son pocketed any money over that.

The boy also told his mother how he and his friends watched the man on Wyoming weigh out about 10 pounds of marijuana and count out more than $10,000 in cash. The police went to investigate and found a large quantity of marijuana hidden in a suitcase behind the freezer.

This man had all the tools of the trade: a triple-beam balance scale, a lot of zip-lock sandwich bags, a 20-gauge shotgun, a 22-caliber bolt-action single-shot rifle and a 12-gauge shotgun.

The man who owned the house was unemployed, and selling grass to kids was how he made his living. He was 46 years old, 6 foot 2 inches tall, 270 pounds and had tattoos on both arms. One read: Born to Lose.

If we don't put people like him out of business, we all lose.

Operation Crackdown and the asset-forfeiture laws are tools for federal and local authorities to put drug dealers out of business. Hopefully, the laws will work to deter young men and women who think they can make easy money from a trade in, say, cocaine. The profession is far less alluring if they realize that once they are discovered, their home will be taken away by federal authorities.

The mayor, county executive, police chief, community and civic leaders, local and federal law enforcement all agree we need to protect our children, our streets, our blocks and our neighborhoods. Asset-forfeiture laws help us do that. Contrary to what I fear is the prevailing media view, these laws are proving to be effective. I believe strongly that the laws are just.

Asset forfeiture is not a game of cash and carry that the federal and local authorities are playing on innocent people. Asset forfeiture is one more way for law enforcement to harm the drug dealer, to deter those who choose the business of dealing drugs.

Asset-forfeiture laws are also a meaningful tool to save neighborhoods. This is fact, not merely my opinion. There were people out on their streets before 8 o'clock in the morning on a rainy and dreary December day, cheering as the officers served those seizure papers.

Ask them. Ask those St. Louis citizens if they would prefer that the local and federal government let those drug houses stand — and not shut them down. Ask those people living on Pleasant and Clara and Knox and Aldine and North Taylor and Geraldine and Terry and Bell and Helen and beyond. Quite honestly, we believe they should be heard.

Stephen B. Higgins is U.S. attorney for the eastern district of Missouri.

Police Chief Clarence Harmon talking with residents of the 4200 block of Pleasant Street on Friday after a press conference called to announce the closing of five reputed crack houses.

Wayne Crossin/Post-Dispatch

City Moves To Seize Drug House

Government Will Give Sites To Good Citizens

By Tim Bryant
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

The mayor, the police chief and the U.S. attorney stood Friday outside a two-story residence with bars on the windows, called it a crack house and said they were shutting it down.

The house, at 4247 Pleasant Street, was one of five residences the government moved to seize Friday in what city and federal officials hope will be part of a program in which "dope houses" will be turned over to law-abiding people.

Speaking over loudspeakers set up in the street, Mayor Vincent C. Schoemehl Jr. called the program an "energized, focused partnership"

The SEIZURES, Page 8

Seizures

From page one

in which city and federal authorities can "take our neighborhoods back from drug dealers."

"There is not going to be a safe corner in St. Louis to deal drugs," Schoemehl said. "St. Louis is tired of it. We're taking our streets back."

City and federal officials at the house, near Fairground Park, applauded. Most of the 50 or so neighborhood residents who had gathered there stood quietly.

Police Chief Clarence Harmon then stepped up to the microphone and told the crowd: "We're getting tough, folks. See what's happening."

U.S. Attorney Stephen B. Higgins said he planned for such seizures to be more than a gimmick. He said he had worked on the program for a year and hoped to persuade the Justice Department to make St. Louis a pilot project in which drug houses seized by the government would become the homes of good citizens.

"We hope this is the start of an ongoing program," Higgins said. "If the program ended with the seizure of these five houses, it would be little more than a publicity stunt."

Police made no arrests Friday. Higgins said the effort was to get the houses away from drug dealers, rather than put people in jail.

Suits were filed Friday in U.S. District Court to seize the house on Pleasant and residences at 3654-56 Terry Avenue, 4121 West Pearose Street, 1635 Helen Avenue and 2853 Bait Avenue. In at least two of the houses, police suspect tenants, rather than the owners of the house, of drug dealing.

Owners who are not suspected of dealing drugs are protected if they can show that they were unaware of the drug dealing, said Raymond Meyer, an assistant U.S. attorney.

Authorities said police raided the house on Pleasant in March and found crack, a potent form of cocaine, hidden in video games in the basement. Higgins said police had evidence of 18 drug deals in the 4200 block of Pleasant in the last two years.

Mayor Vincent C. Schoemehl Jr. called drug dealers and their accomplices human roaches.

Drug raids were carried out recently at the other residences, authorities said.

In a statement, Schoemehl said: "Drug dealers and their accomplices are human roaches. We're going to chase them out of the places they hide, period."

Under the city and federal plan, called Operation Crackdown, drug houses seized through the federal asset forfeiture program could wind up in the hands of the city's ConServ office.

That office could make the residences available to neighborhood organizations or individuals. Higgins said the details of the program had yet to be decided.

In forfeiture cases now, drug houses typically become the property of the U.S. Marshal, who sells them to the highest bidder.

In some cases, the buyers are the drug dealers who lived in the houses previously.

Meyer, the assistant U.S. attorney who filed the forfeiture suits Friday, said the residents could stay, for now. But the owners will be on notice that signs of drug dealing will mean immediate evictions.

As the officials, police cars and news crews left the neighborhood, Mary Doyle drove up to Eliot School a block from the house on Pleasant. While waiting to pick up her two granddaughters from school, she said police should "just burn all these houses that are selling drugs."

But she said seizing houses could be carried too far.

"You shouldn't be able to take the home if the owner is innocent," she said. "A lot of people don't know what's going on in their houses."

Wayne Crossin/Post-Dispatch

U.S. Attorney Stephen B. Higgins (foreground) and St. Louis Mayor Vincent C. Schoemehl Jr. at a press conference called Friday to announce the closing of five reputed crack houses.

Our Fire Dept. Is Now 'Smokeless'

Since 8 a.m. Sunday, March 1, he City's Fire Department has been fficially "smokeless."

"Smoking any and all forms of obacco or other products in all Fire Dept. buildings and vehicles is pro-ibited," acknowledged Fire Chief **lell Svetanics.** The ban applies to 0 City firehouses, two airport ouses, repair garage, storage arehouse, training tower and eadquarters. "The only areas here smoking is allowed are yards, arking lots and sidewalks outside epartment buildings," he added.

Chief Svetanics said he instituted he policy, on his own authority as hief, for three reasons.

"My first consideration is the ealth and well-being of our em-loyees," Chief Svetanics said. The Surgeon General is right; smoking really is hazardous to your health."

Secondly, non-smokers need to be protected from the second-hand smoke of others, he said. "The harmful effects of others' tobacco use are well documented, and we can move to reduce or eliminate this unwanted hazard."

"Third, careless smoking is the number one cause of fires in the United States. By their taxes, the citizens have refurbished more than half of all our firehouses, and we want to keep 'em that way."

Chief Svetanics, who admitted that he was a two-pack-a-day man until 10 years ago, said the Department was planning classes to help smokers quit. If enough Firefighters and department employees are interested, classes might be offered at the Headquarters. If not, there will be classes at the Dept. of Personnel.

In the first several days after the order became effective, there has been little reaction. "Of course, the weather's been nice and they can step outside very easily," he noted. "But everyone's been cooperative. Firefighters are good people, and they realize that we're interested in their health and well-being.

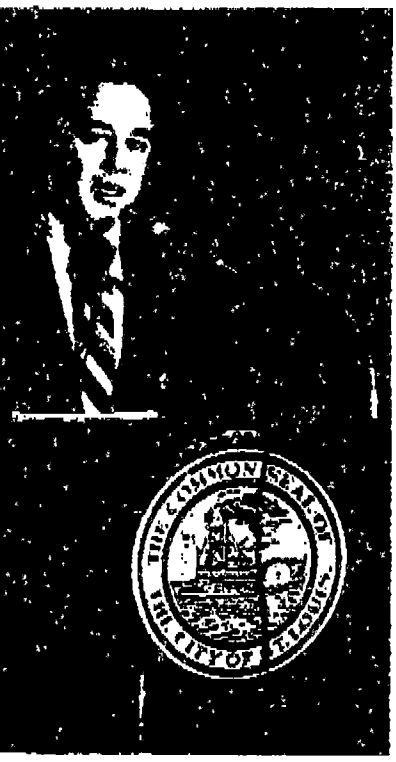
"I think we all know the harmful effects of smoking on the body," he continued. "And this job is hard enough without being in less-than-top physical condition."

And what about wisecracks or bad jokes about "smokeaters" or "leatherlungs?"

"I can handle that," he said wryly, "I've been in this business 30 years, and I've heard 'em all."

7 Raided; 12 Seized in 1991

.S. Attorney Pleased With Drug House Seizures



U.S. Attorney Higgins

United States Attorney Stephen B. Higgins told some 125 neighborhood leaders that he was pleased with the beginning of "Operation Crackdown," this City's first-of-its-kind effort to rid neighborhoods of drug houses.

Higgins said that in 1991, City Police conducted 197 searches of houses being used as a base for drug sales. They resulted in the Federal government seizing ownership of 12 of those houses under the Federal asset forfeiture laws.

"And, if we succeed in convincing the (U.S.) Attorney General, we will begin turning over these houses to neighborhood organizations, to rehabilitate for the welfare of the neighborhood," Higgins said.

Addressing the latest in a series of informational sessions for leaders of neighborhood groups in the City, Higgins described his own personal experience, as a City resident, watching drug buyers stream in and out of certain houses.

Applying asset forfeiture laws, the government can take ownership of some houses, Higgins said, "to send the message to dealers that you can lose your house if you use it to sell drugs."

It took considerable persistence and persuasion to get the U.S. Justice Dept. to buy into "Crackdown's" notion of seizing houses, Higgins noted. And they haven't yet OK'd the turnover of houses to neighborhood groups. "But, after a year and a half of pushing, we're almost there. And it will be a pilot project for the whole country to see how a City can reclaim a neighborhood from the dealers."

Higgins gave strong acknowledgement to **Peter Sortino** of Operation ConServ, whose office suggested the house seizure/turnover idea, and to **Suzanne Hart** and **Kathleen Bechererer** both of Operation SafeStreet, for promoting it.

Jeannie —
Additional info on a Missair Victims program.
Rick

VICTIMS OF CRIME FACT SHEET

- According to the U.S. Department of Justice over one in four households is touched by crime every year. Millions of people are victims of violent crime each year.

- Nationwide, billions of dollars are spent each year to identify, apprehend, prosecute, incarcerate, and rehabilitate offenders. State government and local governments spend millions of dollars on these activities each year in Missouri.

- Yet, for all of these dollars spent on criminals relatively few resources are devoted to assisting innocent victims. Criminals inflict a heavy toll, not only through physical assault and the theft of property, but also through lasting emotional scars, especially when children are involved.

- Missouri has taken action to address the needs of innocent victims including:

  - Passage of the Victim Compensation and Victim Services Act (1981 and amended in 1985) which created the Crime Victims Compensation program.

  - The state budget includes:

    $50,000 for the Department of Public Safety to provide grant seed money for up to a three-year period for local public or private, not-for-profit agencies to establish direct services, emergency services, crisis intervention counseling, and other services to crime victims.

    $1,243,000 for the Victims of Crime Act program that is passed on to organizations for the purposes just noted and includes $775,000 for domestic violence.

    $1,035,000 from the State Services to Victims/Victims of Crime program, including $753,200 for domestic violence. These funds are used for public and private agencies to provide assistance to victims of crime through direct services, emergency services, crisis intervention counseling, funding for shelters, and victim advocacy.

    $250,000 for the Emergency Shelter/Family Violence Prevention program

    $4 million in state and federal funds for the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to provide payments to victims.

    $1.9 million from the Children's Trust Fund for child abuse and neglect services, many of them serving families at risk of domestic violence in Fiscal Year 1993, including $36,032 specifically for shelters for victims of domestic violence.

- Legislation signed by Governor Ashcroft to deal with victims of crime and also domestic violence include:

  - HB 566 (1991) and HB 1471 (1992) authorize all counties and municipalities to levy a $1 court fee on each county and municipal ordinance violation. The proceeds are dedicated exclusively to domestic violence shelters.

- HB 1370 (1990) requires counties to collect a $20 fee on each marriage license, $5 of which must be deposited in special trust funds for services to victims of domestic violence. Based upon 1991 data, this measure should generate approximately $231,000 annually.

- HB 1195 (1989) created the State Services to Victims program to assist victims of domestic violence and others. Court fees generate funds for the program.

- HB 1069 (1982) permits counties and St. Louis City to charge $5 per marriage license (over and above the mandatory HB 1370 fee) and $10 fee per divorce decree. The proceeds are dedicated exclusively for shelters for victims of domestic violence. Based upon 1991 data, this measure could potentially generate approximately $488,500 annually.

- SB 420 (1989) known as the Adult Abuse Act contained many of the key recommendations of the Governor's Task Force on Domestic Violence. This important law provided new protection against domestic violence and new services and resources for victims. It gave police new power and responsibility, empowered judges with new authority, and streamlined procedures to obtain court-ordered protection for victims.

- Other actions taken by Governor Ashcroft include:

  - Creation of the Domestic Violence Task Force in 1987 to conduct a comprehensive review of domestic violence in Missouri and to research programs and services for victims of abuse. The task force developed recommendations to reduce the occurrence and severity of domestic violence through increased services, education, public awareness, training, and statutory changes.

  - Proclaimed October 1989 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The strong message delivered to Missourians is that domestic violence is no longer a "private" matter. People throughout the state need to become aware of the magnitude and severity of domestic violence, and understand the needs of battered people and their children.

For Immediate Release
January 2, 1992

Contact: Bob Ferguson
314/751-3222

ASHCROFT BACKS ST. LOUIS CRIME PREVENTION PROJECT

(St. Louis) -- Gov. John Ashcroft today announced a pilot project to reduce crime in St. Louis neighborhoods and schools.

The governor said violent crime in St. Louis City has increased dramatically, with the 1991 murder rate up 47.3 percent over 1990 and robbery up 11.6 percent. He said the two-pronged project involving Community-Oriented Policing (COPS) and a School Assistance Program can help return safety and civility to the city's neighborhoods.

"I believe the regular presence of the same assigned officers in specific neighborhoods and around our schools can instill the kind of community spirit and neighborly resolve that we need to renew," Ashcroft said. "Community-Oriented Policing is an important program already supported by the St. Louis Police Board and its department leadership.

"The COPS program enables the police department to assign specified officers to walk a particular neighborhood or 'beat.' This concept from the past is regaining tremendous respect among criminal justice professionals across the country. The COPS program already has proven to be effective here in St. Louis in fostering a sense of community and partnership between the officer and the residents of a particular area," the governor said.

Ashcroft said the School Assistance Program places uniformed peace officers in the city's 14 high schools, 27 middle schools and 10 of the elementary schools that are located in high-crime areas, as well as in "safety zones" spanning 1000 feet in every direction from the specified schools. The officers will serve as a stabilizing force inside the school buildings at the beginning and end of each school day, he said.

"Under optimum conditions, we obviously wouldn't have police officers in our schools," Ashcroft said. "But we will do what we must to provide a safe environment for our students where real learning and achievement can occur."

Ashcroft made his announcement at Roosevelt High School, where 324 crimes occurred last year within the 1000-foot safety zone. He said during a six-month period in 1988 and 1989, more than 400,000 students nationally were victims of violent crimes at school, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

"Our Sixth National Education Goal states that by the year 2000 every school in America will be free of drugs and violence and will offer a disciplined environment conducive to learning," Ashcroft said.

Add One

Attainment of the sixth goal essentially is a prerequisite to achieving the other five education goals. Students, parents and all taxpayers must be free from the fear of crime and drugs on our streets and in our schools."

Ashcroft said the project will cost $700,000 a year and will be funded through the federal Narcotics Control Assistance Program administered by the Missouri Department of Public Safety. These funds are in addition to the nearly $5 million made available for local drug enforcement and prevention programs, he said. Federal regulations limit pilot projects to four years.

"Allocating these funds to St. Louis still will allow us to strengthen state support for anti-drug initiatives in other parts of the state," Ashcroft said.

The governor said the U.S. Justice Department already is funding "Weed and Seed," a pilot project in Kansas City. Under that program, law enforcement officers "weed out" crime problems in high-crime areas and establish community partnerships to "seed" the affected neighborhoods with services and activities to prevent crime problems from recurring.

"It must be made clear that neither the COPS program nor the School Assistance Program represent a panacea to the multitude of challenges facing our inner-city neighborhoods," Ashcroft said. "But the presence of familiar officers should give residents assurance and confidence that they are not alone in their fight against violent crime."

St. Louis Police Chief Clarence Harmon and Police Board Chairman David Robbins joined Ashcroft at the news conference.

"This is an example of the strong commitment Governor Ashcroft has shown for both quality education and a safe learning environment," Harmon said. "We are likewise committed to providing the resources necessary to make the program a success."

In addition, Ashcroft announced an initiative to further protect students by amending the existing weapons law to extend present restrictions on weapons in schools to the school grounds and to any school bus. Current law makes it a misdemeanor to bring any firearm or other lethal weapon into school buildings, with appropriate exceptions. Current law, however, does not extend to school grounds or school buses.

"The unfortunate reality is that sometimes students and, frequently, non-students bring lethal weapons into the school environment," Ashcroft said. "In a 1990 National Center for Educational Statistics survey of 25,000 eighth-graders from 1,000 public and private schools, 21 percent of the students said they had witnessed weapons at school."

Under Ashcroft's proposal, appropriate exceptions would continue to apply, including weapons carried by law enforcement and other specifically designated individuals whose positions legitimately involve the possession of weapons.

"Lethal weapons have no place in the school environment," Ashcroft said. "Extending the restriction on lethal weapons to school grounds and school buses will be one more step toward ensuring that our schools can accomplish what we as citizens have a right to expect -- the education of our children."

-30-

For Immediate Release
January 2, 1992

Contact: Bob Ferguson
314/751-3222

ASHCROFT ANNOUNCES INITIATIVE TO PROTECT STUDENTS; BACKS ST. LOUIS CRIME PREVENTION PROJECT

Gov. John Ashcroft today announced an initiative to help protect Missouri students against violent crime.

Ashcroft proposed that the state amend the existing weapons law to extend present restrictions on weapons in schools to the school grounds and to any school bus. He said current law makes it a misdemeanor to bring any firearm or other lethal weapon into school buildings, with appropriate exceptions; however, current law does not extend to school grounds or school buses.

"The unfortunate reality is that sometimes students and, frequently, non-students bring lethal weapons into the school environment," Ashcroft said. "In a 1990 National Center for Educational Statistics survey of 23,000 eighth-graders from 1,000 public and private schools, 21 percent of the students said they had witnessed weapons at school."

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-more-

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"Under optimum conditions, we obviously wouldn't have police officers in our schools," Ashcroft said. "But we will do what we must to provide a safe environment for our students where real learning and achievement can occur."

Ashcroft made his announcement at Roosevelt High School, where 324 crimes occurred last year within the 1000-foot safety zone. He said during a six-month period in 1988 and 1989, more than 400,000 students nationally were victims of violent crimes at school, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

"Our Sixth National Education Goal states that by the year 2000 every school in America will be free of drugs and violence and will offer a disciplined environment conducive to learning," Ashcroft said. "Attainment of the sixth goal essentially is a prerequisite to achieving the other five education goals. Students, parents and all taxpayers must be free from the fear of crime and drugs on our streets and in our schools."

Ashcroft said the project will cost $700,000 a year and will be funded through the federal Narcotics Control Assistance Program administered by the Missouri Department of Public Safety. These funds are in addition to the nearly $5 million made available for local drug enforcement and prevention programs, he said. Federal regulations limit pilot projects to four years.

"Allocating these funds to St. Louis still will allow us to strengthen state support for anti-drug initiatives in other parts of the state," Ashcroft said.

The governor said the U.S. Justice Department already is funding "Weed and Seed," a pilot project in Kansas City. Under that program, law enforcement officers "weed out" crime problems in high-crime areas and establish community partnerships to "seed" the affected neighborhoods with services and activities to prevent crime problems from recurring.

"It must be made clear that neither the COPS program nor the School Assistance Program represent a panacea to the multitude of challenges facing our inner-city neighborhoods," Ashcroft said. "But the presence of familiar officers should give residents assurance and confidence that they are not alone in their fight against violent crime."

St. Louis Police Chief Clarence Harmon and Police Board Chairman David Robbins joined Ashcroft at the news conference.

"This is an example of the strong commitment Governor Ashcroft has shown for both quality education and a safe learning environment," Harmon said. "We are likewise committed to providing the resources necessary to make the program a success."

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