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OA/ID Number: 13486
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Folder Title:
Peace Officer's Memorial Day, 5/15/89 [2]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	15	7	2

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUMDATE: 5/11/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5/11/89 6:00 PMSUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	MCCLURE	☒	☐
SUNUNU	☐	☒	NEWMAN	☐	☐
SCOWCROFT	☒	☐	PORTER	☒	☐
DARMAN	☒	☐	STUDDERT	☐	☐
BATES	☒	☐	UNTERMAYER	☐	☐
BREEDEN	☒	☐	ROGERS	☐	☒
CARD	☒	☐	WINSTON	☐	☒
CICCONI	☐	☒	PINKERTON	☒	☐
DEMAREST	☒	☐		☐	☐
FITZWATER	☐	☒		☐	☐
GRAY	☒	☐		☐	☐
HAGIN	☐	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS:

Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 6:00 PM, TODAY, Thursday, May 11, 1989, with an info copy to my office. Sorry for the short turnaround. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi
 Assistant to the President
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
 Ext. 2702

1989 MAY 11 PM 1:00

(McNally/Simon)
May 11, 1989
11:00 a.m.
Draft Three
(B:CRIME)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY
U.S. CAPITOL -- WEST FRONT
MONDAY, MAY 15, 1989
12:00 NOON

OVER STATED 1968 / THANKS WH
Not since Lincoln has a President stood in front of the Capitol and been just a few miles from the front line of a war.

BLACKS
Certain sections, of certain cities -- including this one -- have been turned into combat zones by pockets of violent and well-armed drug lords.

Never was the toll more visible than in the faces of the brave men and women -- the families -- gathered here on democracy's front steps today.

START HERE
Last fall, a retired New York police lieutenant gave me badge number 14072 -- the badge his son wore the day he was gunned down by one such gang of cocaine cowards. Matthew Byrne asked me to keep Eddie's badge as a "reminder of all the brave police officers...who put their lives on the line for us every day."

Matt, your son's badge is kept in my desk in the Oval Office. During the debate on drug-related violence that has raged in this country the past several months, neither it nor what it represents has ever been far from my mind. I've heard many voices, the courageous and the corrupt, the wounded and the widowed.

PARTNERSHIP THEME IF THAT
WHY HE IS AT THIS EVENT.

2

WHO? /
Fumbling
for a
solution.

~~Some say we should give up. Others all but suggest we
barricade the streets. But somewhere between despair and
destruction, there is a balanced course. Room for a measured
response. A place for common sense.~~

And no effective search for the solutions can begin without
a thoughtful look at the problem we face, and at the kind of
people we are, the kind of values we hold, and the kind of nation
we intend to bequeath to our children.

DEPENDENCY?

First, the problem. We're here today to talk about violent
crime -- and, in particular, the bloodshed that has been spurred
by increasingly sophisticated guns in the hands of a new class of
cold-blooded criminals. Usually, but not always, the deaths are
tied to a cycle of drugs and dollars and dependency.

Second, the principles. My generation well remembers what
some believe was F.D.R.'s finest speech: The "Four Freedoms"
address to a joint session of Congress. The last, often
forgotten, and arguably most fundamental of President Roosevelt's
freedoms was simply this: freedom from fear. Our sworn duty to
"insure domestic Tranquility" is as old as the republic itself,
placed in the Constitution's preamble even before the common
defense and the general welfare. When we ask what kind of
society the American people deserve -- and what kind of society
we hope to pass on to our children -- it's clear that our goal
must be a nation in which law abiding citizens are safe and feel
safe.

Fundamental to this duty is the notion that people must be held accountable for their actions. That's common sense. Most Americans are law abiding, and most believe that there is such a thing as right and wrong -- that we each carry within ourselves the capacity for evil -- and the freedom to choose instead to do good.

QUESTION
THIS #

We can all be glad that the failed policies of liberal leniency -- often blaming society or even the victim -- seem to be fading from the debate. ^{BELIEVING} Society causes crime ^{IS BELIEVING THAT} like wet sidewalks cause rain.

ADDRESS
PUBLIC; NOT
CRIMINALS.

But a return to a common sense approach to crime means that if we are going to affect people's behavior, we must have a criminal justice system in which there is an expectation that:

- If ^{YOU COMMIT} a crime is committed, you will be caught.
- And if caught, you will be prosecuted.
- And if convicted, you will do time ^{BE HELD FULLY ACCOUNTABLE}

For far too long, a privileged class of violent and repeat offenders have calculated that crime really does pay -- that our criminal justice system is a crapshoot where the risks are worth the rewards. Well, it's time we change the odds -- and up the stakes enormously. And I'll talk about that in a moment.

One other principle. The federal government has a special enforcement role, particularly one of leadership. But our job is also to work in partnership with state and local law enforcement, complementing efforts, ^{AND} providing technical assistance [and sometimes cash where needed, and where possible].

FEDERALS IN
PARTNERSHIP
CALL ON THEM TO
DO CERTAIN THINGS.

Nonetheless -- for constitutional and traditional reasons -- the primary responsibility for law enforcement always has and will continue to rest with state and local authorities.

Unfortunately, nowhere is this sometimes dangerous duty more evident than in the honor roll that will be read after my remarks are concluded: Of the 161 officers killed in the line of duty last year, 152 were state or local cops. You are the front line troops -- and your respective governments have an obligation to adopt tough legislation and provide the resources -- in police, prosecutors and prisons -- to fully back you up.

At the trial of Eddie Byrne's executioners, there was testimony that the hit was ordered by a short-term convict -- serving just ___ years for a serious weapons charge -- to send a "message" to the people behind the badge. One witness said they wanted to see the attack on the TV news at Rikers Island.

Well, keep the cameras rolling. I hope they have C-SPAN at Rikers. Because today we have a little message of our own.

If you use guns, get used to prison TV.

We're going to take back the streets. And we're going to do it by taking you off them.

I am announcing today a comprehensive new offensive for combatting violent crime. It's an attack on all four fronts -- new laws to punish you, new ^{officers} cops to arrest you, new prosecutors to convict you, and new jails to hold you.

CELLS
PRISONS

NO TV
ADDRESSING
CRIMINALS
NO.

YOU
CRIMINALS

The first front of this campaign -- new laws -- starts with the semi-automatic and so-called "assault" weapons that criminals lately have taken as their gun of choice.

Again, common sense has to play an important part in this discussion. The fact of the matter is, nearly half the households in this country have guns. The guns are already out there. And the overwhelming majority are legitimately owned for legitimate purposes.

But in contrast to legitimate gun ownership is the chilling fact that something like 80 percent of all firearms used in crime are stolen or otherwise unlawfully possessed. Throughout our nation's history, the hard lesson we've learned is that criminals will get guns.

So let me be very clear about our response:

The right to bear arms is not a license to harm others. First, I am calling on Congress today to do for dangerous firearms what it has wisely done for dangerous drugs -- to double the mandatory minimum penalties for the use of a fully or semi-automatic weapon in crimes involving violence or drugs.

The math is ~~real~~ simple. You use these weapons for crime -- you so much as have one on you during a crime -- and you will do an extra 10 years in federal prison. No probation. No parole.

And it doesn't matter anymore whether you get a tough judge. The 10 years is automatic. Go straight to jail. The games are over.

INSUFFICIENTLY
PRESIDENTIAL

*CALL FOR
STATES
TO DO TOO.*

Secondly, we just can't plea bargain away the lives of our cops and kids. From this day forward, all deals are off. I am directing the Attorney General to notify all federal prosecutors that this nation has seen its last plea-bargain for violent firearms offenses.

You use a gun, and you will do time.

Third -- if you use an "assault" weapon -- and someone dies -- the only place you should expect mercy is from a Court beyond our jurisdiction.

*CHECK
FACT
SHEET*

We are calling on Congress today to enact the steps necessary to implement the death penalty that became law last year -- and to newly designate the use of fully and semi-automatic weapons as "aggravating factors" for determining whether a sentence of death should be imposed.

*NO SPORTING
PURPOSES.*

Fourth -- two months ago, at my direction, the Department of the Treasury suspended the importation of certain, so-called "assault" weapons, ~~-- under the existing law requiring that they~~ *out* ~~be generally recognized as suitable or adaptable for sporting~~ ~~purposes.~~

Treasury is continuing its examination to determine which -- if any -- of these weapons are acceptable under these standards. They continue to invite comments and testimony from all interested groups and individuals. At the conclusion of this three month study -- and after careful consideration -- we will permanently ban all imports that don't measure up to this standard. *those*

We also call on American businesses to follow the lead of Colt Industries -- which has voluntarily halted the production of assault weapons like the imports covered by the current ban. ?
 Strick

Now, perhaps the biggest challenge in combatting this problem was recently summed up in the U.S. News cover story on guns: "The key problem is the difficulty in drafting laws that will separate assault weapons used in crime from semi-automatics frequently used for target practice and sometimes for hunting."

There is substantial controversy and debate on this point ?
 ~~and there is simply much that we do not yet know.~~ But one thing that we do know about the common characteristics of these "assault" weapons is that they invariably are equipped with unjustifiably large magazines. One of the best examples is the so-called "street-sweeper" -- a powerful shotgun with a built in magazine that pumps off 12 explosive bursts without reloading.

And that is why -- fifth -- we stand on the steps of Congress and ask its support for legislation prohibiting the importation, manufacture, sale, or transfer of gun magazines of more than 10 rounds.

The current debate was first sparked when an unstable gunman in Stockton, California purchased an AK-47 over the counter -- and used it to lay waste to an elementary school playground.

Patrick Edward Purdy was born in November 1964, and was arrested on his first weapons charge before his 15th birthday. By the time of his fourth firearms arrest Purdy had finally turned 18, and with it chalked up his first adult conviction .

It is outrageous that -- under the loopholes in current federal law -- Purdy's purchase of that deadly AK-47 was entirely legal despite his police record. That's not right.

And therefore -- sixth -- our comprehensive legislative package, which the Attorney General will transmit this week, also calls on Congress to close the Purdy loophole and others like it that allow deadly weapons to fall into deadly hands. Again, that's just common sense. /?

Finally, no criminal should get out on the streets until and unless they are drug free. I ask that Congress enact my proposal to make drug-testing ^{AS} a mandantory condition ^{FOR} [before any criminal is] release^d -- whether on bail or parole. /?

But we need to do more than just enact new laws. In a recent movie about the L.A. gang wars, a woman shouts encouragement to a cop on patrol, telling him: "You get them off the street." He answers: "Lady, we're trying." And the woman offers a four word solution: "You need more help."

Believe me, we know it. You need more help. And I'm here today to tell you that we're prepared to match rhetoric with resources -- and call on the states to do the same.

The second front of our new offensive calls for more troops and a new strategy on guns. I have directed the Attorney General and the Treasury Secretary, working together and with their colleagues in state and local enforcement, to launch our nation's first Dangerous Weapons Task Forces [-- headquartered in seven

Offender

9

IN PLACES WHERE

major cities facing acute violent crime -- to target and arrest America's most dangerous offenders.

I am requesting funding for hiring 750 new federal agents -- 300 at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, 300 at the FBI, and 150 Deputy U.S. Marshals, along with 75 new support staff. Many of these hirings will permit experienced firearms experts from all three agencies to promptly assume Task Force posts to combat violent crime.

Modeled on the highly successful Drug Task Forces set up by President Reagan in 1983, the Dangerous Weapons Task Forces will be based on a concept of proven effectiveness -- the mobilization of federal, state and local law enforcement shock troops to get violent and dangerous criminals off our streets.

Of course, arresting these thugs doesn't help if we don't have the muscle to prosecute each criminal to the fullest extent of the law. That's why the third front of this campaign calls for Congress to back up these new troops with 1,600 new federal prosecutors -- the largest increase in our nation's history.

Now, there probably isn't a cop here who hasn't seen a case where a dangerous felon -- properly arrested, fully prosecuted, and sentenced to the maximum -- walked out of jail early, sometimes years early, because state prisons are bursting at the seams. That's not right.

Part of our common sense approach is a simple recognition that it doesn't do any good to provide new Task Forces, new Assistant U.S. Attorneys, and new laws with long-term penalties

-- if we don't have the prison cells to keep criminals where they belong.

And so, as the fourth front in this comprehensive effort, I am calling on Congress to authorize an additional \$1 billion -- over and above the \$500 million already slated for 1990 -- for federal prison construction. By adding 26,000 new beds to the present rated capacity of 29,112 beds, the federal prison capacity will be virtually doubled.

The last time I stood on these steps -- only moments after becoming President -- I made a promise: "This scourge will stop."

If the thugs are listening up at Riker's, or in the L.A. barrio, or right here in Anacostia, I have a final message for you. You started this war. But we are going to finish it. And you.

Ladies and gentlemen, I offer my condolences for your fallen comrades. I salute your commitment and your courage. And as a citizen grateful for the protection you have provided for my family and my countrymen, I thank you and wish you Godspeed. And God bless America.

SAWTE THOSE WHO
HAVE FALLEN

#

OVER
KILL

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 12, 1989

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *cw*
FROM: EDWARD E. McNALLY *EM*
SUBJECT: CRIME PACKAGE ANNOUNCEMENT

I. SUMMARY

Attached for your consideration and review are draft remarks for your announcement of the Administration's new package for combatting violent crime -- to be made at the Peace Officers Memorial Day commemoration outside the Capitol on Monday.

II. DISCUSSION

At 12:00 noon on Monday, May 15, 1989, you are scheduled to attend the Peace Officers Memorial Day ceremony to commemorate the 161 law enforcement officers who were killed in the line of duty in 1988. A wreath will be laid with 161 carnations -- including one to be added by you. An audience of approximately 7,000 persons is expected.

(McNally/Simon)
May 12, 1989, 6:00 p.m.
Draft Four
(B:CRIME)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY
U.S. CAPITOL -- WEST FRONT
MONDAY, MAY 15, 1989
12:00 NOON

Last fall, a retired New York police lieutenant gave me badge number 14072 -- the badge his son wore the day he was gunned down by a gang of cocaine cowards. Matthew Byrne asked me to keep Eddie's badge as a "reminder of all the brave police officers...who put their lives on the line for us every day."

Matt, your son's badge is kept in my desk in the Oval Office. During the debate on gun-related violence that has raged in this country the past several months, neither it, nor what it represents, has ever been far from my mind. I've heard the many voices, the courageous and the corrupt, the wounded and the widowed.

We gather today to respond to those voices, and to honor the fallen by launching a new national strategy -- a partnership with America's cities and states -- to take back the streets.

It calls for a return to common sense. And it begins with a clear-eyed vision of the kind of problems we face, the kind of people we are, the kind of values we hold -- and the kind of nation we intend to bequeath to our children.

The problem is violent crime -- and, in particular, the blood that's been shed by increasingly sophisticated guns in the

hands of a new class of criminals. Usually, but not always, the deaths are tied to a cycle of dollars and drugs and dependency.

The principles are simple. My generation well remembers what some believe was F.D.R.'s finest speech: The "Four Freedoms" address to a joint session of Congress. The last, often forgotten, but arguably most fundamental of those freedoms was simply this: freedom from fear. Our sworn duty to "insure domestic Tranquility" is as old as the republic itself, placed in the Constitution's preamble even before the common defense and the general welfare. When we ask what kind of society the American people deserve, our goal must be a nation in which law abiding citizens are safe and feel safe.

To achieve this goal, people must be held accountable for their actions. That's common sense. Most Americans are law abiding, and most believe that there is such a thing as right and wrong -- good and evil. Whether it's the brutalization of a young runner in a park or terrorizing a young man onto a crowded highway, these are acts that cannot be excused, or explained away. A nation that cannot understand the difference between right and wrong will never protect itself.

A common sense approach to crime means that if we are going to affect people's behavior, we must have a criminal justice system in which there is an expectation that:

- If you commit a crime, you will be caught.
- And if caught, you will be prosecuted.
- And if convicted, you will do time.

For far too long, a privileged class of violent and repeat offenders have calculated that crime really does pay -- that our criminal justice system is a crapshoot where the risks are worth the rewards. Well, it's time we change the odds -- and up the stakes enormously.

We will lead the way. We will do our part -- and then some. But no federal effort can succeed without the full partnership of the cities and states you represent. Unfortunately, nowhere is your front line role more evident than in the honor roll that will be read today: Of the 161 officers killed in the line of duty last year, 152 were state or local cops. You are the first line of defense -- and your respective governments have an obligation to adopt tough legislation and provide the resources -- in police, prosecutors and prisons -- to fully back you up.

At the trial of Eddie Byrne's executioners, there was testimony that the hit was ordered from prison to send a "message" to the people behind the badge. One witness said they hoped to see the attack on the TV news at Riker's Island.

Well, keep the cameras rolling. I hope they have C-SPAN at Rikers. Because today we have a message of our own: We're going to take back the streets. By taking you off the streets.

It's an attack on all four fronts -- new laws to punish you, new agents to arrest you, new prosecutors to convict you, and new prisons to hold you.

I am announcing today a comprehensive new offensive for combatting violent crime. For Eddie Byrne, for every officer we honor here today, and for America.

The first front of this campaign -- new laws -- starts with the semi-automatic and so-called "assault" weapons that criminals have taken as their gun of choice.

Again, common sense has to play an important part in this discussion. The fact of the matter is, nearly half the households in this country have guns. The guns are already out there. And the overwhelming majority are legitimately owned for legitimate purposes.

But in contrast to legitimate gun ownership is the chilling fact that something like 80 percent of all firearms used by felons are stolen or otherwise unlawfully obtained. Throughout our nation's history, the hard lesson we've learned is that criminals will get guns.

So let me be very clear about our response: The right to bear arms is not a license to harm others.

First, I am calling on Congress today to do for dangerous firearms what it has wisely done for dangerous drugs -- to double the mandatory minimum penalties for the use of semi-automatic weapons in crimes involving violence or drugs.

The math is simple. You use these weapons for crime -- you so much as have one on you during a crime -- and you will do an automatic 10 extra years in federal prison. No probation. No parole. No matter which judge you get.

Secondly, we just can't plea bargain away the lives of our cops and kids. From this day forward: All deals are off. I am directing the Attorney General to advise America's prosecutors that this nation has seen its last plea-bargain for federal firearms offenses. You use a gun, and you will do time.

Third -- if you use one of these weapons -- and someone dies -- the only place you should expect mercy is from a Court beyond our jurisdiction.

We are calling on Congress today to enact the steps necessary to implement the death penalty -- and to newly designate the use of a firearm as an "aggravating factor" for determining whether the death sentence should be imposed.

And I call on America's Governors to match this federal initiative and propose these same three standards at home -- mandatory time, no deals without cooperation, the death penalty where appropriate. Your states owe it to those here today.

Fourth -- two months ago, at my direction, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms suspended the importation of certain, so-called "assault" weapons. ATF is continuing its examination to determine which -- if any -- of these weapons are acceptable under the standards in existing law. At the conclusion of this three month study -- and after careful consideration -- we will permanently ban those imports that don't measure up to these standards.

Recently, the U.S. News cover story on guns summed up a related challenge -- "the difficulty in drafting laws that will

separate assault weapons used in crime from semi-automatics frequently used" for legitimate hunting and sport.

There is substantial controversy and debate on this point. But one thing that we do know about these "assault" weapons is that they invariably are equipped with unjustifiably large magazines. The notorious AK-47, for example, comes with a magazine that pumps off 30 explosive bursts without reloading.

And that is why -- fifth -- we stand on the steps of Congress and ask its support for legislation prohibiting the importation, manufacture, sale, or transfer of gun magazines of more than [[10 or 15]] rounds.

The current debate was first sparked when an unstable gunman in Stockton, California purchased an AKS-47 over the counter -- and used it to lay waste to an elementary school playground.

Patrick Edward Purdy had no business buying that gun. He was arrested on his first weapons charge before his 15th birthday. By his fourth firearms arrest Purdy had finally turned 18, and with it chalked up his first adult conviction. And yet -- under the loopholes in current law -- Purdy's purchase of that deadly AK-47 was entirely legal. That's outrageous.

And therefore, we also propose that Congress close the Purdy loophole, and others like it that allow deadly weapons to fall into deadly hands. Again, that's just common sense.

But we need to do more than just enact new laws. In a recent movie about the L.A. gang wars, a woman shouts encouragement to a cop on patrol, telling him: "You get them off

the street." He answers: "Lady, we're trying." And the woman offers a four word solution: "You need more help."

Believe me, we know it. Our police need more help. And I'm here today to tell you that we're prepared to match rhetoric with resources -- and call on our cities and states to do the same.

The second front of our new offensive calls for increased manpower and a new strategy on guns -- a strategy based on models of proven effectiveness. I have directed the Attorney General and the Treasury Secretary, working together and with state and local enforcement, to launch our nation's first Dangerous Offenders Task Forces -- to target America's most dangerous streets and arrest our nation's most violent criminals.

I am requesting funding for hiring 825 new federal agents and staff -- 375 at ATF, 300 at the FBI, and 150 Deputy U.S. Marshals. Many of these hirings will permit experienced investigators from all three agencies to promptly assume Task Force posts to combat violent crime.

Of course, arresting these thugs doesn't help if we don't have the muscle to prosecute each criminal to the fullest extent of the law. That's why the third front of this campaign calls for Congress to back up these new troops with 1,600 new prosecutors and staff -- the largest increase in our nation's history.

Now, there probably isn't a cop here who hasn't seen a case where a dangerous felon -- properly arrested, fully prosecuted, and sentenced to the maximum -- walked out of jail early,

sometimes years early, because state prisons are bursting at the seams. That's not right.

Part of our common sense approach is a simple recognition that it doesn't do any good to provide new Task Forces, new Assistant U.S. Attorneys, and new laws with long-term penalties -- if we don't have the prison cells to keep criminals where they belong. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

And so, as the fourth front in this comprehensive effort, I am calling on Congress to authorize an additional \$1 billion -- over and above the \$500 million already slated for 1990 -- for federal prison construction. These 24,000 new beds will nearly double federal prison capacity.

Not since Lincoln has a President stood in front of the Capitol and been just a few miles from the front line of a war. And when I first stood here as President -- only moments after taking the oath -- I made a promise: "This scourge will stop."

If the thugs are listening up at Riker's, or on the streets of L.A., or in right here in D.C., I have a final message for you. You started this war. But we are going to finish it. And you.

Ladies and gentlemen, I offer my condolences for your fallen loved ones and fellow officers. I salute your commitment and your courage. And as a citizen grateful for the protection you have provided for my family and my countrymen, I thank you and wish you Godspeed. And God bless America.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 11, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR
COMMUNICATIONS

FROM:

NELSON LUND *NL*
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Presidential Remarks: Peace Officers Memorial Day

At the request of James W. Cicconi, Counsel's office has reviewed the captioned draft remarks. The draft remarks are apparently based on a draft fact sheet that was provided to Counsel's office this afternoon. Certain questions that we raised with respect to the fact sheet also apply to the corresponding portions of the draft remarks; this memorandum will reference those questions and will make some additional comments.

(1) Page 5, fifth paragraph: The reference to fully automatic weapons is inconsistent with the fact sheet that was provided to us. In addition, Counsel's office has raised questions about the advisability of the proposed enhancement of penalties.

changes made

(2) Page 6, first paragraph: The plea bargaining policy articulated in this paragraph appears to be different than the one described in the fact sheet. The information we have been given and the time allotted for our review has not permitted us to determine whether the inconsistency is real or only apparent.

inconsistency is "only apparent"

(3) Page 6, third and fourth paragraphs: Counsel's office has raised questions about the advisability of certain aspects of the proposed death penalty statute described in these paragraphs.

policy Q

(4) Page 7, first paragraph: We question the advisability of calling on U.S. businesses to halt the production of weapons that are not illegal, and that may have substantial, legitimate purposes.

P removed

(5) Page 7, fourth paragraph: The description of the proposed restrictions on magazine size is inconsistent with the description in the fact sheet. In addition, Counsel's office has raised questions about the advisability of the proposal.

changes made to "15" bullets

(6) Page 9, first full paragraph: The distribution of new positions among agencies is described somewhat differently than in the fact sheet. In addition, Counsel's office has raised questions about the proposed allocation of these new positions.

policy Q

(7) Page 9, first and second full paragraphs: It is not obvious why "firearms experts," in contradistinction to those expert in apprehending violent criminals, can make a major contribution to the apprehension and prosecution of criminals who use firearms to commit violent crimes.

*change
made*

Counsel's office appreciates having had the opportunity to review these draft remarks.

cc: James W. Cicconi

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/11/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5/11/89 6:00 PM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	MCCLURE	☒	☐
SUNUNU	☐	☒	NEWMAN	☐	☐
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CICCONI	☐	☒	PINKERTON	☒	☐
DEMAREST	☒	☐		☐	☐
FITZWATER	☐	☒		☐	☐
GRAY	☒	☐		☐	☐
HAGIN	☐	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS:

Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 6:00 PM, TODAY, Thursday, May 11, 1989, with an info copy to my office. Sorry for the short turnaround. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

1989 MAY 11 PM 11:00

(McNally/Simon)
May 11, 1989
11:00 a.m.
Draft Three
(B:CRIME)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY
U.S. CAPITOL -- WEST FRONT
MONDAY, MAY 15, 1989
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Some say we should give up. Others all but suggest we barricade the streets. But somewhere between despair and destruction, there is a balanced course. Room for a measured response. A place for common sense.

And no effective search for the solutions can begin without a thoughtful look at the problem we face, and at the kind of people we are, the kind of values we hold, and the kind of nation we intend to bequeath to our children.

First, the problem. We're here today to talk about violent crime -- and, in particular, the bloodshed that has been spurred by increasingly sophisticated guns in the hands of a new class of cold-blooded criminals. Usually, but not always, the deaths are tied to a cycle of drugs and dollars and dependency.

Second, the principles. My generation well remembers what some believe was F.D.R.'s finest speech: The "Four Freedoms" address to a joint session of Congress. The last, often forgotten, and arguably most fundamental of President Roosevelt's freedoms was simply this: freedom from fear. Our sworn duty to "insure domestic Tranquility" is as old as the republic itself, placed in the Constitution's preamble even before the common defense and the general welfare. When we ask what kind of society the American people deserve -- and what kind of society we hope to pass on to our children -- it's clear that our goal must be a nation in which law abiding citizens are safe and feel safe.

Fundamental to this duty is the notion that people must be held accountable for their actions. That's common sense. Most Americans are law abiding, and most believe that there is such a thing as right and wrong -- that we each carry within ourselves the capacity for evil -- and the freedom to choose instead to do good.

We can all be glad that the failed policies of liberal leniency -- often blaming society or even the victim -- seem to be fading from the debate. Society causes crime like wet sidewalks cause rain.

But a return to a common sense approach to crime means that if we are going to affect people's behavior, we must have a criminal justice system in which there is an expectation that:

- If a crime is committed, you will be caught.
- And if caught, you will be prosecuted.
- And if convicted, you will do time.

For far too long, a privileged class of violent and repeat offenders have calculated that crime really does pay -- that our criminal justice system is a crapshoot where the risks are worth the rewards. Well, it's time we change the odds -- and up the stakes enormously. And I'll talk about that in a moment.

One other principle. The federal government has a special enforcement role, particularly one of leadership. But our job is also to work in partnership with state and local law enforcement, complementing efforts, providing technical assistance and sometimes cash where needed, and where possible.

Nonetheless -- for constitutional and traditional reasons -- the primary responsibility for law enforcement always has and will continue to rest with state and local authorities.

Unfortunately, nowhere is this sometimes dangerous duty more evident than in the honor roll that will be read after my remarks are concluded: Of the 161 officers killed in the line of duty last year, 152 were state or local cops. You are the front line troops -- and your respective governments have an obligation to adopt tough legislation and provide the resources -- in police, prosecutors and prisons -- to fully back you up.

At the trial of Eddie Byrne's executioners, there was testimony that the hit was ordered by a short-term convict -- serving just ____ years for a serious weapons charge -- to send a "message" to the people behind the badge. One witness said they wanted to see the attack on the TV news at Rikers Island.

Well, keep the cameras rolling. I hope they have C-SPAN at Rikers. Because today we have a little message of our own.

If you use guns, get used to prison TV.

We're going to take back the streets. And we're going to do it by taking you off them.

I am announcing today a comprehensive new offensive for combatting violent crime. It's an attack on all four fronts -- new laws to punish you, new cops to arrest you, new prosecutors to convict you, and new jails to hold you.

7

The first front of this campaign -- new laws -- starts with the semi-automatic and so-called "assault" weapons that criminals lately have taken as their gun of choice.

Again, common sense has to play an important part in this discussion. The fact of the matter is, nearly half the households in this country have guns. The guns are already out there. And the overwhelming majority are legitimately owned for legitimate purposes.

But in contrast to legitimate gun ownership is the chilling fact that something like 80 percent of all firearms used in crime are stolen or otherwise unlawfully possessed. Throughout our nation's history, the hard lesson we've learned is that criminals will get guns.

So let me be very clear about our response:

The right to bear arms is not a license to harm others.

First, I am calling on Congress today to do for dangerous firearms what it has wisely done for dangerous drugs -- to double the mandatory minimum penalties for the use of a [fully or] semi-automatic weapon in crimes involving violence or drugs.

The math is real simple. You use these weapons for crime -- you so much as have one on you during a crime -- and you will do an extra 10 years in federal prison. No probation. No parole.

And it doesn't matter anymore whether you get a tough judge. The 10 years is automatic. Go straight to jail. The games are over.

The 10 years is automatic. Go straight to jail. The games are over.

Note:
Fully
automatic
not
mentioned
in fact
sheet

Note:
"Fully
automatic"
penalty
is
30 years
in current law.

change
made

Secondly, we just can't plea bargain away the lives of our cops and kids. From this day forward, all deals are off. I am directing the Attorney General to notify all federal prosecutors that this nation has seen its last plea-bargain for violent firearms offenses.

You use a gun, and you will do time.

Third -- if you use an "assault" weapon -- and someone dies -- the only place you should expect mercy is from a Court beyond our jurisdiction.

We are calling on Congress today to enact the steps necessary to implement the death penalty ~~that became law last year~~ -- and to newly designate the use of fully and semi-automatic weapons as "aggravating factors" for determining whether a sentence of death should be imposed.

Fourth -- two months ago, at my direction, the Department of the Treasury suspended the importation of certain, so-called "assault" weapons -- under the existing law requiring that they be generally recognized as suitable or adaptable for sporting purposes.

Treasury is continuing its examination to determine which -- if any -- of these weapons are acceptable under these ^{sporting} standards. They continue to invite comments and testimony from all interested groups and individuals. At the conclusion of this three month study -- and after careful consideration -- we will permanently ban all imports that don't measure up to this standard.

Last year's
bill only
applied
to drug
cases -
this
proposal
is broader,
deletion
made

no

We also call on American businesses to follow the lead of Colt Industries -- which has voluntarily halted the production of assault weapons like the imports covered by the current ban.

Now, perhaps the biggest challenge in combatting this problem was recently summed up in the U.S. News cover story on guns: "The key problem is the difficulty in drafting laws that will separate assault weapons used in crime from semi-automatics frequently used for target practice and sometimes for hunting."

There is substantial controversy and debate on this point, and there is simply much that we do not yet know. But one thing that we do know about the common characteristics of these "assault" weapons is that they invariably are equipped with unjustifiably large magazines. One of the best examples is the so-called "street-sweeper" -- a powerful shotgun with a built in magazine that pumps off 12 explosive bursts without reloading.

And that is why -- fifth -- we stand on the steps of Congress and ask its support for legislation prohibiting the importation, manufacture, sale, or transfer of gun magazines of more than 10 rounds. — FACT Sheet says 15 rounds

NOT IN
bill
we now
have

The current debate was first sparked when an unstable gunman in Stockton, California purchased an AK-47 over the counter -- and used it to lay waste to an elementary school playground.

Patrick Edward Purdy was born in November 1964, and was arrested on his first weapons charge before his 15th birthday. By the time of his fourth firearms arrest Purdy had finally turned 18, and with it chalked up his first adult conviction .

Contingent on
OMB receipt +
change of bill --
we don't have yet.

It is outrageous that -- under the loopholes in current federal law -- Purdy's purchase of that deadly AK-47 was entirely legal despite his police record. That's not right.

And therefore -- sixth -- our comprehensive legislative package, which the Attorney General will transmit ^{shortly,} ~~this week,~~ also calls on Congress to close the Purdy loophole and others like it that allow deadly weapons to fall into deadly hands. Again, that's just common sense.

change made (also rec. by Porter)

Finally, no criminal should get out on the streets until and unless they are drug free. I ask that Congress enact my proposal to make drug-testing a mandatory condition before any ^{one} ~~criminal~~ is released -- whether on bail or parole.

← If on bail, not necessarily a criminal. Also, fact should be silent on bail.

But we need to do more than just enact new laws. In a recent movie about the L.A. gang wars, a woman shouts encouragement to a cop on patrol, telling him: "You get them off the street." He answers: "Lady, we're trying." And the woman offers a four word solution: "You need more help."

Believe me, we know it. You need more help. And I'm here today to tell you that we're prepared to match rhetoric with resources -- and call on the states to do the same.

The second front of our new offensive calls for more troops and a new strategy on guns. I have directed the Attorney General and the Treasury Secretary, working together and with their colleagues in state and local enforcement, to launch our nation's first Dangerous Weapons Task Forces -- headquartered in seven

major cities facing acute violent crime -- to target and arrest America's most dangerous offenders.

I am requesting funding for hiring ⁸²⁵ 750 new federal agents -- 300 at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, 300 at the FBI, and 150 Deputy U.S. Marshals, ~~along with 75 new support staff.~~ Many of these hirings will permit experienced firearms experts from all three agencies to promptly assume Task Force posts to combat violent crime.

Modeled on the highly successful Drug Task Forces set up by President Reagan in 1983, the Dangerous Weapons Task Forces will be based on a concept of proven effectiveness -- the mobilization of federal, state and local law enforcement shock troops to get violent and dangerous criminals off our streets.

Of course, arresting these thugs doesn't help if we don't have the muscle to prosecute each criminal to the fullest extent of the law. That's why the third front of this campaign calls for Congress to back up these new troops with 1,600 new federal prosecutors ^{and associated staff} -- the largest increase in our nation's history.

Now, there probably isn't a cop here who hasn't seen a case where a dangerous felon -- properly arrested, fully prosecuted, and sentenced to the maximum -- walked out of jail early, sometimes years early, because state prisons are bursting at the seams. That's not right.

Part of our common sense approach is a simple recognition that it doesn't do any good to provide new Task Forces, new Assistant U.S. Attorneys, and new laws with long-term penalties

Note:
Better
to show
as
suggested,
Some of
the
FBI and
Marshals
will
probably
be
support
staff,
as well
as 75
for
BATF

Some of
1,600
may be
support
staff

all our
above
are 1990
budget
agreed

-- if we don't have the prison cells to keep criminals where they belong.

And so, as the fourth front in this comprehensive effort, I am calling on Congress to authorize an additional \$1 billion -- over and above the \$500 million already slated for 1990 -- for federal prison construction. By adding 26,000 new beds to the present rated capacity of 29,112 beds, the federal prison capacity will be virtually doubled.

Speech says
85%
increase --
close
enough?

The last time I stood on these steps -- only moments after becoming President -- I made a promise: "This scourge will stop."

If the thugs are listening up at Riker's, or in the L.A. barrio, or right here in Anacostia, I have a final message for you. You started this war. But we are going to finish it. And you.

Ladies and gentlemen, I offer my condolences for your fallen comrades. I salute your commitment and your courage. And as a citizen grateful for the protection you have provided for my family and my countrymen, I thank you and wish you Godspeed. And God bless America.

#

3544

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/11/89

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5/11/89 6:00 PM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	MCCLURE	☒	☐
SUNUNU	☐	☒	NEWMAN	☐	☐
SCOWCROFT	☒	☐	PORTER	☒	☐
DARMAN	☒	☐	STUDDERT	☐	☐
BATES	☒	☐	UNTERMAYER	☐	☐
BREEDEN	☒	☐	ROGERS	☐	☒
CARD	☒	☐	WINSTON	☐	☒
CICCONI	☐	☒	PINKERTON	☒	☐
DEMAREST	☒	☐		☐	☐
FITZWATER	☐	☒		☐	☐
GRAY	☒	☐		☐	☐
HAGIN	☐	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS:

Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 6:00 PM, TODAY, Thursday, May 11, 1989, with an info copy to my office. Sorry for the short turnaround. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

TO: CHRISS WINSTON

May 11, 1989

The NSC concurs with the attached speech as written.

Brent Scowcroft

cc: James W. Cicconi

James W. Cicconi
 Assistant to the President
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
 Ext. 2702

89 MAY 11 P 1: 55

1989 MAY 11 PM 1:30

(McNally/Simon)
May 11, 1989
11:00 a.m.
Draft Three
(B:CRIME)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY
U.S. CAPITOL -- WEST FRONT
MONDAY, MAY 15, 1989
12:00 NOON

Not since Lincoln has a President stood in front of the Capitol and been just a few miles from the front line of a war.

Certain sections, of certain cities -- including this one -- have been turned into combat zones by pockets of violent and well-armed drug lords.

Never was the toll more visible than in the faces of the brave men and women -- the families -- gathered here on democracy's front steps today.

Last fall, a retired New York police lieutenant gave me badge number 14072 -- the badge his son wore the day he was gunned down by one such gang of cocaine cowards. Matthew Byrne asked me to keep Eddie's badge as a "reminder of all the brave police officers...who put their lives on the line for us every day."

Matt, your son's badge is kept in my desk in the Oval Office. During the debate on drug-related violence that has raged in this country the past several months, neither it nor what it represents has ever been far from my mind. I've heard many voices, the courageous and the corrupt, the wounded and the widowed.

Some say we should give up. Others all but suggest we barricade the streets. But somewhere between despair and destruction, there is a balanced course. Room for a measured response. A place for common sense.

And no effective search for the solutions can begin without a thoughtful look at the problem we face, and at the kind of people we are, the kind of values we hold, and the kind of nation we intend to bequeath to our children.

First, the problem. We're here today to talk about violent crime -- and, in particular, the bloodshed that has been spurred by increasingly sophisticated guns in the hands of a new class of cold-blooded criminals. Usually, but not always, the deaths are tied to a cycle of drugs and dollars and dependency.

Second, the principles. My generation well remembers what some believe was F.D.R.'s finest speech: The "Four Freedoms" address to a joint session of Congress. The last, often forgotten, and arguably most fundamental of President Roosevelt's freedoms was simply this: freedom from fear. Our sworn duty to "insure domestic Tranquility" is as old as the republic itself, placed in the Constitution's preamble even before the common defense and the general welfare. When we ask what kind of society the American people deserve -- and what kind of society we hope to pass on to our children -- it's clear that our goal must be a nation in which law abiding citizens are safe and feel safe.

Fundamental to this duty is the notion that people must be held accountable for their actions. That's common sense. Most Americans are law abiding, and most believe that there is such a thing as right and wrong -- that we each carry within ourselves the capacity for evil -- and the freedom to choose instead to do good.

We can all be glad that the failed policies of liberal leniency -- often blaming society or even the victim -- seem to be fading from the debate. Society causes crime like wet sidewalks cause rain.

But a return to a common sense approach to crime means that if we are going to affect people's behavior, we must have a criminal justice system in which there is an expectation that:

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Again, common sense has to play an important part in this discussion. The fact of the matter is, nearly half the households in this country have guns. The guns are already out there. And the overwhelming majority are legitimately owned for legitimate purposes.

But in contrast to legitimate gun ownership is the chilling fact that something like 80 percent of all firearms used in crime are stolen or otherwise unlawfully possessed. Throughout our nation's history, the hard lesson we've learned is that criminals will get guns.

So let me be very clear about our response:

The right to bear arms is not a license to harm others. First, I am calling on Congress today to do for dangerous firearms what it has wisely done for dangerous drugs -- to double the mandatory minimum penalties for the use of a fully or semi-automatic weapon in crimes involving violence or drugs.

The math is real simple. You use these weapons for crime -- you so much as have one on you during a crime -- and you will do an extra 10 years in federal prison. No probation. No parole.

And it doesn't matter anymore whether you get a tough judge. The 10 years is automatic. Go straight to jail. The games are over.

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We also call on American businesses to follow the lead of Colt Industries -- which has voluntarily halted the production of assault weapons like the imports covered by the current ban.

Now, perhaps the biggest challenge in combatting this problem was recently summed up in the U.S. News cover story on guns: "The key problem is the difficulty in drafting laws that will separate assault weapons used in crime from semi-automatics frequently used for target practice and sometimes for hunting."

There is substantial controversy and debate on this point, and there is simply much that we do not yet know. But one thing that we do know about the common characteristics of these "assault" weapons is that they invariably are equipped with unjustifiably large magazines. One of the best examples is the so-called "street-sweeper" -- a powerful shotgun with a built in magazine that pumps off 12 explosive bursts without reloading.

And that is why -- fifth -- we stand on the steps of Congress and ask its support for legislation prohibiting the importation, manufacture, sale, or transfer of gun magazines of more than 10 rounds.

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It is outrageous that -- under the loopholes in current federal law -- Purdy's purchase of that deadly AK-47 was entirely legal despite his police record. That's not right.

And therefore -- sixth -- our comprehensive legislative package, which the Attorney General will transmit this week, also calls on Congress to close the Purdy loophole and others like it that allow deadly weapons to fall into deadly hands. Again, that's just common sense.

Finally, no criminal should get out on the streets until and unless they are drug free. I ask that Congress enact my proposal to make drug-testing a mandantory condition before any criminal is released -- whether on bail or parole.

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major cities facing acute violent crime -- to target and arrest America's most dangerous offenders.

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Of course, arresting these thugs doesn't help if we don't have the muscle to prosecute each criminal to the fullest extent of the law. That's why the third front of this campaign calls for Congress to back up these new troops with 1,600 new federal prosecutors -- the largest increase in our nation's history.

Now, there probably isn't a cop here who hasn't seen a case where a dangerous felon -- properly arrested, fully prosecuted, and sentenced to the maximum -- walked out of jail early, sometimes years early, because state prisons are bursting at the seams. That's not right.

Part of our common sense approach is a simple recognition that it doesn't do any good to provide new Task Forces, new Assistant U.S. Attorneys, and new laws with long-term penalties

-- if we don't have the prison cells to keep criminals where they belong.

And so, as the fourth front in this comprehensive effort, I am calling on Congress to authorize an additional \$1 billion -- over and above the \$500 million already slated for 1990 -- for federal prison construction. By adding 26,000 new beds to the present rated capacity of 29,112 beds, the federal prison capacity will be virtually doubled.

The last time I stood on these steps -- only moments after becoming President -- I made a promise: "This scourge will stop."

If the thugs are listening up at Riker's, or in the L.A. barrio, or right here in ^{DL} Anacostia, I have a final message for you. You started this war. But we are going to finish it. And you.

Ladies and gentlemen, I offer my condolences for your fallen comrades. I salute your commitment and your courage. And as a citizen grateful for the protection you have provided for my family and my countrymen, I thank you and wish you Godspeed. And God bless America.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 11, 1989

MEMORANDUM TO CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: JIM PINKERTON 
RE: Peace Officers draft

This is a good speech, a very good speech. The alliteration -- "courageous and the corrupt...wounded and the widowed" -- is very effective. The invocation of the Four Freedoms is well handled. The overall tone is serious and businesslike, yet it conveys a hard-hitting sense of urgency that will command some attention.

However, I am concerned that this draft is not quite right. Not quite right for the moment, not quite right for the times.

First, this draft lacks the elegaic tone appropriate for the occasion, which is a ceremony honoring slain police officers. The President lays a single flower on a wreath. The story of Eddie Byrne is, as it must be, very moving.

Unfortunately, there is too much squad car lingo elsewhere in the speech: a half-dozen references to "cops," teenage colloquialisms ("something like"), and bad grammar ("real simple"). This a solemn ritual, not a stationhouse rollcall.

Second, I am concerned that this over-long speech is stuffed with too much detail -- principles, points, Colt Industries, US News cover stories -- and will not make as much news as we hope, for the simple reason that much of the substance of what we are proposing is leaking out as I write this. Hence, "the news" will not be news next Monday. Furthermore, since there is a lengthy fact sheet to accompany this speech, there is just no point in bogging the President down in a 20-minute public policy speech.

Instead, I suggest taking a more philosophical tack, which outlines the ethical dimension of the President's fight against crime. We should stake out the moral high ground that is the great strength conservatism enjoys in these modern times: our continuing awareness of right and wrong and of good and evil.

On the most gut, fundamental issue of our time -- the need for society to stand up for fixed and permanent values deriving from our Judaeo-Christian tradition -- the Republican Party stands vindicated. This draft gets it right: America has rejected the trendy relativism and therapeutic, sociological interpretations of crime that have contributed so much to the problems we face. This is the truth that we need to emphasize, for it is a much more powerful than the dollars we are willing to commit.

For as long as George Bush is President, this will be our strongest, most effective "news" on crime. The American people deserve strong leadership on this crucial issue. They want and need the President to articulate these self-evident truths: that our society must be absolutely resolute in its determination to secure a just society, and unyielding in its opposition to those who would tear it down, from without or within. This is what America's finest have fought and died for, abroad and at home. Yet in this draft, "evil" appears just once, and it is lost at the tail end of a long sentence.

The incident in Central Park is not an appropriate topic for this ceremony, but the thoughts raised in my memo of May 1 and brilliantly written in the cards submitted to the President on May 3 express the larger significance of crime in America.

These two points cannot be divorced from the politics of the crime issue. We are about to propose a crime package that critics will denounce from all points on the spectrum: not enough on guns, too much on guns, not enough money for prisons, not enough money for rehabilitation, etc. In the midst of this political crossfire, we need to remember the two great political assets the President controls. One is a principle, the other is a policy:

- o First, the moral high ground on crime, as discussed above. The Democrats -- at least the National Democrats -- are still slaves to Dukakis-style liberalism.
- o Second, the death penalty. Even if the Democrats are willing to ignore their own past in terms of rhetoric, this is one policy they can't "me too."

If the President gets those two points across next Monday, he will have accomplished his paramount political objective. The substance will then take care of itself.

Given the nature of the event, I would then return to the symbolic importance of Peace Officers Memorial Day. I offer the following further thoughts:

What is the significance of the President's trip to Capitol Hill Monday? Why is he doing it? The peace officers the President will honor died in the line of duty. What is the nature of that duty? Why would people take jobs where they risk their lives? Where do we get such men? Where do we get such women?

I am reminded of Lloyd George's famous evocation of duty,

which he made in a speech to the British in 1914, when it became clear that World War One would not result in a quick victory for the Allies. My rough paraphrase from memory:

Now we are summoned to a higher plane, from which we see the peaks which remind us the greater missions we face: Duty, Honor, Country; and, like a bony finger pointed straight to heaven, the towering pinnacle of Sacrifice.

The President, who offered his life to his country on 58 missions over the Pacific, is uniquely suited to share his thoughts on the nature of duty and yes, sacrifice. If he wanted to, the President could observe that the struggle we are in today will not be won quickly, that many more will die in the long struggle ahead.

(We don't need to dwell on it, but the War on Drugs metaphorically resembles World War One more than World War Two. At some point we will have to address the expectations question. "This scourge will stop" has a "war to end all wars" quality to it. It is idealistic and inspiring to be sure, but every time we repeat it without Bill Bennett's qualifier ("this scourge will stop someday"), we are courting trouble down the road.)

Not since Lincoln indeed has a President stood in front of the Capitol and been so close to the front line of a war. In a war, sometimes good people die for a good cause. As Pericles observed 2300 years ago: Their glorious story is not just told on the stones that mark their graves. Their story is told in the lives of others -- their fellow citizens, and their descendants. If much of the news impact of this speech is going to be pre-empted anyway, I would take a moment to reflect on the these larger truths.

Lastly, I have these specific comments:

Pg. 3, graf 4, line 3 The logic of this formulation is reversed. What we mean to say here is that "the rewards are worth the risks."

7,6 Patrick Purdy was an evil person; it wouldn't hurt to say it. Let's attach some greater, moral meaning to exemplars of evil, just as we should strive to do with heroes like Eddie Byrne.

8,1,2 Strictly speaking, Purdy's weapon was not an AK-47. It was an AKS-47.

9,3 I would drop the reference to former President Reagan's Drug Task Forces. If they were "highly successful," why do we still have this problem? Just start out with "The Dangerous Weapons Task Forces will..."

#

cc: Roger Porter
Bill Roper
John Gardner

CLOSE HOLD

Document No. 035589 SS

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/11/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5/11/89 6:00 PM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	MCCLURE	☒	☐
SUNUNU	☐	☒	NEWMAN	☐	☐
SCOWCROFT	☒	☐	PORTER	☒	☐
DARMAN	☒	☐	STUDDERT	☐	☐
BATES	☒	☐	UNTERMAYER	☐	☐
BREEDEN	☒	☐	ROGERS	☐	☒
CARD	☒	☐	WINSTON	☐	☒
CICCONI	☐	☒	PINKERTON	☒	☐
DEMAREST	☒	☐		☐	☐
FITZWATER	☐	☒		☐	☐
GRAY	☒	☐		☐	☐
HAGIN	☐	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS:

Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 6:00 PM, TODAY, Thursday, May 11, 1989, with an info copy to my office. Sorry for the short turnaround. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

→ comments from Treasury
Tim Stanceal 566-2916

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

1989 MAY 11 PM 1:30

(McNally/Simon)
May 11, 1989
11:00 a.m.
Draft Three
(B:CRIME)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY
U.S. CAPITOL -- WEST FRONT
MONDAY, MAY 15, 1989
12:00 NOON

Not since Lincoln has a President stood in front of the Capitol and been just a few miles from the front line of a war.

Certain sections, of certain cities -- including this one -- have been turned into combat zones by pockets of violent and well-armed drug lords.

Never was the toll more visible than in the faces of the brave men and women -- the families -- gathered here on democracy's front steps today.

Last fall, a retired New York police lieutenant gave me badge number 14072 -- the badge his son wore the day he was gunned down by one such gang of cocaine cowards. Matthew Byrne asked me to keep Eddie's badge as a "reminder of all the brave police officers...who put their lives on the line for us every day."

Matt, your son's badge is kept in my desk in the Oval Office. During the debate on drug-related violence that has raged in this country the past several months, neither it nor what it represents has ever been far from my mind. I've heard many voices, the courageous and the corrupt, the wounded and the widowed.

Some say we should give up. Others all but suggest we barricade the streets. But somewhere between despair and destruction, there is a balanced course. Room for a measured response. A place for common sense.

And no effective search for the solutions can begin without a thoughtful look at the problem we face, and at the kind of people we are, the kind of values we hold, and the kind of nation we intend to bequeath to our children.

First, the problem. We're here today to talk about violent crime -- and, in particular, the bloodshed that has been spurred by increasingly sophisticated guns in the hands of a new class of cold-blooded criminals. Usually, but not always, the deaths are tied to a cycle of drugs and dollars and dependency.

Second, the principles. My generation well remembers what some believe was F.D.R.'s finest speech: The "Four Freedoms" address to a joint session of Congress. The last, often forgotten, and arguably most fundamental of President Roosevelt's freedoms was simply this: freedom from fear. Our sworn duty to "insure domestic Tranquility" is as old as the republic itself, placed in the Constitution's preamble even before the common defense and the general welfare. When we ask what kind of society the American people deserve -- and what kind of society we hope to pass on to our children -- it's clear that our goal must be a nation in which law abiding citizens are safe and feel safe.

Fundamental to this duty is the notion that people must be held accountable for their actions. That's common sense. Most Americans are law abiding, and most believe that there is such a thing as right and wrong -- that we each carry within ourselves the capacity for evil -- and the freedom to choose instead to do good.

We can all be glad that the failed policies of liberal leniency -- often blaming society or even the victim -- seem to be fading from the debate. Society causes crime like wet sidewalks cause rain.

But a return to a common sense approach to crime means that if we are going to affect people's behavior, we must have a criminal justice system in which there is an expectation that:

-- If a crime is committed, you will be caught.

-- And if caught, you will be prosecuted.

-- And if convicted, you will do time.

For far too long, a privileged class of violent and repeat offenders have calculated that crime really does pay -- that our criminal justice system is a crapshoot where the risks are worth the rewards. Well, it's time we change the odds -- and up the stakes enormously. And I'll talk about that in a moment.

One other principle. The federal government has a special enforcement role, particularly one of leadership. But our job is also to work in partnership with state and local law enforcement, complementing efforts, providing technical assistance and sometimes cash where needed, and where possible.

Nonetheless -- for constitutional and traditional reasons -- the primary responsibility for law enforcement always has and will continue to rest with state and local authorities.

Unfortunately, nowhere is this sometimes dangerous duty more evident than in the honor roll that will be read after my remarks are concluded: Of the 161 officers killed in the line of duty last year, 152 were state or local cops. You are the front line troops -- and your respective governments have an obligation to adopt tough legislation and provide the resources -- in police, prosecutors and prisons -- to fully back you up.

At the trial of Eddie Byrne's executioners, there was testimony that the hit was ordered by a short-term convict -- serving just ___ years for a serious weapons charge -- to send a "message" to the people behind the badge. One witness said they wanted to see the attack on the TV news at Rikers Island.

Well, keep the cameras rolling. I hope they have C-SPAN at Rikers. Because today we have a little message of our own.

If you use guns, get used to prison TV.

We're going to take back the streets. And we're going to do it by taking you off them.

I am announcing today a comprehensive new offensive for combatting violent crime. It's an attack on all four fronts -- new laws to punish you, new cops to arrest you, new prosecutors to convict you, and new jails to hold you.

The first front of this campaign -- new laws -- starts with the semi-automatic and so-called "assault" weapons that criminals lately have taken as their gun of choice.

Again, common sense has to play an important part in this discussion. The fact of the matter is, nearly half the households in this country have guns. The guns are already out there. And the overwhelming majority are legitimately owned for legitimate purposes.

But in contrast to legitimate gun ownership is the chilling fact that something like 80 percent of all firearms used in crime are stolen or otherwise unlawfully possessed. Throughout our nation's history, the hard lesson we've learned is that criminals will get guns.

So let me be very clear about our response:

The right to bear arms is not a license to harm others. First, I am calling on Congress today to do for dangerous firearms what it has wisely done for dangerous drugs -- to double the mandatory minimum penalties for the use of a fully or semi-automatic weapon in crimes involving violence or drugs.

The math is real simple. You use these weapons for crime -- you so much as have one on you during a crime -- and you will do an extra 10 years in federal prison. No probation. No parole.

And it doesn't matter anymore whether you get a tough judge. The 10 years is automatic. Go straight to jail. The games are over.

Secondly, we just can't plea bargain away the lives of our cops and kids. From this day forward, all deals are off. I am directing the Attorney General to notify all federal prosecutors that this nation has seen its last plea-bargain for violent firearms offenses.

You use a gun, and you will do time.

Third -- if you use an "assault" weapon -- and someone dies -- the only place you should expect mercy is from a Court beyond our jurisdiction.

We are calling on Congress today to enact the steps necessary to implement the death penalty that became law last year -- and to newly designate the use of fully and semi-automatic weapons as "aggravating factors" for determining whether a sentence of death should be imposed.

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms
Fourth -- two months ago, at my direction, the Department of the Treasury suspended the importation of certain, so-called "assault" weapons -- under the existing law requiring that they be generally recognized as suitable or adaptable for sporting purposes.

rec'd call from Treasury - they say it's not accurate
ATF Treasury is continuing its examination to determine which -- if any -- of these weapons are acceptable under these standards.

They continue to invite comments and testimony from all interested groups and individuals. At the conclusion of this three month study -- and after careful consideration -- we will permanently ban all imports that don't measure up to this standard.

in or out?

Demarest suggests

we hold ATF's feet to the fire.

We also call on American businesses to follow the lead of Colt Industries -- which has voluntarily halted the production of assault weapons like the imports covered by the current ban.

Now, perhaps the biggest challenge in combatting this problem was recently summed up in the U.S. News cover story on guns: "The key problem is the difficulty in drafting laws that will separate assault weapons used in crime from semi-automatics frequently used for target practice and sometimes for hunting."

There is substantial controversy and debate on this point, and there is simply much that we do not yet know. But one thing that we do know about the common characteristics of these "assault" weapons is that they invariably are equipped with unjustifiably large magazines. One of the best examples is the so-called "street-sweeper" -- a powerful shotgun with a built in magazine that pumps off 12 explosive bursts without reloading.

And that is why -- fifth -- we stand on the steps of Congress and ask its support for legislation prohibiting the importation, manufacture, sale, or transfer of gun magazines of more than 10 rounds.

The current debate was first sparked when an unstable gunman in Stockton, California purchased an AK-47 over the counter -- and used it to lay waste to an elementary school playground.

Patrick Edward Purdy was born in November 1964, and was arrested on his first weapons charge before his 15th birthday. By the time of his fourth firearms arrest Purdy had finally turned 18, and with it chalked up his first adult conviction .

It is outrageous that -- under the loopholes in current federal law -- Purdy's purchase of that deadly AK-47 was entirely legal despite his police record. That's not right.

And therefore -- sixth -- our comprehensive legislative package, which the Attorney General will transmit this week, also calls on Congress to close the Purdy loophole and others like it that allow deadly weapons to fall into deadly hands. Again, that's just common sense.

Finally, no criminals should get out on the streets until and unless they are drug free. I ask that Congress enact my proposal to make drug-testing a mandantory condition before any criminal is released -- whether on bail or parole.

But we need to do more than just enact new laws. In a recent movie about the L.A. gang wars, a woman shouts encouragement to a cop on patrol, telling him: "You get them off the street." He answers: "Lady, we're trying." And the woman offers a four word solution: "You need more help."

Believe me, we know it. You need more help. And I'm here today to tell you that we're prepared to match rhetoric with resources -- and call on the states to do the same.

The second front of our new offensive calls for more troops and a new strategy on guns. I have directed the Attorney General and the Treasury Secretary, working together and with their colleagues in state and local enforcement, to launch our nation's first Dangerous Weapons Task Forces -- headquartered in seven

major cities facing acute violent crime -- to target and arrest America's most dangerous offenders.

I am requesting funding for hiring 750 new federal agents -- 300 at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, 300 at the FBI, and 150 Deputy U.S. Marshals, along with 75 new support staff. Many of these hirings will permit experienced firearms experts from all three agencies to promptly assume Task Force posts to combat violent crime.

Modeled on the highly successful Drug Task Forces set up by President Reagan in 1983, the Dangerous Weapons Task Forces will be based on a concept of proven effectiveness -- the mobilization of federal, state and local law enforcement shock troops to get violent and dangerous criminals off our streets.

Of course, arresting these thugs doesn't help if we don't have the muscle to prosecute each criminal to the fullest extent of the law. That's why the third front of this campaign calls for Congress to back up these new troops with 1,600 new federal prosecutors -- the largest increase in our nation's history.

Now, there probably isn't a cop here who hasn't seen a case where a dangerous felon -- properly arrested, fully prosecuted, and sentenced to the maximum -- walked out of jail early, sometimes years early, because state prisons are bursting at the seams. That's not right.

Part of our common sense approach is a simple recognition that it doesn't do any good to provide new Task Forces, new Assistant U.S. Attorneys, and new laws with long-term penalties

-- if we don't have the prison cells to keep criminals where they belong.

And so, as the fourth front in this comprehensive effort, I am calling on Congress to authorize an additional \$1 billion -- over and above the \$500 million already slated for 1990 -- for federal prison construction. By adding 26,000 new beds to the present rated capacity of 29,112 beds, the federal prison capacity will be virtually doubled.

The last time I stood on these steps -- only moments after becoming President -- I made a promise: "This scourge will stop."

If the thugs are listening up at Riker's, or in the L.A. barrio, or right here in Anacostia, I have a final message for you. You started this war. But we are going to finish it. And you.

Ladies and gentlemen, I offer my condolences for your fallen comrades. I salute your commitment and your courage. And as a citizen grateful for the protection you have provided for my family and my countrymen, I thank you and wish you Godspeed. And God bless America.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 11, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR
COMMUNICATIONS

FROM: NELSON LUND 
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Peace Officers Memorial Day

At the request of James W. Cicconi, Counsel's office has reviewed the captioned draft remarks. The draft remarks are apparently based on a draft fact sheet that was provided to Counsel's office this afternoon. Certain questions that we raised with respect to the fact sheet also apply to the corresponding portions of the draft remarks; this memorandum will reference those questions and will make some additional comments.

(1) Page 5, fifth paragraph: The reference to fully automatic weapons is inconsistent with the fact sheet that was provided to us. In addition, Counsel's office has raised questions about the advisability of the proposed enhancement of penalties.

(2) Page 6, first paragraph: The plea bargaining policy articulated in this paragraph appears to be different than the one described in the fact sheet. The information we have been given and the time allotted for our review has not permitted us to determine whether the inconsistency is real or only apparent.

(3) Page 6, third and fourth paragraphs: Counsel's office has raised questions about the advisability of certain aspects of the proposed death penalty statute described in these paragraphs.

(4) Page 7, first paragraph: We question the advisability of calling on U.S. businesses to halt the production of weapons that are not illegal, and that may have substantial, legitimate purposes.

(5) Page 7, fourth paragraph: The description of the proposed restrictions on magazine size is inconsistent with the description in the fact sheet. In addition, Counsel's office has raised questions about the advisability of the proposal.

(6) Page 9, first full paragraph: The distribution of new positions among agencies is described somewhat differently than in the fact sheet. In addition, Counsel's office has raised questions about the proposed allocation of these new positions.

(7) Page 9, first and second full paragraphs: It is not obvious why "firearms experts," in contradistinction to those expert in apprehending violent criminals, can make a major contribution to the apprehension and prosecution of criminals who use firearms to commit violent crimes.

Counsel's office appreciates having had the opportunity to review these draft remarks.

cc: James W. Cicconi

Bob Simon

(McNally/Simon)

May 11, 1989

11:00 a.m.

Draft Three

(B:CRIME)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY
U.S. CAPITOL -- WEST FRONT
MONDAY, MAY 15, 1989
12:00 NOON

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Never was the toll more visible than in the faces of the brave men and women -- the families -- gathered here on democracy's front steps today.

Last fall, a retired New York police lieutenant gave me badge number 14072 -- the badge his son wore the day he was gunned down by one such gang of cocaine cowards. Matthew Byrne asked me to keep Eddie's badge as a "reminder of all the brave police officers...who put their lives on the line for us every day."

Matt, your son's badge is kept in my desk in the Oval Office. During the debate on drug-related violence that has raged in this country the past several months, neither it nor what it represents has ever been far from my mind. I've heard many voices, the courageous and the corrupt, the wounded and the widowed.

Some say we should give up. Others all but suggest we barricade the streets. But somewhere between despair and destruction, there is a balanced course. Room for a measured response. A place for common sense.

And no effective search for the solutions can begin without a thoughtful look at the problem we face, and at the kind of people we are, the kind of values we hold, and the kind of nation we intend to bequeath to our children.

First, the problem. We're here today to talk about violent crime -- and, in particular, the bloodshed that has been spurred by increasingly sophisticated guns in the hands of a new class of cold-blooded criminals. Usually, but not always, the deaths are tied to a cycle of drugs and dollars and dependency.

Second, the principles. My generation well remembers what some believe was F.D.R.'s finest speech: The "Four Freedoms" address to a joint session of Congress. The last, often forgotten, and arguably most fundamental of President Roosevelt's freedoms was simply this: freedom from fear. Our sworn duty to "insure domestic Tranquility" is as old as the republic itself, placed in the Constitution's preamble even before the common defense and the general welfare. When we ask what kind of society the American people deserve -- and what kind of society we hope to pass on to our children -- it's clear that our goal must be a nation in which law abiding citizens are safe and feel safe.

Fundamental to this duty is the notion that people must be held accountable for their actions. That's common sense. Most Americans are law abiding, and most believe that there is such a thing as right and wrong -- that we each carry within ourselves the capacity for evil -- and the freedom to choose instead to do good.

We can all be glad that the failed policies of liberal leniency -- often blaming society or even the victim -- seem to be fading from the debate. Society causes crime like wet sidewalks cause rain.

But a return to a common sense approach to crime means that if we are going to affect people's behavior, we must have a criminal justice system in which there is an expectation that:

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- And if caught, you will be prosecuted.
- And if convicted, you will do time.

For far too long, a privileged class of violent and repeat offenders have calculated that crime really does pay -- that our criminal justice system is a crapshoot where the risks are worth the rewards. Well, it's time we change the odds -- and up the stakes enormously. And I'll talk about that in a moment.

One other principle. The federal government has a special enforcement role, particularly one of leadership. But our job is also to work in partnership with state and local law enforcement, complementing efforts, providing technical assistance and sometimes cash where needed, and where possible.

Nonetheless -- for constitutional and traditional reasons -- the primary responsibility for law enforcement always has and will continue to rest with state and local authorities. Unfortunately, nowhere is this sometimes dangerous duty more evident than in the honor roll that will be read after my remarks are concluded: Of the 161 officers killed in the line of duty last year, 152 were state or local cops. You are the front line troops -- and your respective governments have an obligation to adopt tough legislation and provide the resources -- in police, prosecutors and prisons -- to fully back you up.

At the trial of Eddie Byrne's executioners, there was testimony that the hit was ordered by a ~~short-term~~ convict ~~to~~ ~~serving just ___ years for a serious weapons charge~~ to send a "message" to the people behind the badge. One witness said they wanted to see the attack on the TV news at Rikers Island.

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The first front of this campaign -- new laws -- starts with the semi-automatic and so-called "assault" weapons that criminals lately have taken as their gun of choice.

Again, common sense has to play an important part in this discussion. The fact of the matter is, nearly half the households in this country have guns, ^{according to one survey.} The guns are already out there. And the overwhelming majority are legitimately owned for legitimate purposes.

But in contrast to legitimate gun ownership is the chilling fact that something like 80 percent of all firearms used ^{by felons} in crime are stolen or otherwise unlawfully ^{obtained,} ~~possessed.~~ ^{according to one study.} Throughout our nation's history, the hard lesson we've learned is that criminals will get guns.

So let me be very clear about our response:

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The math is real simple. You use these weapons for crime -- you so much as have one on you during a crime -- and you will do an extra 10 years in federal prison. No probation. No parole.

And it doesn't matter anymore whether you get a tough judge. The 10 years is automatic. Go straight to jail. The games are over.

Secondly, we just can't plea bargain away the lives of our cops and kids. From this day forward, all deals are off. I am directing the Attorney General to notify all federal prosecutors that this nation has seen its last plea-bargain for violent firearms offenses.

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Third -- if you use an "assault" weapon -- and someone dies -- the only place you should expect mercy is from a Court beyond our jurisdiction *on Earth*.

We are calling on Congress today to enact the steps necessary to implement the death penalty that became law last year -- and to newly designate the use of fully and semi-automatic weapons as "aggravating factors" for determining whether a sentence of death should be imposed.

Fourth -- two months ago, at my direction, the Department of the Treasury suspended the importation of certain, so-called "assault" weapons -- under the existing law requiring that they be generally recognized as suitable or adaptable for sporting purposes.

Treasury is continuing its examination to determine which -- if any -- of these weapons are acceptable under these standards. They continue to invite comments and testimony from all interested groups and individuals. At the conclusion of this three month study -- and after careful consideration -- we will permanently ban all imports that don't measure up to this standard.

We also call on American businesses to follow the lead of Colt Industries -- which has voluntarily halted the production of assault weapons like the imports covered by the current ban.

Now, perhaps the biggest challenge in combatting this problem was recently summed up in the U.S. News cover story on guns: "The key problem is the difficulty in drafting laws that will separate assault weapons used in crime from semi-automatics frequently used for target practice and sometimes for hunting."

There is substantial controversy and debate on this point, and there is simply much that we do not yet know. But one thing that we do know about the common characteristics of these

"assault" weapons is that they invariably are equipped with unjustifiably large magazines. One of the best examples is the

Semi-automatic AK-47, which comes with
~~so-called "street-sweeper" -- a powerful shotgun with a built in~~

a magazine that pumps off ~~12~~³⁰ explosive bursts without reloading.

And that is why -- fifth -- we stand on the steps of Congress and ask its support for legislation prohibiting the importation, manufacture, sale, or transfer of gun magazines of more than ¹⁵~~10~~ rounds.

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Finally, no criminal should get out on the streets until and unless they are drug free. I ask that Congress enact my proposal to make drug-testing a mandantory condition before any criminal is released -- whether on bail or parole.

But we need to do more than just enact new laws. In a recent movie about the L.A. gang wars, a woman shouts encouragement to a cop on patrol, telling him: "You get them off the street." He answers: "Lady, we're trying." And the woman offers a four word solution: "You need more help."

Believe me, we know it. You need more help. And I'm here today to tell you that we're prepared to match rhetoric with resources -- and call on the states to do the same.

The second front of our new offensive calls for more troops and a new strategy on guns. I have directed the Attorney General and the Treasury Secretary, working together and with their colleagues in state and local enforcement, to launch our nation's first Dangerous Weapons Task Forces -- headquartered in seven

I have nothing
on how many

there will be.
In any event, why have the President set the number in this speech?

major cities facing acute violent crime -- to target and arrest America's most dangerous offenders.

I am requesting funding for hiring 750 new federal agents -- 300 at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, 300 at the FBI, and 150 Deputy U.S. Marshals, along with 75 new support staff. Many of these hirings will permit experienced firearms experts from all three agencies to promptly assume Task Force posts to combat violent crime.

Modeled on the highly successful Drug Task Forces set up by President Reagan in ~~1983~~¹⁹⁸², the Dangerous Weapons Task Forces will be based on a concept of proven effectiveness -- the mobilization of federal, state and local law enforcement shock troops to get violent and dangerous criminals off our streets.

Of course, arresting these thugs doesn't help if we don't have the muscle to prosecute each criminal to the fullest extent of the law. That's why the third front of this campaign calls for Congress to back up these new troops with ~~1,600~~⁸⁰⁰ new federal prosecutors -- the largest increase in our nation's history. ^{+ 800 support staff}

Now, there probably isn't a cop here who hasn't seen a case where a dangerous felon -- properly arrested, fully prosecuted, and sentenced to the maximum -- walked out of jail early, sometimes years early, because state prisons are bursting at the seams. That's not right.

Part of our common sense approach is a simple recognition that it doesn't do any good to provide new Task Forces, new Assistant U.S. Attorneys, and new laws with long-term penalties

-- if we don't have the prison cells to keep criminals where they belong.

And so, as the fourth front in this comprehensive effort, I am calling on Congress to authorize an additional \$1 billion -- over and above the \$500 million already slated for 1990 -- for federal prison construction. By adding 26,000 new beds to the present rated capacity of ^{30,000}~~29,112~~ beds, the federal prison capacity will be virtually doubled.

The last time I stood ^{here}~~on these steps~~ -- only moments after becoming President -- I made a promise: "This scourge will stop." *(This quote is OK.)*

If the thugs are listening up at Riker's, or in the L.A. barrio, or right here in Anacostia, I have a final message for you. You started this war. But we are going to finish it. And you.

Ladies and gentlemen, I offer my condolences for your fallen comrades. I salute your commitment and your courage. And as a citizen grateful for the protection you have provided for my family and my countrymen, I thank you and wish you Godspeed. And *may* God bless America.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/11/89

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY:

89 MAY 11 PM 46
5/11/89 6:00 PM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	MCCLURE	☒	☐
SUNUNU	☐	☒	NEWMAN	☐	☐
SCOWCROFT	☒	☐	PORTER	☒	☐
DARMAN	☒	☐	STUDDERT	☐	☐
BATES	☒	☐	UNTERMAYER	☐	☐
BREEDEN	☒	☐	ROGERS	☐	☒
CARD	☒	☐	WINSTON	☐	☒
CICCONI	☐	☒	PINKERTON	☒	☐
DEMAREST	☒	☐		☐	☐
FITZWATER	☐	☒		☐	☐
GRAY	☒	☐		☐	☐
HAGIN	☐	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS:

Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 6:00 PM, TODAY, Thursday, May 11, 1989, with an info copy to my office. Sorry for the short turnaround. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

*p. 7- 10 words contradicts Fact Sheet's statement of 15 words
given (Fact Sheet - p. 5) - RCB*

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

1989 MAY 11 PM 1:30

(McNally/Simon)
May 11, 1989
11:00 a.m.
Draft Three
(B:CRIME)

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Last fall, a retired New York police lieutenant gave me badge number 14072 -- the badge his son wore the day he was gunned down by one such gang of cocaine cowards. Matthew Byrne asked me to keep Eddie's badge as a "reminder of all the brave police officers...who put their lives on the line for us every day."

Matt, your son's badge is kept in my desk in the Oval Office. During the debate on drug-related violence that has raged in this country the past several months, neither it nor what it represents has ever been far from my mind. I've heard many voices, the courageous and the corrupt, the wounded and the widowed.

Some say we should give up. Others all but suggest we barricade the streets. But somewhere between despair and destruction, there is a balanced course. Room for a measured response. A place for common sense.

And no effective search for the solutions can begin without a thoughtful look at the problem we face, and at the kind of people we are, the kind of values we hold, and the kind of nation we intend to bequeath to our children.

First, the problem. We're here today to talk about violent crime -- and, in particular, the bloodshed that has been spurred by increasingly sophisticated guns in the hands of a new class of cold-blooded criminals. Usually, but not always, the deaths are tied to a cycle of drugs and dollars and dependency.

Second, the principles. My generation well remembers what some believe was F.D.R.'s finest speech: The "Four Freedoms" address to a joint session of Congress. The last, often forgotten, and arguably most fundamental of President Roosevelt's freedoms was simply this: freedom from fear. Our sworn duty to "insure domestic Tranquility" is as old as the republic itself, placed in the Constitution's preamble even before the common defense and the general welfare. When we ask what kind of society the American people deserve -- and what kind of society we hope to pass on to our children -- it's clear that our goal must be a nation in which law abiding citizens are safe and feel safe.

Fundamental to this duty is the notion that people must be held accountable for their actions. That's common sense. Most Americans are law abiding, and most believe that there is such a thing as right and wrong -- that we each carry within ourselves the capacity for evil -- and the freedom to choose instead to do good.

We can all be glad that the failed policies of liberal leniency -- often blaming society or even the victim -- seem to be fading from the debate. Society causes crime like wet sidewalks cause rain.

But a return to a common sense approach to crime means that if we are going to affect people's behavior, we must have a criminal justice system in which there is an expectation that:

-- If a crime is committed, you will be caught.

-- And if caught, you will be prosecuted.

-- And if convicted, you will do time.

For far too long, a privileged class of violent and repeat offenders have calculated that crime really does pay -- that our criminal justice system is a crapshoot where the risks are worth the rewards. Well, it's time we change the odds -- and up the stakes enormously. And I'll talk about that in a moment.

One other principle. The federal government has a special enforcement role, particularly one of leadership. But our job is also to work in partnership with state and local law enforcement, complementing efforts, providing technical assistance and sometimes cash where needed, and where possible.

Nonetheless -- for constitutional and traditional reasons -- the primary responsibility for law enforcement always has and will continue to rest with state and local authorities.

Unfortunately, nowhere is this sometimes dangerous duty more evident than in the honor roll that will be read after my remarks are concluded: Of the 161 officers killed in the line of duty last year, 152 were state or local cops. You are the front line troops -- and your respective governments have an obligation to adopt tough legislation and provide the resources -- in police, prosecutors and prisons -- to fully back you up.

At the trial of Eddie Byrne's executioners, there was testimony that the hit was ordered by a short-term convict -- serving just ___ years for a serious weapons charge -- to send a "message" to the people behind the badge. One witness said they wanted to see the attack on the TV news at Rikers Island.

Well, keep the cameras rolling. I hope they have C-SPAN at Rikers. Because today we have a little message of our own.

If you use guns, get used to prison TV.

We're going to take back the streets. And we're going to do it by taking you off them.

I am announcing today a comprehensive new offensive for combatting violent crime. It's an attack on all four fronts -- new laws to punish you, new cops to arrest you, new prosecutors to convict you, and new jails to hold you.

The first front of this campaign -- new laws -- starts with the semi-automatic and so-called "assault" weapons that criminals lately have taken as their gun of choice.

Again, common sense has to play an important part in this discussion. The fact of the matter is, nearly half the households in this country have guns. The guns are already out there. And the overwhelming majority are legitimately owned for legitimate purposes.

But in contrast to legitimate gun ownership is the chilling fact that something like 80 percent of all firearms used in crime are stolen or otherwise unlawfully possessed. Throughout our nation's history, the hard lesson we've learned is that criminals will get guns.

So let me be very clear about our response:

The right to bear arms is not a license to harm others. First, I am calling on Congress today to do for dangerous firearms what it has wisely done for dangerous drugs -- to double the mandatory minimum penalties for the use of a fully or semi-automatic weapon in crimes involving violence or drugs.

The math is real simple. You use these weapons for crime -- you so much as have one on you during a crime -- and you will do an extra 10 years in federal prison. No probation. No parole.

And it doesn't matter anymore whether you get a tough judge. The 10 years is automatic. Go straight to jail. The games are over.

Secondly, we just can't plea bargain away the lives of our cops and kids. From this day forward, all deals are off. I am directing the Attorney General to notify all federal prosecutors that this nation has seen its last plea-bargain for violent firearms offenses.

You use a gun, and you will do time.

Third -- if you use an "assault" weapon -- and someone dies -- the only place you should expect mercy is from a Court beyond our jurisdiction.

We are calling on Congress today to enact the steps necessary to implement the death penalty that became law last year -- and to newly designate the use of fully and semi-automatic weapons as "aggravating factors" for determining whether a sentence of death should be imposed.

Fourth -- two months ago, at my direction, the Department of the Treasury suspended the importation of certain, so-called "assault" weapons -- under the existing law requiring that they be generally recognized as suitable or adaptable for sporting purposes.

Treasury is continuing its examination to determine which -- if any -- of these weapons are acceptable under these standards. They continue to invite comments and testimony from all interested groups and individuals. At the conclusion of this three month study -- and after careful consideration -- we will permanently ban all imports that don't measure up to this standard.

We also call on American businesses to follow the lead of Colt Industries -- which has voluntarily halted the production of assault weapons like the imports covered by the current ban.

Now, perhaps the biggest challenge in combatting this problem was recently summed up in the U.S. News cover story on guns: "The key problem is the difficulty in drafting laws that will separate assault weapons used in crime from semi-automatics frequently used for target practice and sometimes for hunting."

There is substantial controversy and debate on this point, and there is simply much that we do not yet know. But one thing that we do know about the common characteristics of these "assault" weapons is that they invariably are equipped with unjustifiably large magazines. One of the best examples is the so-called "street-sweeper" -- a powerful shotgun with a built in magazine that pumps off 12 explosive bursts without reloading.

And that is why -- fifth -- we stand on the steps of Congress and ask its support for legislation prohibiting the importation, manufacture, sale, or transfer of gun magazines of more than 10 rounds.

The current debate was first sparked when an unstable gunman in Stockton, California purchased an AK-47 over the counter -- and used it to lay waste to an elementary school playground.

Patrick Edward Purdy was born in November 1964, and was arrested on his first weapons charge before his 15th birthday. By the time of his fourth firearms arrest Purdy had finally turned 18, and with it chalked up his first adult conviction .

It is outrageous that -- under the loopholes in current federal law -- Purdy's purchase of that deadly AK-47 was entirely legal despite his police record. That's not right.

And therefore -- sixth -- our comprehensive legislative package, which the Attorney General will transmit this week, also calls on Congress to close the Purdy loophole and others like it that allow deadly weapons to fall into deadly hands. Again, that's just common sense.

Finally, no criminal should get out on the streets until and unless they are drug free. I ask that Congress enact my proposal to make drug-testing a mandantory condition before any criminal is released -- whether on bail or parole.

But we need to do more than just enact new laws. In a recent movie about the L.A. gang wars, a woman shouts encouragement to a cop on patrol, telling him: "You get them off the street." He answers: "Lady, we're trying." And the woman offers a four word solution: "You need more help."

Believe me, we know it. You need more help. And I'm here today to tell you that we're prepared to match rhetoric with resources -- and call on the states to do the same.

The second front of our new offensive calls for more troops and a new strategy on guns. I have directed the Attorney General and the Treasury Secretary, working together and with their colleagues in state and local enforcement, to launch our nation's first Dangerous Weapons Task Forces -- headquartered in seven

major cities facing acute violent crime -- to target and arrest America's most dangerous offenders.

I am requesting funding for hiring 750 new federal agents -- 300 at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, 300 at the FBI, and 150 Deputy U.S. Marshals, along with 75 new support staff. Many of these hirings will permit experienced firearms experts from all three agencies to promptly assume Task Force posts to combat violent crime.

Modeled on the highly successful Drug Task Forces set up by President Reagan in 1983, the Dangerous Weapons Task Forces will be based on a concept of proven effectiveness -- the mobilization of federal, state and local law enforcement shock troops to get violent and dangerous criminals off our streets.

Of course, arresting these thugs doesn't help if we don't have the muscle to prosecute each criminal to the fullest extent of the law. That's why the third front of this campaign calls for Congress to back up these new troops with 1,600 new federal prosecutors -- the largest increase in our nation's history.

Now, there probably isn't a cop here who hasn't seen a case where a dangerous felon -- properly arrested, fully prosecuted, and sentenced to the maximum -- walked out of jail early, sometimes years early, because state prisons are bursting at the seams. That's not right.

Part of our common sense approach is a simple recognition that it doesn't do any good to provide new Task Forces, new Assistant U.S. Attorneys, and new laws with long-term penalties

-- if we don't have the prison cells to keep criminals where they belong.

And so, as the fourth front in this comprehensive effort, I am calling on Congress to authorize an additional \$1 billion -- over and above the \$500 million already slated for 1990 -- for federal prison construction. By adding 26,000 new beds to the present rated capacity of 29,112 beds, the federal prison capacity will be virtually doubled.

The last time I stood on these steps -- only moments after becoming President -- I made a promise: "This scourge will stop."

If the thugs are listening up at Riker's, or in the L.A. barrio, or right here in Anacostia, I have a final message for you. You started this war. But we are going to finish it. And you.

Ladies and gentlemen, I offer my condolences for your fallen comrades. I salute your commitment and your courage. And as a citizen grateful for the protection you have provided for my family and my countrymen, I thank you and wish you Godspeed. And God bless America.

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