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

OA/ID Number: 13487
Folder ID Number: 13487-006

Folder Title:
White House Wire on Fighting Crime, 5/18/89

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	25	6	2	7

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/17/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5/18/89 4:00 PM

SUBJECT: WHITE HOUSE WIRE ON FIGHTING CRIME

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 4:00 PM, Thursday, May 18, 1989, with an info copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

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

1989 MAY
((Grant))
May 15, 1989
10 a.m.

WHITE HOUSE WIRE
ON FIGHTING CRIME

PRESIDENT UNVEILS WIDE-RANGING PACKAGE TO FIGHT VIOLENT CRIME

On May 15, 1989, President Bush outlined a comprehensive program to combat violent crime, designed to strengthen the nation's criminal justice system and the Federal, state, and local law enforcement partnership. The President is proposing a common-sense approach to crime with proposals to limit access to weapons by criminals, to reform the criminal justice system, to enhance enforcement and prosecution, and to expand prison capacity to ensure both the certainty and severity of punishment.

Principles guiding the President's proposals: Four *a chain is as strong as its weakest link. Therefore,*
principles underlie the goals of our criminal justice system and the means for accomplishing them:

- o We must protect citizens and their property, because Americans deserve to live in a society in which they are safe and feel secure.
- o Those who commit violent crimes should, and must, be held accountable for their actions.
- o Our criminal justice system must have as its objective the swift and certain apprehension, prosecution and incarceration of those who break the law.

- o Success in accomplishing these goals requires a sustained, cooperative effort by Federal, State and local law enforcement authorities.

Elements of The Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1989:

I. Strengthening Current

The President is calling on Congress to double the maximum penalties -- from five years to ten years in Federal -- for the use of semi-automatic weapons in violent drug felonies. In addition, the Attorney General has been directed to advise ~~Federal~~ ^{America's} prosecutors to ~~end~~ ^{limit} plea bargaining for violent Federal firearms offenses. President Bush called on Congress to enact the steps necessary to implement the death penalty for the most serious Federal crimes, and urged state Governors to match this Federal initiative -- new mandatory sentencing, tougher rules on plea bargaining, and implementing the death penalty -- in the States.

The President also announced that the Administration will make permanent the temporary suspension on the import of certain semi-automatic weapons, ~~and his support for legislation~~ ^{which fail to meet the criteria specified in the Gun Control Act of 1968.} prohibiting the importation, manufacture, sale or transfer of gun magazines of more than 15 rounds. And, to keep deadly weapons out of deadly hands, the President called on Congress to close loopholes like the one that allowed Patrick Edward Purdy to buy that deadly AKS-47 in Stockton, California.

II. Augmenting Enforcement. The President has directed the Attorney General and the Treasury Secretary, working together with state and local ~~enforcement~~ ^{authorities}, to launch a comprehensive,

coordinated offensive against America's most violent criminals. President Bush requested funding for hiring 825 new Federal agents and staff -- 375 at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; 300 at the FBI; and 150 Deputy U.S. Marshals. This offensive, including State and local enforcement authorities, will target violent criminals and repeat offenders.

III. Enhancing Prosecution. The President proposed to increase funds for the U.S. Attorneys Offices to support 1,600 new prosecutors and staff, and increase funds for the Justice Department Criminal Division to support 168 new ^{positions} attorneys, to handle drug cases, weapons offenses and other priority matters.

IV. Expanding Prison Capacity. The President proposed an additional \$1 billion for Federal prison construction, bringing the total FY 1990 budget to over \$1.5 billion. This will increase Federal prison capacity by nearly 80 percent, adding over 24,000 new prison beds.

PRESIDENT BUSH LAUNCHES NEW STRATEGY TO "TAKE BACK THE STREETS"

On May 15, the President participated in the National Peace Officers' Memorial Day Service, declaring to law enforcement officers assembled on the steps of the U.S. Capitol, "We're going to take back the streets -- by taking criminals off the streets." He urged a "return to common sense," and continued, "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

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Across the country, law enforcement officials are backing the President's proposals to fight crime:

"He sent a message to the criminal element that if you commit a crime you're going to get caught, that if you get caught you're going to get prosecuted, and if you get prosecuted and convicted you're going to jail -- and that requires a broad, comprehensive program of the type he proposed today." -- Attorney General ^{Dick} Richard Thornburgh.

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See charges

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 Ext. 2702

1989 MAY
((Grant))
May 15, 1989
10 a.m.

PM 12:24

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Federal

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RESPONSE:

May 18, 1989

TO: Chriss Winston

The NSC staff concurs in the attached statement.

Philip Hughes
 Philip Hughes
 Executive Secretary

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

cc: Jim Cicconi

89 MAY 17 P 1: 58

1989 MAY
((Grant))
May 15, 1989
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12-24

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ON FIGHTING CRIME**

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 18, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM:

BILL ROPER



SUBJECT:

White House Wire on Fighting Crime

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this document. We have the following suggestions:

- ✓ 1. On page 2, the paragraph on "Strengthening Current Laws," is numbered. The subsequent paragraphs should be as well, or otherwise made consistent.
2. On page 2, the second paragraph should read "The President also announced that the Administration will make permanent the temporary suspension on the import of any semi-automatic weapons that fail to meet the criteria specified in the Gun Control Act of 1968. The President will propose legislation prohibiting the importation,...."
3. On page 5, the last sentence of the Police Chief Maurice Turner quote should be dropped.
4. On page 5, in the Robert Scully quote, the correct figure is 1.5 billion dollars for new prison construction.

I would be happy to discuss this with you.

cc: James W. Cicconi

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122 07E03

Document No.

036867 SS

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/17/89

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY:

5/18/89 4:00 PM

SUBJECT: WHITE HOUSE WIRE ON FIGHTING CRIME

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than ^{12:00}4:00 PM, Thursday, May 18, 1989, with an info copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

Comments attached.

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

1989 MAY
((Grant))
May 15, 1989
10 a.m.

PH 12-24

WHITE HOUSE WIRE
ON FIGHTING CRIME

PRESIDENT UNVEILS WIDE-RANGING PACKAGE TO FIGHT VIOLENT CRIME

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- o Success in accomplishing these goals requires a sustained, cooperative effort by Federal, State and local law enforcement authorities.

Elements of The Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1989:

I. Strengthening Current Laws. The President is calling on Congress to double the mandatory minimum penalties -- from five years to ten years in Federal prison -- for the use of semi-automatic weapons in violent crimes or drug felonies. In addition, the Attorney General has been directed to advise Federal prosecutors to ~~end~~ ^{limit (phone)} plea bargaining for violent Federal firearms offenses. President Bush called on Congress to enact the steps necessary to implement the death penalty for the most serious Federal crimes, and urged state Governors to match this Federal initiative -- new mandatory sentencing, tougher rules on plea bargaining, and implementing the death penalty -- in the States.

The President also announced that the Administration will make permanent the temporary suspension on the import of ^{action arm} ~~certain~~ semi-automatic weapons ^{which fail to measure up to ATF standards,} and his support for legislation prohibiting the importation, manufacture, sale or transfer of gun magazines of more than 15 rounds. And, to keep deadly weapons out of deadly hands, the President called on Congress to close loopholes like the one that allowed Patrick Edward Purdy to buy that deadly AKS-47 in Stockton, California.

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#

Dave Kenkel - 633-2107 - Justice
Ede Holiday - 566-2093 - Treasury

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 17, 1989

MEMORANDUM TO CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: JIM PINKERTON

SUBJECT: White House Wire on Fighting Crime

One comment:

pg. 5, para. 2, lines 3-6 We should omit these sentences from
Chief Turner's statement implying that the President should enact
a national handgun ban. ✓

#

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 17, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR
COMMUNICATIONS

FROM: NELSON LUND *NL*
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: White House Wire on Fighting Crime

At the request of James W. Cicconi, Counsel's office has reviewed the captioned draft document. We have several comments.

(1) Page 2, lines 8-11, says that "the Attorney General has been directed to advise Federal prosecutors to end plea bargaining for violent Federal firearms offenses." Although this is consistent with language in the President's May 15 speech, the May 15 fact sheet that went to the President appears to indicate that a less definite directive was issued to the Attorney General. Counsel's office recommends that care be exercised to ensure that this and future statements are consistent with whatever directive was in fact given to the Attorney General.

(2) Page 2, lines 13-14. The last word on line 13 should apparently be "these" rather than "this," and the second word on line 14 should apparently be "initiatives" rather than "initiative."

(3) Page 2, lines 17-19. This phrase implies that the President has prejudged the outcome of the Treasury Department study of certain semiautomatic weapons that was initiated in March. Counsel's office strongly recommends that extreme care be taken to avoid any such implication in any Presidential or White House statement. The President's May 15 speech contained appropriate language, as did the version of the May 15 fact sheet that went to the President.

(4) Page 2, last line. The word "enforcement" should apparently be changed to "authorities."

Counsel's office appreciates having had the opportunity to review this draft document.

cc: James W. Cicconi

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/17/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5/18/89 4:00 PM

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RESPONSE:

see comment

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

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RESPONSE:

*OK
G/BW
5/17*

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Glynco, Georgia)

For Immediate Release

June 15, 1989

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Today I am pleased to transmit proposed legislation entitled the "Comprehensive Violent Crime Control Act of 1989." As the American people are aware, our Nation is experiencing a surge of violent criminal behavior, linked in no small degree to the scourge of illegal drugs currently prevalent in our border areas, our cities, and our neighborhoods.

On May 15, 1989, I outlined a comprehensive program, consisting of both legislative and non-legislative items, to combat violent crime. This program is a logical approach to the violent crime problem that focuses on four major objectives: strengthening current laws; augmenting enforcement; enhancing prosecution; and expanding prison capacity. The seven-title proposal that I am sending you today represents the actions that we believe the Congress should take in each of these areas. Its enactment would help reduce the incidence of violent crime in our society.

Dealing with crime is not a novel problem, nor is it one with which we can ever expect fully to succeed. Nevertheless, assuring the physical safety of our citizens and inhabitants is among the very highest responsibilities of government, and it is a top priority of my Administration.

Traditionally, dealing with violent crime has been, and should properly remain, primarily the function of State and local law enforcement authorities. Yet it is clear that the Federal Government also has an important leadership role to play.

The Federal Government cannot properly discharge its duties in this regard, however, unless the Nation's criminal laws, the essential backbone of the Federal justice system, are modernized and strengthened. A substantial strengthening of our laws would help all elements of the Federal criminal justice system -- law enforcement officials, prosecutors, judges, and correctional authorities -- to execute their responsibilities with maximum effectiveness.

In recent years, substantial progress has been made toward this goal. Each of the last three Congresses, with the participation of the previous Administration, passed a major

opportunities for our citizens. Our immediate task, however, and the one with which the present set of proposals is concerned, is to improve the Federal criminal justice system to render it able to dispense swift, sure, and fair justice. Persons who endanger society through the commission of violent offenses must know that their behavior will not be tolerated.

The present bill would improve the criminal justice system in several important ways.

First, the laws relating to firearms possession and use need to be carefully scrutinized to insure that, while the legitimate rights of firearm owners are protected, illegitimate use and possession of firearms are subject to proper punishment. In this regard, the Congress passed a major firearms statute in 1986, which generally struck a proper balance in this area. But our examination has revealed a number of instances in which the provisions of that law should be strengthened.

For example, I do not think it was the intention of the Congress to permit convicted felons, imprisoned for dangerous crimes, to be able to purchase firearms immediately upon their release from prison, merely because State law generally restores rights of citizenship to persons who have served their sentences. Yet that result may be required under the Federal statute as it is written today. Similarly, persons who use a semiautomatic weapon to commit a violent or drug felony are punished no more severely under present law than if an ordinary handgun had been employed. Existing Federal law also contains no penalty for stealing a firearm and lacks a clear definition of the offense of burglary. These defects and others would be remedied under a package of proposed firearms amendments that is included in the proposed legislation.

Second, building on the work of the 100th Congress, which, for the first time in recent memory, created a limited Federal death penalty for certain drug-related killings, this proposal would establish procedures necessary to institute a capital sanction for murders committed in violation of other Federal statutes, such as those involving murder-for-hire and the murder of a kidnap victim or a Federal prison guard. The proposed provisions are in compliance with all relevant Supreme Court decisions, and their enactment is long overdue. I believe it is absolutely essential to bring Federal law into conformity with the law in the more than three-quarters of the States that have passed statutes to reinstate the death penalty for a limited number of heinous crimes.

Third, the proposal includes provisions designed to impose severe restrictions on ammunition clips and other ammunition feeding devices frequently used to enable so-called "assault weapons" to fire a large number of rounds rapidly and without reloading. Under my Administration's proposal, a magazine or other ammunition feeding device with a capacity of greater than 15 rounds would be subject to strict regulation and could no longer be imported, manufactured,

Limited manufacture or importation for purposes of export or for sale to Government agencies would be authorized, but such large-capacity devices, like a firearm today, would be subject to identification by requiring serial numbers. While an ammunition feeding device, like a firearm itself, is not inherently evil, the enhanced potential for danger to law-abiding citizens posed by the unlawful use of weapons equipped with such devices in criminal hands makes it necessary to impose these restrictions in the interest of public safety.

Fourth, my proposal would establish a nationwide program of mandatory drug testing for defendants on post-conviction release, including probation, parole, or supervised release. It is estimated that upwards of 81,000 individuals will be on some form of Federal supervised release in 1990. The known association between criminal behavior and drug abuse is such that drug testing as a condition of release for convicted persons is an essential precaution to help enhance the public safety, while also promoting rehabilitative goals. I have proposed that \$10.7 million be appropriated for this activity in fiscal year 1990.

Fifth, the proposal contains provisions to reform the so-called "exclusionary rule." Under this rule, Federal courts today exclude or suppress probative evidence obtained by searches and seizures conducted in good faith by law enforcement officials. The result is that factually guilty individuals avoid conviction and punishment. Under my proposal, any evidence that is obtained as a result of a search or seizure undertaken in objectively reasonable good faith, as determined by a court, would be admissible at trial, notwithstanding that a magistrate or judge later found that the search did not satisfy constitutional requirements.

Suppression of evidence in criminal trials -- which are supposed to represent a search for truth on the issue of a defendant's guilt or innocence -- is not an appropriate remedy to redress innocent mistakes. Law enforcement officers must frequently make split-second decisions on matters involving difficult constitutional issues on which even judges may disagree. Enactment of this proposal is necessary in order to make the justice system work effectively.

The exclusionary rule would remain, under my proposal, as a permissible sanction for intentional violations, but no longer would a criminal escape punishment because of a technical mistake in conducting a search or seizure. The House of Representatives last year passed a similar proposal, which unfortunately was deleted in the conference agreement on the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988. The proposal should be enacted this year.

Sixth, the proposed bill would restore an appropriate degree of finality to State and Federal criminal convictions by curtailing abuses of the writ of habeas corpus. Under

With the massive delays in many Federal districts occasioned by an overwhelming caseload, we can no longer afford the luxury of this system of excessive opportunity for review of "final" criminal judgments. An effective justice system requires that final adjudications not be subject to continuous review. No innocent individual should be denied an avenue through which to petition the Federal courts to review his or her conviction. But at the same time, those persons who have been tried and found guilty, and whose legal claims have been rejected after full and fair consideration, should not be allowed to relitigate endlessly in the Federal courts.

Under the proposed amendments, the opportunity for certain kinds of collateral attacks upon a conviction would be limited by a time period of 1 or 2 years, with due exceptions for the assertion of rights newly created or facts newly discovered. Similarly, Federal courts would be admonished to give presumptive validity to any full and fair determination of a factual issue by a State court.

A nearly identical proposal was overwhelmingly passed by the Senate in 1984. Its enactment this year would improve the justice system and relieve the Federal courts, thereby freeing them to hear other cases and to dispense justice to others more promptly.

Seventh, and finally, the proposed bill would authorize appropriations for several activities of the Department of Justice to augment Federal law enforcement personnel, increase prosecutorial efforts, and expand prison capacity. These appropriation authorizations, along with the increased funding I have requested for the Judiciary and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms in the Department of the Treasury -- a total government-wide increase of about \$1.2 billion in 1990 -- will make possible a tougher, more vigorous, and more effective fight against violent crime.

When I stood before the United States Capitol on May 15 and addressed the families of the brave and valiant peace officers who gave lives in the battle to rid America of drugs and crime, I promised them -- as I did the American people on the day I assumed this office -- that "this scourge will stop." Enactment of the set of proposals that I present to you today, as well as implementation of the other initiatives that I announced last month, will be a major step in keeping that promise. I urge that these important proposals promptly be considered and enacted. We owe the people of our great Nation no less.

GEORGE BUSH

THE WHITE HOUSE,

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 22, 1989

Chriss Winston:

These changes have already been called in on May 18, but I am sending the attached for your files.

- Carolyn Vaughan
(x2270)

penalties

The Turner quote should be substituted by a quote from another prominent law enforcement official such as Los Angeles Police Chief Darryl Gates, who has enthusiastically supported the President's policies on crime and justice.

WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 18, 1989

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"HOUSE WIRE ON FIGHTING CRIME"

attributed to Washington Police Chief

extremely controversial issue of a
control

the Washington Police Department has
and justice experts

Turner that Washington D.C. has the
the nation is factually debatable -
carries equally stiff mandatory

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((Grant))
May 15, 1989
10 a.m.

WHITE HOUSE WIRE
ON FIGHTING CRIME

PRESIDENT UNVEILS WIDE-RANGING PACKAGE TO FIGHT VIOLENT CRIME

On May 15, 1989, President Bush outlined a comprehensive program to combat violent crime, designed to strengthen the nation's criminal justice system and the Federal, state, and local law enforcement partnership. The President is proposing a common-sense approach to crime with proposals to limit access to weapons by criminals, to reform the criminal justice system, to enhance enforcement and prosecution, and to expand prison capacity to ensure both the certainty and severity of punishment.

Principles guiding the President's proposals: Four principles underlie the goals of our criminal justice system and the means for accomplishing them:

- o We must protect citizens and their property, because Americans deserve to live in a society in which they are safe and feel secure.
- o Those who commit violent crimes should, and must, be held accountable for their actions.
- o Our criminal justice system must have as its objective the swift and certain apprehension, prosecution and incarceration of those who break the law.

- o Success in accomplishing these goals requires a sustained, cooperative effort by Federal, State and local law enforcement authorities.

Elements of The Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1989:

I. Strengthening Current Laws. The President is calling on Congress to double the mandatory minimum penalties -- from five years to ten years in Federal prison -- for the use of semi-automatic weapons in violent crimes or drug felonies. In addition, the Attorney General has been directed to advise Federal prosecutors to end plea bargaining for violent Federal firearms offenses. President Bush called on Congress to enact the steps necessary to implement the death penalty for the most serious Federal crimes, and urged state Governors to match this Federal initiative -- new mandatory sentencing, tougher rules on plea bargaining, and implementing the death penalty -- in the States.

The President also announced that the Administration will make permanent the temporary suspension on the import of certain semi-automatic weapons, and his support for legislation prohibiting the importation, manufacture, sale or transfer of gun magazines of more than 15 rounds. And, to keep deadly weapons out of deadly hands, the President called on Congress to close loopholes like the one that allowed Patrick Edward Purdy to buy that deadly AKS-47 in Stockton, California.

Augmenting Enforcement. The President has directed the Attorney General and the Treasury Secretary, working together with state and local enforcement, to launch a comprehensive,

coordinated offensive against America's most violent criminals. President Bush requested funding for hiring 825 new Federal agents and staff -- 375 at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; 300 at the FBI; and 150 Deputy U.S. Marshalls. This offensive, including State and local enforcement authorities, will target violent criminals and repeat offenders.

Enhancing Prosecution. The President proposed to increase funds for the U.S. Attorneys Offices to support 1,600 new prosecutors and staff, and increase funds for the Justice Department Criminal Division to support 168 new attorneys, to handle drug cases, weapons offenses and other priority matters.

Expanding Prison Capacity. The President proposed an additional \$1 billion for Federal prison construction, bringing the total FY 1990 budget to over \$1.5 billion. This will increase Federal prison capacity by nearly 80 percent, adding over 24,000 new prison beds.

PRESIDENT BUSH LAUNCHES NEW STRATEGY TO "TAKE BACK THE STREETS"

On May 15, the President participated in the National Peace Officers' Memorial Day Service, declaring to law enforcement officers assembled on the steps of the U.S. Capitol, "We're going to take back the streets -- by taking criminals off the streets." He urged a "return to common sense," and continued, "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." After unveiling his new offensive to fight what he called the "new class of criminals" on our streets, the President concluded, "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. Never was the toll more visible than in the faces of the brave men and women -- the families -- gathered here today. And when I first stood here as President ... I made a promise: 'This scourge will stop.' And that's a promise we intend to keep."

LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS BACK KEY ELEMENTS OF CRIME PACKAGE

Across the country, law enforcement officials are backing the President's proposals to fight crime:

"He sent a message to the criminal element that if you commit a crime you're going to get caught, that if you get caught you're going to get prosecuted, and if you get prosecuted and convicted you're going to jail -- and that requires a broad, comprehensive program of the type he proposed today." -- Attorney General Richard Thornburgh.

"We feel [the President's package] is a get-tough policy, and one that is urgently required if we are to make any headway in fighting crime. We are encouraged by the President's commitment to the crime issue." -- John Bellizzi, Executive Director, International Narcotics Enforcement Officers Association.

"George Bush has never wavered in his commitment against crime and in his support for victims of crime. This package is

consistent -- and in fact is going forward -- with what he has been doing." -- Frank Carrington, Executive Director, Victims' Assistance Legal Organization.

"The president took the first step ... I thought the step he took was a giant step. I applaud the President's law enforcement package. [In Washington,] we have the strongest handgun law in the country ... and outside of a national handgun ban, I don't think the President could have done anything more than he did yesterday." -- Washington, D.C. Police Chief Maurice Turner

"I am very pleased with the idea that there are going to be added federal prosecutors, that they're adding new employees to the ATF and US Marshalls, and the fact that there is \$1 billion for new prison construction." -- Mr. Robert Scully, National President, National Association of Police Organizations

"We are especially heartened by the additional resources being recommended for federal prosecutors and federal prisons ... We also strongly endorse the President's position that calls for reform of our habeas corpus procedures and the provision which would provide a good faith exception to the Exclusionary Rule." -- Mr. Jack Yelverton, Executive Director, National District Attorneys Association.

- a. raises ~~controversy~~ of handgun ban
 - b. attribution to PD w/ dubious
 - c. ^{dept} question ~~practical~~ accuracy
- LA chief - Darryl Gates

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contribution
to