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Collection/Office of Origin: Speechwriting, White House Office of
Series: Speech File Draft Files
Subseries: Chron File, 1989-1993

OA/ID Number: 13491
Folder ID Number: 13491-007

Folder Title:
Address to U.S. Attorneys 6/16/89 [1]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 15, 1989

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *W*
FROM: EDWARD E. McNALLY *EM*
SUBJECT: EAST ROOM REMARKS TO THE 94
 UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS

I. SUMMARY

At approximately 10:00 a.m. on Friday, June 16, 1989, you are scheduled to address the nation's 94 United States Attorneys.

II. DISCUSSION

Attached for your consideration and review are draft remarks for your address to the U.S. Attorneys -- who have been summoned to Washington to hear about their important role in your comprehensive initiative to combat violent crime.

The meeting is unprecedented in modern times. Although past Presidents (e.g., Truman, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon and Reagan) have often addressed this group during their annual Washington conferences, this appears to be the first time in anyone's memory that they have been summoned to the White House for the sole purpose of receiving marching orders from the President.

[[A note about the opening jokes: Following the successful White House Photographers dinner "model," they employ inside jokes about popular characters among the U.S. Attorneys themselves. Alabama's Frank Donaldson is so well-known for his constant joke-telling that, during one speech, a recent Attorney General called Donaldson up to the podium to do the opening jokes for him. Similarly, Wyoming's Richard Stacy apparently begins every comment at meetings and conferences with his signature line -- "I'm here to represent rural America, and..."]]

(McNally/Simon)
June 15, 1989, 12:30 p.m.
Draft Seven (ATTYS)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ADDRESS TO U.S. ATTORNEYS
THE EAST ROOM
FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 1989, 10:00 A.M.

[[Thank you, Dick [[THORNBURGH]], for that warm introduction. You know, it's become standard at gatherings such as this to open with a few humorous observations. And I know you rarely get a chance to hear any "lawyers jokes."]]

[[Maybe I just ought to have Alabama's Frank Donaldson come up here to tell a few jokes.]]

[[You may know I flew to Wyoming Monday. When I got off Air Force One, Richard Stacy was there to shake my hand. He said: "I'm here to represent rural America..."]] [[PAUSE]]

Simple words. Dramatic words.

"My name is George Bush, and I represent the United States."

With words like these, you and your Assistants begin a federal criminal trial. It is a great and rare honor to represent the United States, and I am honored to share that distinction with you.

200 years ago -- a few months after becoming President -- George Washington signed the Act that gave birth to the offices you hold. It is a distinguished tradition. And -- in the words of a former Attorney General -- you represent "one of the most powerful peace time forces known" to man.

Peace time? Not exactly. The situation in our streets has been aptly compared to a shooting war. That's why you've been

summoned to the White House for an assembly unprecedented in modern times.

I wanted you to know how strongly I feel about violent crime in America -- and how firmly I support your efforts.

The problem today is violent crime -- what some call "blood and thunder" -- involving high-powered weapons in the hands of a new class of criminals who impose the law of the jungle out of the barrel of a gun.

The fundamental responsibility for protecting America's streets and neighborhoods from violent crime must remain with our cities and states. But there is an increasing and important federal role in fighting violent crime. And when leadership is called for, we must seize the day.

One month ago, on a somber, rainy afternoon, I stood before the U.S. Capitol to commemorate police officers slain in the line of duty. Many were agents or officers who had worked with you or the prosecutors you supervise. And to honor their sacrifice, I called upon Congress to join me in launching a new, national strategy -- a new partnership with America's cities and states -- to "take back the streets."

But to do that, we must raise our voices to correct an insidious tendency: the tendency to blame crime on society rather than on the criminal. Let me be extra clear on my own beliefs:

This President, like most Americans, believes we can start building a safer society by first agreeing that society doesn't

cause crime. Criminals cause crime. And we are foursquare behind the men and women like you who make sacrifices every day to protect the vulnerable, to safeguard the law-abiding, and to ensure that those who scorn justice are brought to justice.

We must hold people accountable for their actions. I said it at the Capitol. A common sense approach to crime means criminals must know that:

- o If they commit a crime -- they will be caught.
- o And if caught -- they will be prosecuted.
- o And if convicted -- they will do time.

Plain-speaking Harry Truman said it -- 37 years ago this week -- when he met with the U.S. Attorneys here at the White House. He summed it up nicely: "We don't want any crooks left out of jail when they do crooked things."

Nowhere is this precept more critical than in combatting violent crime. The killing must stop. And it must stop now.

I'm here to ask your help -- to ask you to take a leadership role in your districts -- in helping put away our nation's "Most Wanted" -- the privileged class of violent, repeat and fugitive offenders hellbent on proving that crime really does pay.

The comprehensive plan we will send to Congress seeks to take violent criminals off the streets with an attack on four fronts. New laws to punish them. New agents to arrest them. New prosecutors to convict them. And new prisons to hold them.

All four are essential. Your role is essential. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

The first link is some tough new laws. Everyone here is familiar with Title 18's Section 924(c). Well, we have asked Congress to do for dangerous firearms what it has wisely done for dangerous drugs -- **double the mandatory penalties.**

As we've said, the math is simple. Anyone using a semi-automatic for crime -- or so much as having one on hand during a crime -- will do an automatic 10 extra years in federal prison. **No probation. No parole. No matter which judge they get.**

And I'm asking each of you to see that this message is brought to life in the streets and courtrooms of your cities and towns. Because for these laws to be effective, **we can't plea bargain away the lives of our cops and kids.**

I want and expect that, when suspects are arrested with **serious weapons -- they will face serious weapons charges.**

And so, last month, I directed the Attorney General to issue guidelines to insure that -- in all but the most exceptional cases -- **all firearms offenders are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.**

Those guidelines are being distributed today. And you have been summoned to Washington to hear it from the top: **No more loopholes. No conditional surrender. No more rolls of the dice. If a criminal carries a gun -- all deals are off.**

And when a criminal carries a gun -- and someone dies -- he should pay with his own life.

We're going to up the stakes for those who calculate that our criminal justice system is a crapshoot where the risks are

worth the rewards. When criminals think about reaching for a gun, they are going to know -- they are going to learn -- that they will do time. Hard time.

Yes, this policy may mean more trials. And I understand that firearms cases, like narcotics cases, are not always very popular with some on the bench. But it can be done -- and, in fact, already is being done -- even in districts with busy dockets like the Southern District of New York, where plea bargains for 924(c) violations have been banned since 1987.

And yes, we recognize that more offenders serving longer sentences means more prison space. And here again we've matched rhetoric with resources -- an unprecedented \$1.5 billion building program for federal prisons -- boosting present capacity by 80 percent.

And finally, yes, we also know how understaffed and overworked most of your offices already are. And we've called in the cavalry -- **federal reinforcements are on the way. If Congress will move -- and move quickly.**

In addition to 825 new agents to investigate violent crime, I have asked Congress to provide funding for ¹⁶⁰⁰ ~~800~~ ^{positions} ~~new Assistants~~ for your districts -- the largest one-time expansion in U.S. history -- ^{with increases in both prosecutors and} ~~bolstered by an equal number of new~~ support staff. And we're also seeking over 150 new attorneys at this end, adding more muscle to the Department's Criminal Division.

These forces must be marshalled effectively. And the Attorney General is proposing to consolidate the Strike Forces so

that they are led not from distant Washington, but by you -- the commanders at the front lines.

Of course, new laws and new manpower aren't the only tools at your disposal. Your leadership on the Law Enforcement Coordinating Committees has already produced new initiatives to meet the challenge of violent crime. In Chicago, Tony Valukas [[U.S. ATTY.]] has led a cooperative effort to rid the community of dangerous offenders -- by charging gang leaders and other repeat offenders under tough federal armed career criminal laws.

In the last two years, working together, we've jammed the revolving door on 27 such criminals -- all are now serving life without parole in federal prisons. And one of Tony's counterparts, the Director of the Illinois State Police, responded to the federal initiative by launching a Violent Crime Task Force. Similar partnerships on violent crime are being led by U.S. Attorneys like Benito Romano up in New York, Jay Stephens right here in D.C., and Rob Bonner in L.A., whose promotion to the federal district court was recently confirmed by the Senate.

And there are other innovations. To attack the profusion of gang and street violence, you may use some of your new slots to recruit seasoned ADA's or others trained in prosecuting gunshot crime. In those states where police are not protected by death penalty provisions, we should make full use of those federal laws that permit the death penalty for cop-killers.

And we should always use our unique federal resources and expertise to wipe out the kind of violent crime that operates

beyond the reach of any one state -- like the notorious El Rukn [[ROO-kin]] street gang, whose members were convicted of conspiring with Libya to acquire military weapons for terrorist operations in America.

And in addition to my directive on plea bargaining, there's a second important message that I ask you to bring home to your districts: Your colleagues in state and local law enforcement need the same tools we've proposed for you. Mandatory time for weapons offenders. No plea bargaining on guns. The death penalty for heinous crimes. And the kind of increased resources -- police, prosecutors, and prisons -- that ensure these vicious thugs will be pursued, prosecuted and put away for good.

United States Attorneys are a breed apart. Invariably bright, committed, tenacious public servants.

And your efforts against violent crime are important. But no less important than the other law enforcement priorities that you have so ably addressed.

And over the years, America has watched in admiration, and sometimes awe, as the accomplishments of your offices roll across America's television screens.

We will not tolerate the corruption of labor by organized crime -- as the landmark Teamsters settlement proved.

And crime is crime whether committed with a briefcase or a gun. We will not tolerate greed over honest business. Whether the business is defense contracting -- Operation "Ill Wind". Wall Street -- where you're owed congratulations on last week's

convictions. Banking -- "Polar Cap" was the largest money laundering case in history. Or Savings and Loans -- where the legislation we've proposed will give you the tools you need to wipe out the financial fraud that has devastated that industry.

Nor will we tolerate civil rights violations -- as the recent Klan convictions in Alabama prove.

And -- as the recent indictments against two major drug gangs right here in Washington show -- we will not tolerate the corruption of our youth by the poison they call cocaine. This scourge will stop.

It is easy to understand why our people are so grateful to those of you who have sacrificed to serve on the firing line -- whether in court or on the streets. Day and night your "sky-pagers" and mobile phones are active, as those you command monitor court-authorized intercepts, or move undercover into the breach.

It is exciting and principled work, an integral link in a system of justice that remains the envy of the world. In today's new effort -- and in all your efforts -- you have the gratitude, the respect, and the support -- of the American people -- and of me.

For your kids, for mine, for America's kids: **Take back the streets.**

Thank you for coming. Godspeed in the challenges ahead. And God bless you, your families, and the nation you work to protect.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

89 JUN 15 7 34 AM
6/15/89

89 JUN 15 P 3: 21

DATE: _____ ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: _____

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ADDRESS TO U.S. ATTORNEYS

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



REMARKS: The attached has been forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE:

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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INFORMATION

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For your kids, for mine, for America's kids: **Take back the streets.**

Thank you for coming. Godspeed in the challenges ahead. And God bless you, your families, and the nation you work to protect.

#

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

89 JUN 14 P12:32

DATE: 6/14/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 6/14/89 4:00 PM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ADDRESS TO U.S. ATTORNEYS

	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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER <i>trying to locate who is doing it.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN <i>coming</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT <i>calling back</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES <i>coming from Justice to attend to U.S. Attorneys</i>	<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"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON <i>coming</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY <i>6257 just got it working on it.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 TODAY, June 14, 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

(McNally/Simon)
June 14, 1989, 11:00 a.m.
Draft Three (ATTYS)

1989 JUN 14 11:12

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200 years ago -- a few months after becoming President -- George Washington signed the Act that gave birth to the offices you hold. It is a distinguished tradition. And -- in the words of a former Attorney General -- you represent "one of the most powerful peace time forces known" to man.

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Our goal is nothing less than an America in which law abiding citizens are safe -- and feel safe.

No prosecutor needs to be told that, to achieve this goal, we must hold people accountable for their actions. I said it at the Capitol. A common sense approach to crime means criminals must know that:

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- o And if convicted -- they will do time.

Plain-speaking Harry Truman said it -- 37 years ago this week -- when he met with the U.S. Attorneys here at the White House. He summed it up nicely: "We don't want any crooks left out of jail when they do crooked things."

Nowhere is this precept more critical than in combatting violent crime. The killing must stop. And it must stop now.

I'm here to ask your help -- to ask you to take a leadership role in your districts -- in helping to round up our nation's "Most Wanted" -- the ~~privileged~~ ^{hard-core} class of violent, repeat and fugitive offenders hellbent on proving that crime really does pay. (Breedon)

The comprehensive plan we sent to Congress yesterday seeks to take violent criminals off the streets with an attack on four fronts. New laws to punish them. New agents to arrest them. New prosecutors to convict them. And new prisons to hold them.

All four are essential. Your role is essential. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

The first link is some tough new laws. Everyone here is familiar with Title 18's Section 924(c). Well, we have asked Congress to do for dangerous firearms what it has wisely done for dangerous drugs -- double the mandatory penalties.

As we've said, the math is simple. Anyone using a semi-automatic for crime -- or so much as having one on hand during a

crime -- will do an automatic 10 extra years in federal prison. No probation. No parole. No matter which judge they get.

And I'm asking each of you to see that this message is brought to life in the streets and courtrooms of your cities and towns. Because for these laws to be effective, **we can't plea bargain away the lives of our cops and kids.**

I want and expect that, when suspects are arrested with **serious weapons** -- they will face **serious weapons charges.**

And so, last month, I directed the Attorney General to issue guidelines to insure that -- in all but exceptional cases involving substantial cooperation -- all firearms offenders are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Those guidelines are being distributed today. And you have been summoned to Washington to hear it from the top: **No more loopholes. No conditional surrender. No more rolls of the dice.** If a criminal carries a gun -- all deals are off.

And when a criminal carries a gun -- and someone dies -- he must pay with his own life.

We're going to up the stakes for those who calculate that our criminal justice system is a crapshoot where the risks are worth the rewards.

In the first Dirty Harry movie, Clint Eastwood holds his .44 magnum on a San Francisco punk. The kid's lost count of whether Harry's already fired six shots -- or only five. And as the kid debates whether to reach for his own gun, Harry cocks the hammer and asks the million dollar question: **[[PAUSE]]**

"Do you feel lucky?" [[PAUSE]]

The message from the White House today, is that the luck of armed criminals is about to take a very bad turn for the worse. When criminals think about reaching for a gun, they are going to know -- they are going to learn -- that they will do time. Hard time.

Yes, this policy may mean more trials. And I understand that firearms cases, like narcotics cases, are not always very popular with some federal judges. But it can be done -- and, in fact, already is being done -- even in busy dockets like the Southern District of New York, where plea bargains for 924(c) violations have been banned since 1987.

And yes, we recognize that more offenders serving longer sentences means more prison beds. And here again we've matched rhetoric with resources -- an unprecedented \$1.5 billion building program for federal prisons -- all but doubling present capacity.

And finally, yes, we also know how understaffed and overworked most of your offices already are. And we've called in the cavalry -- federal reinforcements are on the way.

In addition to 825 new agents to investigate violent crime, I have asked Congress to provide funding for 800 new Assistants for your districts -- the largest one-time expansion in U.S. history -- bolstered by an equal number of new support staff. And we're also seeking over 150 new attorneys at this end, adding more muscle to the Department's Criminal Division.

Of course, new laws and new manpower aren't the only tools at your disposal. The Law Enforcement Coordinating Committees -- LECC's -- are a federal program that costs very little and is working very well. You each have a vital leadership role in your districts -- as the nation's lawyers, as shapers of public opinion, as champions who speak for untold victims who are often without voices or even names.

Some LECC's have already produced new initiatives to meet the challenge of violent crime. In Chicago, Tony Valukis [[U.S. ATTY]] has led a cooperative effort to rid the community of dangerous offenders -- by charging gang leaders and other repeat offenders under tough federal armed career criminal laws.

In the last two years, they've stopped the state system's revolving door for 27 such criminals -- all are now serving life without parole in federal prisons. And one of Tony's counterparts, the director of the Illinois State Police, responded to the federal initiative by launching a violent crime task force. Similar partnerships on violent crime are being led by U.S. Attorneys like ^{Rob Bonner}~~Bill Braniff~~ in L.A., Benito Romano up in New York, and Jay Stephens right here in D.C. Rd

And there are other innovations. To attack the profusion of gang and street violence, you may use some of your new slots to recruit or cross-designate seasoned ADA's or others trained in prosecuting gunshot crime. In those states where police are not protected by death penalty provisions, we should offer federal prosecution for cop-killers and other appropriate cases.

And we should always use our unique federal resources and expertise to wipe out the kind of violent crime that operates beyond the reach of any one state -- like the notorious El Rukn [[ROO-kin]] street gang, whose members were convicted of conspiring with Libya to acquire military weapons for terrorist operations in America.

You are also out there to represent me. And in addition to my directive on plea bargaining, there's a second important message that I ask you to bring home to your districts: **Your colleagues in state and local law enforcement need the same tools we've proposed for you. Mandatory time for weapons offenders. No plea bargaining on guns. The death penalty for heinous crimes.** And the kind of increased resources -- **police, prosecutors, and prisons** -- that ensure these vicious thugs will be **pursued, prosecuted and put away for good.**

United States Attorneys are a breed apart. Invariably bright, committed, tenacious public servants. And here in Washington we've watched in admiration, and sometimes awe, as the accomplishments of your offices roll across America's television screens.

Operation "Ill Wind" -- the defense procurement investigations. "Polar Cap" -- the largest money laundering case in history. The recent Wall Street insider trading convictions. The landmark Teamsters settlement. The Klan civil rights convictions in Alabama. Environmental investigations at the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant. Colombian drug lords now

behind bars for life without parole. And the recent indictments against two major drug gangs right here in Washington.

Earlier this week I flew practically across the country and back -- on another mission to protect our citizens -- in that case from acid rain and smog -- and had some quiet time to think about my message to you today.

And as I looked down at the villages and towns and neighborhoods that make up America, it was easy to understand why our people are so grateful to those of you who have sacrificed to serve in the firing line -- whether in court or on the streets. While America sleeps your "sky-pagers" and mobile phones are active, as those you command monitor court-authorized intercepts, or move undercover into the breach. It is exciting and principled work, an integral link in a system of justice that remains the envy of the world. In today's new effort -- and in all your efforts -- you have the gratitude, the respect, and the support -- of the American people -- and of me.

Thank you for coming. Godspeed in the challenges ahead. And God bless you, your families, and the nation you work to protect.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 16, 1989

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO U.S. ATTORNEYS

The East Room

10:09 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all. Welcome to the White House. Thank you all very much. Thank you, Dick, and thank all of you for that warm welcome here. But let me welcome you to the White House. I'm just delighted have the U.S. Attorneys here. First, a word about our able Attorney General. I feel very confident about our Justice Department under his able leadership. And the integrity that Dick brings to this job is known nationwide and I know it's going to enhance the work that you all are involved in every day of your lives, serving this country. So, I want to thank the Attorney General for all he is doing and to salute him in front of you who work closely with the Department and with him.

This is a time where we get around and tell lawyer's jokes. (Laughter.) I was thinking of having Frank Donaldson come up -- Alabama's own -- to tell a few -- (laughter) -- but this is a kinder and gentler White House and I'm not sure we need that, but -- (laughter.)

You know, when I flew out to Wyoming on Monday, I got off Air Force One out there -- beautiful -- and Richard Stacy was there to shake my hand. And he said, "I'm here to represent rural America." (Laughter.)

Simple, dramatic words.

So, "My name is George Bush, and I represent the United States." (Laughter.)

And with words like these, you and your assistants begin a federal criminal trial. And it's a great and rare honor to represent the United States, and I'm honored to share that distinction with you. I share the pride that you feel every time you say that.

Two hundred years ago, a few months after becoming President, George Washington signed the act that gave birth to the offices that you hold. And it's a distinguished tradition. And one of the reasons that I was so delighted when Dick arranged for this little meeting was that I wanted to be able to tell you that -- tell you the respect I feel for the job that you all do. And, in the words of a former Attorney General, you represent "one of the most powerful peacetime forces known to man."

Peacetime? Well, I expect some of you would debate that. The situation in our streets has been aptly compared to a shooting war. And that's why you're here for an assembly unprecedented in modern times.

And I did want you to know how strongly I feel -- and I'm grateful to Dick for his comments on this -- about violent crime in America -- and how firmly I support what you all do every single day.

The problem today is violent crime -- some call it "blood and thunder" -- involving these high-powered weapons of a new class of criminals who impose the law of the jungle out of the barrel of a gun.

And the fundamental responsibility for protecting America's streets and neighborhoods from violent crime must remain

MORE

with our cities and states. But there's an increasing and important federal role in fighting violent crime. And when leadership is called for, we've got to respond, we've got to seize the day.

One month ago, on a really somber, rainy afternoon, I was standing in front of the Capitol to commemorate the police officers who were slain in the line of duty. And many were agents or officers who had worked with you or the prosecutors that you supervise. And to honor their sacrifice, I called upon the United States Congress to join me in launching a new national strategy -- a new partnership with America's cities and states -- to take back the streets.

And to do that we must raise our voices to correct an insidious tendency -- the tendency to blame crime on society rather than on the criminal. And let me be extra clear on my own beliefs here today.

I, like most Americans, believe that we can start building a safer society by first agreeing that society itself doesn't cause the crime. Criminals cause the crime. And we are foursquare behind the men and women like you who make sacrifices every day to protect the vulnerable, to safeguard the law-abiding, and to ensure that those who scorn justice are brought to justice.

And we must hold people accountable for their actions. And I said it at the Capitol. A common-sense approach to crime means that criminals must know that if they commit a crime, they will be caught, and if caught, they will be prosecuted, and if convicted, they will do time.

A plain-speaking predecessor of mine was Harry Truman. And he said it pretty well 37 years ago when he met with the U.S. Attorneys here at the White House. And he summed it up, "We don't want any crooks left out of jail when they do crooked things."

And nowhere is this precept more critical than in combatting violent crime. The killing must stop, and it must stop now.

And I'm here to ask your help -- to ask you to take a leadership role in your districts in helping put away our nation's most wanted -- the privileged class of violent, repeat and fugitive offenders hellbent on proving that crime really does pay.

The comprehensive plan that we sent to Congress seeks to take violent criminals off the streets with an attack on four fronts. New laws to punish them, new agents to arrest them, new prosecutors to convict them, and new prisons to hold them.

And all four are essential. Your role is essential. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

The first link is some tough new laws, and everyone here is familiar with Title 18's Section 924(C). And well we have asked Congress to do for dangerous firearms what it has wisely done for dangerous drugs -- double the mandatory penalties.

As we've said, the math is simple. Anyone using a semiautomatic for crime -- or so much as having one in hand during a crime -- will do an automatic 10 extra years in federal prison. No probation. No parole. No matter which judge they get.

And I'm asking each of you to see that this message is brought to life in the streets and courtrooms of your cities and towns. Because for these laws to be effective, we can't plea bargain away the lives of our cops and our kids.

And I want and expect that when suspects are arrested with serious weapons, that they'll face serious weapons charges.

And so, last month, I directed the Attorney General to issue guidelines to ensure that in all but the most exceptional cases, all firearms offenders are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

And those guidelines are being distributed today, I'm told. And you've been summoned to Washington to hear it from the top -- no more loopholes. No conditional surrender. No more rolls of the dice. If a criminal carries a gun, all deals are off.

And when a criminal carries a gun -- and someone dies -- I firmly believe that that person should pay with his life.

We're going to up the stakes for those who calculate that our criminal justice system is a crapshoot where the risks are worth the rewards. And when criminals think about reaching for a gun, they're going to know -- and they're going to learn -- that they will do time. Hard time.

And yes, this policy may mean more trials. And I understand that firearms cases, like narcotics cases, are not always very popular with some on the bench. But it can be done, and, in fact, already is being done -- even in districts with these overcrowded dockets like the Southern District of New York, where plea bargains for 924(C) violations have been banned since 1987.

And yes, we recognize that more offenders serving longer sentences obviously means more prison space. And here again we've matched our rhetoric with resources -- an unprecedented \$1.5 billion building program for federal prisons -- boosting present capacity by 80 percent. These are tough budgetary times, as everybody here knows. But \$1.5 billion is what I want to see go into this program.

And, finally, yes, we also know how understaffed and overworked your offices are. And we've called in the cavalry -- federal reinforcements are on the way. And if Congress will move -- and move quickly.

In addition to 825 new agents to investigate violent crime, I have asked the Congress to provide funding for 1,600 new prosecutors -- new positions for your district -- the largest one-time expansion in U.S. history -- with increases in both prosecutors and then the support staff. And we're also seeking over 150 new attorneys at this end, adding more muscle to the Department's Criminal Division.

These forces must be marshaled effectively. And the Attorney General is proposing to consolidate the Strike Forces so that they are led not from distant Washington, but by you -- the commanders at the front lines.

And of course, new laws and new manpower aren't the only tools at your disposal. Your leadership on the Law Enforcement Coordinating Committees has already produced new initiatives to meet the challenge of violent crime. In Chicago, Tony Valukas has led a cooperative effort to rid the community of dangerous offenders -- by charging gang leaders and other repeat offenders under tough federal armed career criminal laws.

And in the last two years, working together, we've jammed the revolving door on 20 such criminals -- all are now serving life without parole in federal prisons. And one of Tony's counterparts, the Director of the Illinois State Police, responded to the federal initiative by launching a Violent Crime Task Force. Similar partnerships on violent crime are being led by U.S. Attorneys like Benito Romano up in New York, Jay Stephens right here in the District, Rob Bonner in L.A., whose promotion to the federal district court was recently confirmed by the Senate.

And there are other innovations. To attack the profusion of gang and street violence, you may use some of your new slots to recruit seasoned ADA's or others trained in prosecuting gunshot crime. In those states where police are not protected by death penalty provisions, we should make full use of those federal laws that permit the death penalty for cop-killers.

And we should always use our unique federal resources and expertise to wipe out the kind of violent crime that operates beyond the reach of any one state like the El Rukn street gang whose members were convicted of conspiring with Libya to acquire military weapons

for terrorist operations in America.

And in addition to my directive on plea bargaining, there's a second important message that I ask you to bring home to your districts. Your colleagues in state and local law enforcement need the same tools we've proposed for you. Mandatory time for weapons offenders; no plea-bargaining on guns; the death penalty for heinous crimes, and the kind of increased resources -- police, prosecutor, prisons, that ensure these victims -- these vicious thugs will be pursued, prosecuted and put away for good.

United States Attornies are a breed apart -- invariably bright, committed, tenacious public servants. I really believe the country understands that about all of you. Four former U.S. Attornies hold leadership roles in our administration. Dick Thornburgh of Western Pennsylvania, Sam Skinner of Northern Illinois, Bill Webster of Eastern Missouri, and Bill Sessions of Western Texas. And we hope to see yet another -- Bob Fiske of New York joining our ranks here soon.

Your efforts against violent crime are important, but no less important than the other law enforcement priorities that you have so ably addressed. And over the years, America has watched in admiration, and sometimes awe, as the accomplishments of your offices roll across America's television screens. And we're not going to tolerate the corruption of labor by organized crime, as the landmark Teamster settlement proved.

And crime is crime -- whether committed with a briefcase or a gun. And we will not tolerate greed over honest business. Whether the business is defense contracting -- Operation "Ill Wind." Wall Street -- where you're owed congratulations on last week's convictions. Banking -- "Polar Cap" was the largest money laundering case in history. Savings and Loans -- where the legislation we've proposed will give you the tools you need to wipe out the financial fraud that has devastated that industry.

Nor will we tolerate civil rights violations -- as the recent Klan convictions in Alabama prove. And as the recent indictments against two major drug gangs right here in Washington show -- we will not tolerate the corruption of our youth by the poison they call cocaine. This scourge will stop. I said it in my Inaugural Address and I'll repeat here -- this scourge will stop.

And it's easy to understand why our people are so grateful to those of you who have sacrificed to serve on the firing line -- whether in court or on the streets. And day and night your "skypagers" and mobile phones are active, as those you command monitor court-authorized intercepts, or move undercover into the breach.

It is exciting and principled work, an integral link in a system of justice that remains the envy of the world. In today's new effort -- and in all your efforts -- you have the gratitude, the respect, and the support of the American people -- and certainly of me.

For your kids, for mine, for America's kids: Take back the streets.

And thank you for coming here today. Godspeed in the challenges ahead. And God bless you, your families, and the nation that you work so ably to protect. Thank you for coming to the White House. (Applause.)

END

10:26 A.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

89 JUN 13 P6:26

June 13, 1989

Memorandum to Chriss Winston

From: Jim Pinkerton

Subject: Law Enforcement Training Center Draft Speech

This speech does a solid job of praising the Training Center and re-expressing the key points of the President's crime package. The phrase "the united forces of justice," is splendid.

Our one fundamental comment is that the speech doesn't really say anything new. Normally, originality is a false idol in political writing, especially because repetition is the key to getting the message through. Still it would be more effective if, on the hottest domestic issue in the country, we could say something that would really get noticed.

For lack of a better idea, we suggest perhaps setting up a point of tension in the speech in which the President notes that some people are blaming society for injustice, not criminals; that the President vehemently disagrees; and that he is putting his office and the full force of the government behind the men and women of "the united forces of justice."

As the speech now stands, the tension is in recounting the deaths of past law enforcement officials and the President's proclaiming that "hunting season is over," -- a call for the death penalty. This is excellent, but we simply suggest more such incisiveness.

The President could say something like:

"It is hard to believe now, but not too long ago the people of law enforcement were sneered at by a small few made up of the misguided that emerge in turbulent times. But the vast majority of Americans -- proud of American law enforcement -- spoke up against the caustic voices of ignorance.

(more)

2-2-2

But to do that, w
"Today we must raise our voices to correct ~~another~~^{an} insidious tendency: the tendency to blame crime on society rather than on the criminal. Let me be extra clear on my own beliefs: X

"This President, like most Americans, believes we can start building a safer America by first agreeing that society is not the criminal, the criminal is the criminal. We are foursquare behind the men and women who make sacrifices every day to protect the vulnerable, to safeguard the law-abiding, and to ensure that those who scorn justice are brought to justice.

"The program that I am sending to Congress today means nothing less than this:

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

Other comments:

✓ 6,1,1 We wonder about the point that "when a criminal carries a gun -- and someone dies," the death penalty will be invoked. Note that this does not suggest any causal link between the firearm and the homicide. ✓

The Fact Sheet on the President's proposal says: "...the use of a firearm in committing the offense ... constitute[s] [an] aggravating factor justifying capital punishment." We urge double-checking the language on this point.

6,1,3 Putting aside the earlier point about incisiveness for the moment, "a life for a life" seems a bit harsh for the President to say, notwithstanding the biblical reference. We should not get too far from the notion that we are advocating a civilized, humane system of justice, not the Code of Hammurabi. We suggest simply "the ultimate penalty of death."

7,2,2 "[G]ross understatement" seems a bit harsh if this is how the Training Center describes itself. We suggest "a forgivable understatement," or merely "an understatement."

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Kristen-



The crime package was sent to Congress yesterday. Do we need a new card 11?

[Handwritten initials]

L
A
O
P

YOU TO TAKE A
HELPING PUT
PRIVILEGED CLASS
HELLBENT ON
CONGRESS

SEEKS TO TAKE VIOLENT CRIMINALS OFF THE STREETS WITH AN
ATTACK ON FOUR FRONTS.

- 12 -

NEW LAWS TO PUNISH THEM. NEW AGENTS TO ARREST THEM.
NEW PROSECUTORS TO CONVICT THEM. AND NEW PRISONS TO
HOLD THEM.

ALL FOUR ARE ESSENTIAL. YOUR ROLE IS ESSENTIAL. A
CHAIN IS ONLY AS STRONG AS ITS WEAKEST LINK.

THE FIRST LINK IS SOME TOUGH NEW LAWS. EVERYONE
HERE IS FAMILIAR WITH TITLE 18'S SECTION 924(c).

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**REMARKS: ADDRESS TO U.S. ATTORNEYS
THE EAST ROOM
FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 1989, 10:00 A.M.**

[[THANK YOU, DICK [[THORNBURGH]], FOR THAT WARM INTRODUCTION. YOU KNOW, IT'S BECOME STANDARD AT GATHERINGS SUCH AS THIS TO OPEN WITH A FEW HUMOROUS OBSERVATIONS. AND I KNOW YOU RARELY GET A CHANCE TO HEAR ANY "LAWYERS JOKES."]]

- 2 -

[[MAYBE I JUST OUGHT TO HAVE ALABAMA'S FRANK DONALDSON COME UP HERE TO TELL A FEW JOKES.]]

[[YOU MAY KNOW I FLEW TO WYOMING MONDAY. WHEN I GOT OFF AIR FORCE ONE, RICHARD STACY WAS THERE TO SHAKE MY HAND. HE SAID: "I'M HERE TO REPRESENT RURAL AMERICA..."]] [[PAUSE]]

SIMPLE WORDS. DRAMATIC WORDS.

"MY NAME IS GEORGE BUSH, AND I REPRESENT THE UNITED STATES."

- 3 -

WITH WORDS LIKE THESE, YOU AND YOUR ASSISTANTS BEGIN A FEDERAL CRIMINAL TRIAL. IT IS A GREAT AND RARE HONOR TO REPRESENT THE UNITED STATES, AND I AM HONORED TO SHARE THAT DISTINCTION WITH YOU.

200 YEARS AGO -- A FEW MONTHS AFTER BECOMING PRESIDENT -- GEORGE WASHINGTON SIGNED THE ACT THAT GAVE BIRTH TO THE OFFICES YOU HOLD. IT IS A DISTINGUISHED TRADITION.

- 4 -

AND -- IN THE WORDS OF A FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL -- YOU REPRESENT "ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL PEACE TIME FORCES KNOWN" TO MAN.

PEACE TIME? NOT EXACTLY. THE SITUATION IN OUR STREETS HAS BEEN APTLY COMPARED TO A SHOOTING WAR. THAT'S WHY YOU'VE BEEN SUMMONED TO THE WHITE HOUSE FOR AN ASSEMBLY UNPRECEDENTED IN MODERN TIMES.

- 5 -

I WANTED YOU TO KNOW HOW STRONGLY I FEEL ABOUT VIOLENT CRIME IN AMERICA -- AND HOW FIRMLY I SUPPORT YOUR EFFORTS.

THE PROBLEM TODAY IS VIOLENT CRIME -- WHAT SOME CALL "BLOOD AND THUNDER" -- INVOLVING HIGH-POWERED WEAPONS IN THE HANDS OF A NEW CLASS OF CRIMINALS WHO IMPOSE THE LAW OF THE JUNGLE OUT OF THE BARREL OF A GUN.

- 6 -

THE FUNDAMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROTECTING AMERICA'S STREETS AND NEIGHBORHOODS FROM VIOLENT CRIME MUST REMAIN WITH OUR CITIES AND STATES. BUT THERE IS AN INCREASING AND IMPORTANT FEDERAL ROLE IN FIGHTING VIOLENT CRIME. AND WHEN LEADERSHIP IS CALLED FOR, WE MUST SEIZE THE DAY.

ONE MONTH AGO, ON A SOMBER, RAINY AFTERNOON, I STOOD BEFORE THE U.S. CAPITOL TO COMMEMORATE POLICE OFFICERS SLAIN IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

- 7 -

MANY WERE AGENTS OR OFFICERS WHO HAD WORKED WITH YOU OR THE PROSECUTORS YOU SUPERVISE. AND TO HONOR THEIR SACRIFICE, I CALLED UPON CONGRESS TO JOIN ME IN LAUNCHING A NEW, NATIONAL STRATEGY -- A NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH AMERICA'S CITIES AND STATES -- TO "TAKE BACK THE STREETS."

- 8 -

BUT TO DO THAT, WE MUST RAISE OUR VOICES TO CORRECT AN INSIDIOUS TENDENCY: THE TENDENCY TO BLAME CRIME ON SOCIETY RATHER THAN ON THE CRIMINAL. LET ME BE EXTRA CLEAR ON MY OWN BELIEFS:

THIS PRESIDENT, LIKE MOST AMERICANS, BELIEVES WE CAN START BUILDING A SAFER SOCIETY BY FIRST AGREEING THAT SOCIETY DOESN'T CAUSE CRIME. CRIMINALS CAUSE CRIME.

AND WE ARE FOURSQUARE BEHIND THE MEN AND WOMEN LIKE YOU WHO MAKE SACRIFICES EVERY DAY TO PROTECT THE VULNERABLE, TO SAFEGUARD THE LAW-ABIDING, AND TO ENSURE THAT THOSE WHO SCORN JUSTICE ARE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE.

WE MUST HOLD PEOPLE ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS. I SAID IT AT THE CAPITOL. A COMMON SENSE APPROACH TO CRIME MEANS CRIMINALS MUST KNOW THAT:

- 0 IF THEY COMMIT A CRIME -- THEY WILL BE CAUGHT.
- 0 AND IF CAUGHT -- THEY WILL BE PROSECUTED.

- 0 AND IF CONVICTED -- THEY WILL DO TIME.

PLAIN-SPEAKING HARRY TRUMAN SAID IT -- 37 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK -- WHEN HE MET WITH THE U.S. ATTORNEYS HERE AT THE WHITE HOUSE. HE SUMMED IT UP NICELY: "WE DON'T WANT ANY CROOKS LEFT OUT OF JAIL WHEN THEY DO CROOKED THINGS."

NOWHERE IS THIS PRECEPT MORE CRITICAL THAN IN COMBATting VIOLENT CRIME. THE KILLING MUST STOP. AND IT MUST STOP NOW.

- 11 -

I'M HERE TO ASK YOUR HELP -- TO ASK YOU TO TAKE A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN YOUR DISTRICTS -- IN HELPING PUT AWAY OUR NATION'S "MOST WANTED" -- THE PRIVILEGED CLASS OF VIOLENT, REPEAT AND FUGITIVE OFFENDERS HELLBENT ON PROVING THAT CRIME REALLY DOES PAY.

THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN WE WILL SEND TO CONGRESS SEEKS TO TAKE VIOLENT CRIMINALS OFF THE STREETS WITH AN ATTACK ON FOUR FRONTS.

- 12 -

NEW LAWS TO PUNISH THEM. NEW AGENTS TO ARREST THEM. NEW PROSECUTORS TO CONVICT THEM. AND NEW PRISONS TO HOLD THEM.

ALL FOUR ARE ESSENTIAL. YOUR ROLE IS ESSENTIAL. A CHAIN IS ONLY AS STRONG AS ITS WEAKEST LINK.

THE FIRST LINK IS SOME TOUGH NEW LAWS. EVERYONE HERE IS FAMILIAR WITH TITLE 18'S SECTION 924(C).

- 13 -

WELL, WE HAVE ASKED CONGRESS TO DO FOR DANGEROUS FIREARMS WHAT IT HAS WISELY DONE FOR DANGEROUS DRUGS -- DOUBLE THE MANDATORY PENALTIES.

AS WE'VE SAID, THE MATH IS SIMPLE. ANYONE USING A SEMI-AUTOMATIC FOR CRIME -- OR SO MUCH AS HAVING ONE ON HAND DURING A CRIME -- WILL DO AN AUTOMATIC 10 EXTRA YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON. NO PROBATION. NO PAROLE. NO MATTER WHICH JUDGE THEY GET.

- 14 -

AND I'M ASKING EACH OF YOU TO SEE THAT THIS MESSAGE IS BROUGHT TO LIFE IN THE STREETS AND COURTROOMS OF YOUR CITIES AND TOWNS. BECAUSE FOR THESE LAWS TO BE EFFECTIVE, WE CAN'T PLEA BARGAIN AWAY THE LIVES OF OUR COPS AND KIDS.

I WANT AND EXPECT THAT, WHEN SUSPECTS ARE ARRESTED WITH SERIOUS WEAPONS -- THEY WILL FACE SERIOUS WEAPONS CHARGES.

- 15 -

AND SO, LAST MONTH, I DIRECTED THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO ISSUE GUIDELINES TO INSURE THAT -- IN ALL BUT THE MOST EXCEPTIONAL CASES -- ALL FIREARMS OFFENDERS ARE PROSECUTED TO THE FULLEST EXTENT OF THE LAW.

THOSE GUIDELINES ARE BEING DISTRIBUTED TODAY. AND YOU HAVE BEEN SUMMONED TO WASHINGTON TO HEAR IT FROM THE TOP: NO MORE LOOPHOLES. NO CONDITIONAL SURRENDER. NO MORE ROLLS OF THE DICE. IF A CRIMINAL CARRIES A GUN -- ALL DEALS ARE OFF.

- 16 -

AND WHEN A CRIMINAL CARRIES A GUN -- AND SOMEONE DIES -- HE SHOULD PAY WITH HIS OWN LIFE.

WE'RE GOING TO UP THE STAKES FOR THOSE WHO CALCULATE THAT OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IS A CRAPSHOOT WHERE THE RISKS ARE WORTH THE REWARDS. WHEN CRIMINALS THINK ABOUT REACHING FOR A GUN, THEY ARE GOING TO KNOW -- THEY ARE GOING TO LEARN -- THAT THEY WILL DO TIME. HARD TIME.

- 17 -

YES, THIS POLICY MAY MEAN MORE TRIALS. AND I UNDERSTAND THAT FIREARMS CASES, LIKE NARCOTICS CASES, ARE NOT ALWAYS VERY POPULAR WITH SOME ON THE BENCH. BUT IT CAN BE DONE -- AND, IN FACT, ALREADY IS BEING DONE -- EVEN IN DISTRICTS WITH BUSY DOCKETS LIKE THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, WHERE PLEA BARGAINS FOR 924(c) VIOLATIONS HAVE BEEN BANNED SINCE 1987.

- 18 -

AND YES, WE RECOGNIZE THAT MORE OFFENDERS SERVING LONGER SENTENCES MEANS MORE PRISON SPACE. AND HERE AGAIN WE'VE MATCHED RHETORIC WITH RESOURCES -- AN UNPRECEDENTED \$1.5 BILLION BUILDING PROGRAM FOR FEDERAL PRISONS -- BOOSTING PRESENT CAPACITY BY 80 PERCENT.

AND FINALLY, YES, WE ALSO KNOW HOW UNDERSTAFFED AND OVERWORKED MOST OF YOUR OFFICES ALREADY ARE. AND WE'VE CALLED IN THE CAVALRY -- FEDERAL REINFORCEMENTS ARE ON THE WAY. IF CONGRESS WILL MOVE -- AND MOVE QUICKLY.

- 19 -

IN ADDITION TO 825 NEW AGENTS TO INVESTIGATE VIOLENT CRIME, I HAVE ASKED CONGRESS TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR 1600 NEW POSITIONS FOR YOUR DISTRICTS -- THE LARGEST ONE-TIME EXPANSION IN U.S. HISTORY -- WITH INCREASES IN BOTH PROSECUTORS AND SUPPORT STAFF. AND WE'RE ALSO SEEKING OVER 150 NEW ATTORNEYS AT THIS END, ADDING MORE MUSCLE TO THE DEPARTMENT'S CRIMINAL DIVISION.

- 20 -

THESE FORCES MUST BE MARSHALLED EFFECTIVELY. AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL IS PROPOSING TO CONSOLIDATE THE STRIKE FORCES SO THAT THEY ARE LED NOT FROM DISTANT WASHINGTON, BUT BY YOU -- THE COMMANDERS AT THE FRONT LINES.

OF COURSE, NEW LAWS AND NEW MANPOWER AREN'T THE ONLY TOOLS AT YOUR DISPOSAL.

- 21 -

YOUR LEADERSHIP ON THE LAW ENFORCEMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEES HAS ALREADY PRODUCED NEW INITIATIVES TO MEET THE CHALLENGE OF VIOLENT CRIME. IN CHICAGO, TONY VALUKAS [[VA-L00-KIS]] [[U.S. ATTY.]] HAS LED A COOPERATIVE EFFORT TO RID THE COMMUNITY OF DANGEROUS OFFENDERS -- BY CHARGING GANG LEADERS AND OTHER REPEAT OFFENDERS UNDER TOUGH FEDERAL ARMED CAREER CRIMINAL LAWS.

- 22 -

IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, WORKING TOGETHER, WE'VE JAMMED THE REVOLVING DOOR ON 27 SUCH CRIMINALS -- ALL ARE NOW SERVING LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE IN FEDERAL PRISONS. AND ONE OF TONY'S COUNTERPARTS, THE DIRECTOR OF THE ILLINOIS STATE POLICE, RESPONDED TO THE FEDERAL INITIATIVE BY LAUNCHING A VIOLENT CRIME TASK FORCE.

- 23 -

SIMILAR PARTNERSHIPS ON VIOLENT CRIME ARE BEING LED BY U.S. ATTORNEYS LIKE BENITO ROMANO UP IN NEW YORK, JAY STEPHENS RIGHT HERE IN D.C., AND ROB BONNER IN L.A., WHOSE PROMOTION TO THE FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT WAS RECENTLY CONFIRMED BY THE SENATE.

AND THERE ARE OTHER INNOVATIONS. TO ATTACK THE PROFUSION OF GANG AND STREET VIOLENCE, YOU MAY USE SOME OF YOUR NEW SLOTS TO RECRUIT SEASONED ADA'S OR OTHERS TRAINED IN PROSECUTING GUNSHOT CRIME.

- 24 -

IN THOSE STATES WHERE POLICE ARE NOT PROTECTED BY DEATH PENALTY PROVISIONS, WE SHOULD MAKE FULL USE OF THOSE FEDERAL LAWS THAT PERMIT THE DEATH PENALTY FOR COP-KILLERS.

- 25 -

AND WE SHOULD ALWAYS USE OUR UNIQUE FEDERAL RESOURCES AND EXPERTISE TO WIPE OUT THE KIND OF VIOLENT CRIME THAT OPERATES BEYOND THE REACH OF ANY ONE STATE -- LIKE THE NOTORIOUS EL RUKN [[R00-KIN]] STREET GANG, WHOSE MEMBERS WERE CONVICTED OF CONSPIRING WITH LIBYA TO ACQUIRE MILITARY WEAPONS FOR TERRORIST OPERATIONS IN AMERICA.

- 26 -

AND IN ADDITION TO MY DIRECTIVE ON PLEA BARGAINING, THERE'S A SECOND IMPORTANT MESSAGE THAT I ASK YOU TO BRING HOME TO YOUR DISTRICTS: YOUR COLLEAGUES IN STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT NEED THE SAME TOOLS WE'VE PROPOSED FOR YOU. MANDATORY TIME FOR WEAPONS OFFENDERS. NO PLEA BARGAINING ON GUNS. THE DEATH PENALTY FOR HEINOUS CRIMES.

- 27 -

AND THE KIND OF INCREASED RESOURCES -- POLICE, PROSECUTORS, AND PRISONS -- THAT ENSURE THESE VICIOUS THUGS WILL BE PURSUED, PROSECUTED AND PUT AWAY FOR GOOD.

UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS ARE A BREED APART. INVARIABLY BRIGHT, COMMITTED, TENACIOUS PUBLIC SERVANTS.

- 28 -

FOUR FORMER U.S. ATTORNEYS HOLD LEADERSHIP ROLES IN MY ADMINISTRATION -- DICK THORNBURGH OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA, SAM SKINNER OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS, BILL WEBSTER OF EASTERN MISSOURI, AND BILL SESSIONS OF WESTERN TEXAS. AND WE HOPE TO SEE YET ANOTHER -- BOB FISK OF S.D.N.Y. -- JOINING OUR RANKS HERE SOON.

YOUR EFFORTS AGAINST VIOLENT CRIME ARE IMPORTANT. BUT NO LESS IMPORTANT THAN THE OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT PRIORITIES THAT YOU HAVE SO ABLY ADDRESSED.

- 29 -

AND OVER THE YEARS, AMERICA HAS WATCHED IN ADMIRATION, AND SOMETIMES AWE, AS THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF YOUR OFFICES ROLL ACROSS AMERICA'S TELEVISION SCREENS.

WE WILL NOT TOLERATE THE CORRUPTION OF LABOR BY ORGANIZED CRIME -- AS THE LANDMARK TEAMSTERS SETTLEMENT PROVED.

- 30 -

AND CRIME IS CRIME WHETHER COMMITTED WITH A BRIEFCASE OR A GUN. WE WILL NOT TOLERATE GREED OVER HONEST BUSINESS. WHETHER THE BUSINESS IS DEFENSE CONTRACTING -- OPERATION "ILL WIND". WALL STREET -- WHERE YOU'RE OWED CONGRATULATIONS ON LAST WEEK'S CONVICTIONS. BANKING -- "POLAR CAP" WAS THE LARGEST MONEY LAUNDERING CASE IN HISTORY.

- 31 -

OR SAVINGS AND LOANS -- WHERE THE LEGISLATION WE'VE PROPOSED WILL GIVE YOU THE TOOLS YOU NEED TO WIPE OUT THE FINANCIAL FRAUD THAT HAS DEVASTATED THAT INDUSTRY.

NOR WILL WE TOLERATE CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATIONS -- AS THE RECENT KLAN CONVICTIONS IN ALABAMA PROVE.

AND -- AS THE RECENT INDICTMENTS AGAINST TWO MAJOR DRUG GANGS RIGHT HERE IN WASHINGTON SHOW -- WE WILL NOT TOLERATE THE CORRUPTION OF OUR YOUTH BY THE POISON THEY CALL COCAINE. THIS SCOURGE WILL STOP.

- 32 -

IT IS EASY TO UNDERSTAND WHY OUR PEOPLE ARE SO GRATEFUL TO THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE SACRIFICED TO SERVE ON THE FIRING LINE -- WHETHER IN COURT OR ON THE STREETS. DAY AND NIGHT YOUR "SKY-PAGERS" AND MOBILE PHONES ARE ACTIVE, AS THOSE YOU COMMAND MONITOR COURT-AUTHORIZED INTERCEPTS, OR MOVE UNDERCOVER INTO THE BREACH.

- 33 -

IT IS EXCITING AND PRINCIPLED WORK, AN INTEGRAL LINK IN A SYSTEM OF JUSTICE THAT REMAINS THE ENVY OF THE WORLD. IN TODAY'S NEW EFFORT -- AND IN ALL YOUR EFFORTS -- YOU HAVE THE GRATITUDE, THE RESPECT, AND THE SUPPORT -- OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE -- AND OF ME.

FOR YOUR KIDS, FOR MINE, FOR AMERICA'S KIDS: TAKE BACK THE STREETS.

- 34 -

THANK YOU FOR COMING. GODSPEED IN THE CHALLENGES AHEAD. AND GOD BLESS YOU, YOUR FAMILIES, AND THE NATION YOU WORK TO PROTECT.

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BOND # 1
YOUR MOST
RECENT DRAFT.

(McNally/Simon)
June 15, 1989,
Draft Six (ATTY.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ADDRESS TO U.S. ATTORNEYS
THE EAST ROOM
FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 1989, 10:00 A.M.

[[Thank you, Dick [[THORNBURGH]], for that warm introduction. You know, it's become standard at gatherings such as this to open with a few humorous observations. And I know you rarely get a chance to hear any "lawyers jokes."]]

[[Maybe I just ought to have Alabama's Frank Donaldson come up here to tell some jokes.]]

[[You may know I flew to Wyoming Monday. When I got off Air Force One, Richard Stacy was there to shake my hand. He said: "I'm here to represent rural America..."]] [[PAUSE]]

Simple words. Dramatic words.

"My name is George Bush, and I represent the United States."

With words like these, you and your Assistants begin a federal criminal trial. It is a great and rare honor to represent the United States, and I am honored to share that distinction with you.

200 years ago -- a few months after becoming President -- George Washington signed the Act that gave birth to the offices you hold. It is a distinguished tradition. And -- in the words of a former Attorney General -- you represent "one of the most powerful peace time forces known" to man.

Peace time? Not exactly. The situation in our streets has been aptly compared to a shooting war. That's why you've been

summoned to the White House for an assembly unprecedented in modern times.

And I wanted you to know how strongly I feel about violent crime in America -- and how firmly I support your efforts.

The problem today is violent crime -- what some call "blood and thunder" -- involving high-powered weapons in the hands of a new class of criminals who impose the law of the jungle out of the barrel of a gun.

The fundamental responsibility for protecting America's streets and neighborhoods from violent crime must remain with our cities and states. But there is an increasing and important federal role in fighting violent crime. And when leadership is called for, we must seize the day.

One month ago, on a somber, rainy afternoon, I stood before the U.S. Capitol to commemorate police officers slain in the line of duty. Many were agents or officers who had worked with you or the prosecutors you supervise. And to honor their sacrifice, I called upon Congress to join me in launching a new, national strategy -- a new partnership with America's cities and states -- to "take back the streets."

But to do that, we must raise our voices to correct an insidious tendency: the tendency to blame crime on society rather than on the criminal. Let me be extra clear on my own beliefs:

We are here today talking about crime and punishment. Good and evil. Society doesn't cause crime. Criminals cause crime.

We must hold people accountable for their actions. I said it at the Capitol. A common sense approach to crime means criminals must know that:

- o If they commit a crime -- they will be caught.
- o And if caught -- they will be prosecuted.
- o And if convicted -- they will do time.

Plain-speaking Harry Truman said it -- 37 years ago this week -- when he met with the U.S. Attorneys here at the White House. He summed it up nicely: "We don't want any crooks left out of jail when they do crooked things."

Nowhere is this precept more critical than in combatting violent crime. The killing must stop. **And it must stop now.**

I'm here to ask your help -- to ask you to take a leadership role in your districts -- in helping to put away our nation's "Most Wanted" -- the privileged class of violent, repeat and fugitive offenders hellbent on proving that crime really does pay.

The comprehensive plan we will send to Congress seeks to take violent criminals off the streets with an attack on four fronts. **New laws to punish them. New agents to arrest them. New prosecutors to convict them. And new prisons to hold them.**

All four are essential. Your role is essential. **A chain is only as strong as its weakest link.**

The first link is some tough new laws. Everyone here is familiar with Title 18's Section 924(c). Well, we have asked

Congress to do for dangerous firearms what it has wisely done for dangerous drugs -- **double the mandatory penalties.**

As we've said, the math is simple. Anyone using a semi-automatic for crime -- or so much as having one on hand during a crime -- will do an automatic 10 extra years in federal prison. **No probation. No parole. No matter which judge they get.**

And I'm asking each of you to see that this message is brought to life in the streets and courtrooms of your cities and towns. Because for these laws to be effective, **we can't plea bargain away the lives of our cops and kids.**

I want and expect that, when suspects are arrested with **serious weapons -- they will face serious weapons charges.**

And so, last month, I directed the Attorney General to issue guidelines to insure that -- in all but the most exceptional cases -- all firearms offenders are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Those guidelines are being distributed today. And you have been summoned to Washington to hear it from the top: **No more loopholes. No conditional surrender. No more rolls of the dice. If a criminal carries a gun -- all deals are off.**

And when a criminal carries a gun -- and someone dies -- he should pay with his own life.

We're going to up the stakes for those who calculate that our criminal justice system is a crapshoot where the risks are worth the rewards. When criminals think about reaching for a

gun, they are going to know -- they are going to learn -- that they will do time. Hard time.

Yes, this policy may mean more trials. And I understand that firearms cases, like narcotics cases, are not always very popular with some on the bench. But it can be done -- and, in fact, already is being done -- even in districts with busy dockets like the Southern District of New York, where plea bargains for 924(c) violations have been banned since 1987.

And yes, we recognize that more offenders serving longer sentences means more prison space. And here again we've matched rhetoric with resources -- an unprecedented \$1.5 billion building program for federal prisons -- boosting present capacity by 80 percent.

And finally, yes, we also know how understaffed and overworked most of your offices already are. And we've called in the cavalry -- federal reinforcements are on the way. If Congress will move -- and move quickly.

In addition to 825 new agents to investigate violent crime, I have asked Congress to provide funding for 800 new Assistants for your districts -- the largest one-time expansion in U.S. history -- bolstered by an equal number of new support staff. And we're also seeking over 150 new attorneys at this end, adding more muscle to the Department's Criminal Division.

These forces must be marshalled effectively. And the Attorney General is proposing to consolidate the Strike Forces so

that they are led not from distant Washington, but by you -- the commanders at the front lines.

Of course, new laws and new manpower aren't the only tools at your disposal. Your leadership on the Law Enforcement Coordinating Committees has already produced new initiatives to meet the challenge of violent crime. In Chicago, Tony Valukas [[U.S. ATTY.]] has led a cooperative effort to rid the community of dangerous offenders -- by charging gang leaders and other repeat offenders under tough federal armed career criminal laws.

In the last two years, working together, we've jammed the revolving door on 27 such criminals -- all are now serving life without parole in federal prisons. And one of Tony's counterparts, the Director of the Illinois State Police, responded to the federal initiative by launching a Violent Crime Task Force. Similar partnerships on violent crime are being led by U.S. Attorneys like Benito Romano up in New York, Jay Stephens right here in D.C., and Rob Bonner in L.A., whose promotion to the federal district court was recently confirmed by the Senate.

And there are other innovations. To attack the profusion of gang and street violence, you may use some of your new slots to recruit seasoned ADA's or others trained in prosecuting gunshot crime. In those states where police are not protected by death penalty provisions, we should make full use of those federal laws that permit the death penalty for cop-killers.

And we should always use our unique federal resources and expertise to wipe out the kind of violent crime that operates

beyond the reach of any one state -- like the notorious El Rukn [[ROO-kin]] street gang, whose members were convicted of conspiring with Libya to acquire military weapons for terrorist operations in America.

And in addition to my directive on plea bargaining, there's a second important message that I ask you to bring home to your districts: **Your colleagues in state and local law enforcement need the same tools we've proposed for you. Mandatory time for weapons offenders. No plea bargaining on guns. The death penalty for heinous crimes.** And the kind of increased resources -- **police, prosecutors, and prisons** -- that ensure these vicious thugs will be pursued, prosecuted and put away for good.

United States Attorneys are a breed apart. Invariably bright, committed, tenacious public servants.

And your efforts against violent crime are important. But no less important than the other law enforcement priorities that you have so ably addressed.

And over the years, America has watched in admiration, and sometimes awe, as the accomplishments of your offices roll across America's television screens.

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It is exciting and principled work, an integral link in a system of justice that remains the envy of the world. In today's new effort -- and in all your efforts -- you have the gratitude, the respect, and the support -- of the American people -- and of me.

For your kids, for mine, for America's kids: **Take back the streets.**

Thank you for coming. Godspeed in the challenges ahead. And God bless you, your families, and the nation you work to protect.

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(McNally/Simon)
June 15, 1989, 12:30 p.m.
Draft Six (ATTYS)

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But to do that, we must raise our voices to correct an insidious tendency: the tendency to blame crime on society rather than on the criminal. Let me be extra clear on my own beliefs:

This President, like most Americans, believes we can start building a safer America by first agreeing that

~~We are here today talking about crime and punishment. Good and evil. Society doesn't cause crime. Criminals cause crime.~~

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All four are essential. Your role is essential. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

We are four square behind the men and women like you who make sacrificing every day to protect the vulnerable, to safeguard the law-abiding and to ensure that those who scorn justice are brought to justice.

CICCONI "MARK-UP"
-- INCORPORATING
& ADD'L
PINKERTON LINES.

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