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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary  
(Kansas City, Missouri)

For Immediate Release

January 23, 1990

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
TO KANSAS CITY LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

Kansas City Municipal Auditorium Music Hall  
Kansas City, Missouri

1:40 P.M. CST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you, Mayor Berkley. Thank you very, very much -- all of you. Thank you very much. But how did you know that our dog, Millie, was the most popular person in the Bush family? (Laughter.) I'm delighted to be introduced by my friend, Dick Berkley, and thank you for that warm introduction. As he confessed, we go back a long, long time, and I'm grateful to him for his friendship and his leadership.

I also want to thank and pay my respects to two that flew out here with me on Air Force One -- our distinguished Attorney General, Dick Thornburg; and our Drug Policy Czar -- why we use the word in the United States, I do not know -- but our able Drug Policy Director Bill Bennett, both here with me today. (Applause.) And both doing a superb job for our country.

It's always good to see the Governors, and be with them, of these two great states, both friends -- John Ashcroft, from Missouri, and, of course, my friend, Mike Hayden, from just across the line. I think it's just across the line. But both of them, side by side with us, recognizing that the states must have considerable influence, must take a lot of action if we're going to solve the problems that I wanted to talk to you about today.

And, of course, we also had some other travelers with me, friends of good standing flying out -- your two able Missouri Senators, Jack Danforth and Kit Bond. Both -- whoops, they're here -- here's one. Where's Kit? Over here. (Applause.) And, of course, Congressmen Ike Skelton, my friend; and also Tom Coleman.

And let me just say about this group of representatives, Senate and House -- all of them, all four, are taking leadership roles in this fight against crime. And I know that your Congressman from the district I just visited, Alan Wheat, wanted to be here. He is attending to duties in Washington. I hope he's doing the right thing back there, as Congress just reconvened. And, of course, so many law enforcement and community leaders -- the Police Chief has been at my side, and the respect with which he's held by people in the communities is very clear and obvious. Commissioner Ray Price.

And, of course, I had a wonderful meeting with the Ad Hoc Group. I've known the leader of the group because he is serving on one of our most prestigious antinarcotics task forces in Washington, presidentially appointed, working closely with Bill Bennett and me. Al, we're just delighted that you are willing to not only do what you are doing here, but take the time to be a part of that. Al Brooks -- an outstanding leader for this community. (Applause.)

Then I had a list -- not to read off, necessarily, but I would be remiss if I didn't say how pleased I was with the briefing I received out here -- the Ad Hoc Group. Inspiring presentations -- and I won't mention them all, but Dr. Daniels, Stacey Daniels; Dr.

MORE

Mark Mitchell, one a PHD psychologist, the other an MD. Cliff Sargeon, who just hitchhiked a ride with us somewhere along the line. I don't know where he is out there. And, of course, Ron Finley, and Vic Syng, Majeeda Baheyadeen -- so many others that just made this whole program come alive.

And now, before I get to my words, let me also salute the Army, and thank the band from Fort Riley for that wonderful music. Outstanding, as always. (Applause.)

And I can tell you, and mean it, that it is great to be in the heartland, great to be back in Kansas City. And, you know, Kansas City has so much of which to be proud. You've heard the tally: Grassier than Ireland. Built on more hills than ancient Rome. More water, more fountains than Paris. But you also know what really sets Kansas City apart. It is not your parks. It's your people.

They call it "the Kansas City spirit." Restless. Idealistic. Determined. It's the kind of spirit that pushed back frontiers and brought the railroads west. Rebuilt a burned-down Convention Hall in 90 days and survived three floods this century. And, yes, it's a community spirit; a spirit that emphasizes the value of collective well-being.

Norman Rockwell captured in a painting called just that -- the "Kansas City Spirit" -- it pictures a brawny, sun-burned man, feet firmly planted on the ground, eyes on the distant horizon. And one hand clutches a blueprint and the other's rolling up his sleeves.

And, thank God, it's a spirit that is very much alive today. Because in recent years, it's not the Convention Hall that's caught fire, but the streets themselves, burning with a new form of pain called crack. And crackling with a burst of gunfire not heard in Kansas City since the outlaw days of the Old West.

But people in this town refused to surrender to the drug plague. You took back what's yours. Took back your kids. And took back your streets.

It began like the Spirit of Kansas City, when one man rolled up his sleeves and stepped forward with a blueprint, a blueprint that's become a model for our cities, an inspiration to people everywhere. I had the pleasure of meeting with him, as I alluded to earlier, and with his group, his group this morning, and I know that many more than I mentioned are here with us this afternoon. They're a group of homegrown, Kansas City heroes called the Ad Hoc Group Against Crime, and the man's name -- you know him -- Alvin to some; Al to me; Al Brooks. (Applause.)

Ad Hoc recognized early on that the war on drugs meant unconventional warfare -- a battle to be fought day by day, house by house, family by family, child by child. Because each kid saved is a victory won.

Working closely with police, Ad Hoc members gather in force, gather by the dozen, using bullhorns, wooden coffins, street rallies to warn drug dealers to get off the street. They're not subtle -- I just saw them in action out there -- but they are determined, and they are united. And they are clearly making a difference.

I spent a part of the morning here in the downtown, inner-city area. I can't remember a more inspiring experience since I've been President. Went to 33rd and Park. Saw what they used to call the "Drug Tree" -- an ancient, curb-side oak where the drug dealers put up a basketball board to lure young children and cover up their own deadly operations.

And it's still a rough area. Still not free of crime. But a lot of crack houses are gone. And a lot of pride's come back. And block after block, house after house carries the sign of victory,

Ad Hoc's six-word warning to the cowards of the night: "This neighborhood fights back against drugs." (Applause.)

Part of the solution to the drug menace lies in effective, community-based initiatives like the Ad Hoc Group here. Also, cooperation between local and federal law enforcement is essential, as we saw last Friday when Kansas City police combined with federal agents to bust what may be the biggest crack ring in town.

Another part -- an essential part -- lies in the demand side, stopping drug use before it starts, and helping those who want to stop. And our national drug strategy calls for record levels of new funding for both education and treatment.

But demand-side solutions alone, important as they are, will never be enough. There are people out there intent on doing evil. Cowardly. Amoral. And when they spot someone vulnerable -- the school kid who has to cross a drug-infested corner to get home -- they see their fellow man the way a pack of jackals sees a wounded fawn.

A four-year-old boy, shot dead in a suspected crack house. An 11-year-old kid gunned down outside another drug den, allegedly at the hands of a 14-year-old "guard." In a downtown bar, a mother sells her baby for crack. And a fire bombing leaves three generations dead, including a grandmother and three little kids.

The headlines are horrifying, sickening, outrageous. And though they come from Kansas City, they are tragically familiar in cities across America.

Strong families are an important element in a healthy, respectful society. Many of life's most important lessons are learned within the walls of our own homes, and we must do everything we can to strengthen our families and help them cultivate character in our children.

But let us also be clear about the role of personal accountability -- of the responsibility of the criminal for his actions. The fact of the matter is, the criminal chooses his way of life, his companions, the kind of crimes he commits. He's not the victim -- he is the victimizer.

And you who have struggled, worked hard for safe streets know this. It's time we protect the rights of our elderly, our kids and our crime victims everywhere. (Applause.) The law-abiding community that you represent has a duty to punish wrongdoers. Punishment is not -- as some may see it -- an unseemly indulgence in revenge. Just punishment is a moral, civilized response to wrong. Punishment is necessary not only as a deterrent to future crimes, but for its own sake, which is to say -- for the sake of justice. (Applause.)

This tradition of justice speaks not of a society that disparages human life, but rather, one that treasures innocent human life as precious, as unique. In Larry McMurtry's -- you remember it -- classic Western novel, Lonesome Dove, two Rangers finally put an end to a brutal gang's deadly rampage, and one of the outlaws turns out to be Jake Spoon, the Rangers' old partner.

"It's a bad situation," says Captain Call, moments before arresting his old friend. "But there he is. He put himself in it."

McMurtry's saga -- like the lives of the real-life pioneers who inspired it -- reveals some simple truths. Most Americans believe each of us faces the innate temptation to succumb to evil -- and yet always has the freedom instead to choose to do good.

Today, too many law-abiding Americans are prisoners in their own homes. And we really have to change that. We have got to

change it. The wrong people are behind bars.

Go to the community I came from. Talk to the lady and her husband in a Christian home -- a cross and the Bible inside -- locked in for fear of what's on the outside.

The first line of defense will always be our local law enforcement. But, as in the days of legendary U.S. Marshals like Bat Masterson and Wild Bill Hickok, places like Kansas City again need the support of top-notch federal lawmen.

Congress deserves our thanks for providing the new federal troops that we asked for -- new agents, new prosecutors, new prisons to catch, convict and contain those who prey on our cities.

But it's time for Congress -- reconvening this very day -- to finish the job. Because it does no good to send the troops into battle wearing handcuffs.

Shortly after taking office, I sent a comprehensive package to Congress to combat violent crime, to back up our new lawmen with new laws -- laws that are fair, fast and final.

Fair -- an exclusionary rule designed to protect the truth and punish the guilty -- and not good cops who have acted in faith. (Applause.) Fast -- habeas corpus reforms to stop the frivolous appeals that are choking our courts. And final -- fair, constitutionally sound death penalty provisions. Because for any drug dealer who kills a cop -- no penalty, in my view, is too tough. (Applause.)

Major portions of our crime bill still await Congressional action. But today there's another bill -- a Trojan Horse -- standing at the gates of Congress. It's called S. 1970. It looks like a real crime bill. It sounds like a real crime bill. But look at it. Take a look at it. Go to the library and get it. In actuality it will be tougher on law enforcement than on criminals.

And its so-called reforms of the exclusionary rule, habeas corpus, the death penalty and the Justice Department itself will only entrench and extend the legal loopholes and the red-tape that disrupt honest law enforcement, and have angered the American people for far too long. It must be defeated.

America needs a crime bill with teeth, yes, but this is a sheep in wolf's clothing.

We don't question anyone's motives. One of the things I don't like about politics -- maybe I should expect it -- get into the arena as Teddy Roosevelt called it. It seems to be a charge and countercharge. I propose one agenda and somebody else another. We don't have to question the other person's motives or integrity in making the proposal. But it is time to debate these differences openly. We can't accept anything -- and I will not -- that rolls back the clock on our ability to fight crime and punish wrong-doers. And good legislation shouldn't have to wait until the final weeks of an election year, as happened in 1984, 1986, and 1988 -- just by coincidence.

And America wants it done right. And America wants it done responsibly. And America wants it done now. (Applause.)

You in Kansas and Missouri -- right here -- have set a personal example of courage in grappling with tough choices. In this city, you fought back and you got involved and you refused to look the other way. And you have my thanks and the gratitude of an admiring nation.

In the Norman Rockwell painting that I mentioned earlier, the man with the blueprints is looking sharply to one side. They say a young boy saw the picture in a book, and asked his father, "Dad, Kansas City is in the center of America. Which way is the man facing

-- west or east?"

The father's answer was pure Midwest: "Well, son, it sort of depends on which way you hold the book." (Laughter.)

Of course, the truth is, it doesn't matter how you hold that picture. Because no matter how you look at it, the Kansas City Spirit, the real "Kansas City Spirit," always faces the same way -- forward to a brighter tomorrow, forward to the future ahead.

Thank you for an inspiring day. Thank you for this warm greeting on this January day. God bless you all as we begin a new year. God bless Kansas City and, especially, God bless the United States of America. Thank you all very, very much. (Applause.)

END

2:02 P.M. CST

AD HOC GROUP AGAINST CRIME  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI  
TUESDAY, JAN. 23, 1990, 1:20 P.M.

THANK YOU, MAYOR [[DICK]] BERKLEY, FOR THAT WARM INTRODUCTION. AND I ALSO WANT TO THANK OUR ATTORNEY GENERAL, DICK THORNBURG, AND OUR DRUG POLICY DIRECTOR, BILL BENNETT, WHO ARE HERE TODAY AND WHO ARE DOING SUCH AN OUTSTANDING JOB.

AND IT'S ALWAYS GOOD TO SEE THE GOVERNORS OF THESE TWO GREAT STATES -- JOHN ASHCROFT AND MIKE HAYDEN. SENATORS JACK DANFORTH AND KIT BOND. CONGRESSMEN TOM COLEMAN AND IKE SKELTON. AND SO MANY LAW ENFORCEMENT AND COMMUNITY LEADERS -- POLICE CHIEF LARRY JOINER AND POLICE COMMISSIONER RAY PRICE, AND [[AD HOC LEADER]] ALVIN BROOKS. I'LL HAVE MORE TO SAY ABOUT HIM IN A MINUTE.

IT'S GREAT TO BE BACK IN THE HEARTLAND. IT'S GREAT TO BE BACK IN KANSAS CITY. \ \

KANSAS CITY HAS MUCH OF WHICH TO BE PROUD. YOU'VE HEARD THE TALLY: GRASSIER THAN IRELAND. BUILT ON MORE HILLS THAN ANCIENT ROME. MORE WATER, MORE FOUNTAINS, THAN PARIS.

BUT YOU ALSO KNOW WHAT REALLY SETS KANSAS CITY APART. IT'S NOT YOUR PARKS. IT'S YOUR PEOPLE. \\\

THEY CALL IT "THE KANSAS CITY SPIRIT." RESTLESS. IDEALISTIC. DETERMINED. IT'S THE KIND OF SPIRIT THAT PUSHED BACK FRONTIERS, AND BROUGHT THE RAILROADS WEST. REBUILT A BURNED-DOWN CONVENTION HALL IN 90 DAYS, AND SURVIVED THREE FLOODS THIS CENTURY. AND, YES, IT'S A COMMUNITY SPIRIT, A SPIRIT THAT EMPHASIZES THE VALUE OF COLLECTIVE WELL-BEING.

NORMAN ROCKWELL CAPTURED IT IN A PAINTING CALLED JUST THAT -- THE "KANSAS CITY SPIRIT." IT PICTURES A BRAUNY, SUN-BURNED MAN, FEET FIRMLY PLANTED ON THE GROUND, EYES ON THE DISTANT HORIZON. ONE HAND CLUTCHES A BLUEPRINT. THE OTHER'S ROLLING UP HIS SLEEVES.

AND, THANK GOD, IT'S A SPIRIT THAT'S VERY MUCH ALIVE TODAY.

BECAUSE IN RECENT YEARS, IT'S NOT THE CONVENTION HALL THAT'S CAUGHT FIRE, BUT THE STREETS THEMSELVES. BURNING WITH A NEW FORM OF PAIN CALLED CRACK. AND CRACKLING WITH BURSTS OF GUNFIRE NOT HEARD IN KANSAS CITY SINCE THE OUTLAW DAYS OF THE OLD WEST.

BUT PEOPLE IN THIS TOWN REFUSED TO SURRENDER TO THE DRUG PLAGUE. YOU TOOK BACK WHAT'S YOURS. TOOK BACK YOUR KIDS. TOOK BACK YOUR STREETS. \\\

IT BEGAN LIKE THE SPIRIT OF KANSAS CITY, WHEN ONE MAN ROLLED UP HIS SLEEVES AND STEPPED FORWARD WITH A BLUEPRINT, A BLUEPRINT THAT'S BECOME A MODEL FOR OUR CITIES AND AN INSPIRATION TO PEOPLE EVERYWHERE. I HAD THE PLEASURE OF MEETING WITH HIM AND HIS GROUP THIS MORNING, AND I KNOW MANY OF THEM ARE HERE THIS AFTERNOON. THEY'RE A GROUP OF HOME-GROWN, KANSAS CITY HEROES CALLED THE AD HOC GROUP AGAINST CRIME, AND THE MAN'S NAME IS ALVIN BROOKS. \\\

AD HOC RECOGNIZED EARLY ON THAT THE WAR ON DRUGS MEANT UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE -- A BATTLE TO BE FOUGHT DAY BY DAY, HOUSE BY HOUSE, FAMILY BY FAMILY, CHILD BY CHILD.

BECAUSE EACH KID SAVED IS A VICTORY WON. \ \ \

WORKING CLOSELY WITH POLICE, AD HOC MEMBERS GATHER, IN FORCE, GATHER BY THE DOZEN, AND USE BULLHORNS, WOODEN COFFINS, AND STREET RALLIES TO WARN DRUG DEALERS TO GET OFF THE STREET.

THEY ARE NOT SUBTLE. BUT THEY ARE DETERMINED.  
THEY ARE UNITED. AND THEY ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE.  
\ \ \ \

I SPENT PART OF THE MORNING HERE IN THE DOWNTOWN, INNER CITY AREA. WENT TO 33RD AND PARK. SAW WHAT THEY USED TO CALL THE "DRUG TREE" -- AN ANCIENT, CURB-SIDE OAK WHERE THE DRUG DEALERS PUT UP A BASKETBALL BACKBOARD TO LURE YOUNG CHILDREN AND COVER-UP THEIR DEADLY OPERATIONS.

IT'S STILL A ROUGH AREA. STILL NOT FREE OF CRIME. BUT A LOT OF CRACK HOUSES ARE GONE. AND A LOT OF PRIDE'S COME BACK.

AND BLOCK AFTER BLOCK, HOUSE AFTER HOUSE CARRIES THE SIGN OF VICTORY, AD HOC'S SIX-WORD WARNING TO THE COWARDS OF THE NIGHT: "THIS NEIGHBORHOOD FIGHTS BACK AGAINST DRUGS." \\\

PART OF THE SOLUTION TO THE DRUG MENACE LIES IN EFFECTIVE, COMMUNITY-BASED INITIATIVES LIKE THE AD HOC GROUP HERE. ALSO, COOPERATION BETWEEN LOCAL AND FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT IS ESSENTIAL, AS WE SAW LAST FRIDAY, WHEN KANSAS CITY POLICE COMBINED WITH FEDERAL AGENTS TO BUST WHAT MAY BE THE BIGGEST CRACK RING IN TOWN.

ANOTHER PART -- AN ESSENTIAL PART -- LIES IN THE DEMAND SIDE, STOPPING DRUG USE BEFORE IT STARTS, AND HELPING THOSE WHO WANT TO STOP. AND OUR NATIONAL DRUG STRATEGY CALLS FOR RECORD LEVELS OF NEW FUNDING FOR BOTH EDUCATION AND TREATMENT. \\  
\\

BUT DEMAND-SIDE SOLUTIONS ALONE WILL NEVER BE ENOUGH. THERE ARE PEOPLE OUT THERE INTENT ON DOING EVIL. COWARDLY. AMORAL. AND WHEN THEY SPOT SOMEONE VULNERABLE -- THE SCHOOLKID WHO HAS TO CROSS A DRUG INFESTED CORNER TO GET HOME -- THEY SEE THEIR FELLOW MAN THE WAY A PACK OF JACKALS SEES A WOUNDED FAWN.

A FOUR-YEAR-OLD BOY, SHOT DEAD IN A SUSPECTED CRACK HOUSE. AN 11-YEAR-OLD KID GUNNED DOWN OUTSIDE ANOTHER DRUG DEN, ALLEGEDLY AT THE HANDS OF A 14-YEAR-OLD "GUARD." IN A DOWNTOWN BAR, A MOTHER SELLS HER BABY FOR CRACK. AND A FIRE BOMBING LEAVES THREE GENERATIONS DEAD, INCLUDING A GRANDMOTHER AND THREE LITTLE KIDS.

THE HEADLINES ARE HORRIFYING, SICKENING, OUTRAGEOUS. AND THOUGH THEY COME FROM KANSAS CITY, THEY ARE TRAGICALLY FAMILIAR IN CITIES ACROSS AMERICA.

STRONG FAMILIES ARE AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN A HEALTHY, RESPECTFUL SOCIETY. MANY OF LIFE'S MOST IMPORTANT LESSONS ARE LEARNED WITHIN THE WALLS OF OUR OWN HOMES. WE MUST DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO STRENGTHEN OUR FAMILIES AND TO HELP THEM CULTIVATE CHARACTER IN OUR CHILDREN.

BUT LET US ALSO BE CLEAR ABOUT THE ROLE OF PERSONAL ACCOUNTABILITY -- OF THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CRIMINAL FOR HIS ACTIONS. THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS, THE CRIMINAL CHOOSES HIS WAY OF LIFE, HIS COMPANIONS, THE KINDS OF CRIME HE COMMITS. HE IS NOT THE VICTIM -- HE IS THE VICTIMIZER. \\  
\\

YOU WHO HAVE STRUGGLED FOR SAFE STREETS KNOW THIS. IT'S TIME WE PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF OUR ELDERLY, OUR KIDS AND CRIME VICTIMS EVERYWHERE. THE LAW-ABIDING COMMUNITY YOU REPRESENT HAS A DUTY TO PUNISH WRONGDOERS. PUNISHMENT IS NOT -- AS SOME MAY SEE IT -- AN UNSEEMLY INDULGENCE IN REVENGE. JUST PUNISHMENT IS A MORAL, CIVILIZED RESPONSE TO WRONG. PUNISHMENT IS NECESSARY NOT ONLY AS A DETERRENT TO FUTURE CRIMES, BUT FOR ITS OWN SAKE. WHICH IS TO SAY -- FOR THE SAKE OF JUSTICE. \\  
\\

THIS TRADITION OF JUSTICE SPEAKS NOT OF A SOCIETY THAT DISPARAGES HUMAN LIFE, BUT RATHER, ONE THAT TREASURES INNOCENT HUMAN LIFE AS PRECIOUS AND UNIQUE. IN LARRY MCMURTRY'S CLASSIC WESTERN NOVEL, LONESOME DOVE, TWO RANGERS FINALLY PUT AN END TO A BRUTAL GANG'S DEADLY RAMPAGE. ONE OF THE OUTLAWS TURNS OUT TO BE JAKE SPOON, THE RANGERS' OLD PARTNER.

"IT'S A BAD SITUATION," SAYS CAPTAIN CALL, MOMENTS BEFORE ARRESTING HIS OLD FRIEND. "BUT THERE HE IS... HE PUT HIMSELF IN IT." \ \ \

MCMURTRY'S SAGA -- LIKE THE LIVES OF THE REAL-LIFE PIONEERS WHO INSPIRED IT -- REVEALS SOME SIMPLE TRUTHS. MOST AMERICANS BELIEVE EACH OF US FACES THE INNATE TEMPTATION TO SUCCUMB TO EVIL -- AND YET ALWAYS HAS THE FREEDOM TO INSTEAD CHOOSE TO DO GOOD.

TODAY, TOO MANY LAW-ABIDING AMERICANS ARE PRISONERS IN THEIR OWN HOMES. WE'VE GOT TO CHANGE THAT. THE WRONG PEOPLE ARE BEHIND BARS.

THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE WILL ALWAYS BE OUR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT. BUT, AS IN THE DAYS OF LEGENDARY U.S. MARSHALS LIKE BAT MASTERSON AND WILD BILL HICKOK, PLACES LIKE KANSAS CITY AGAIN NEED THE SUPPORT OF TOP-NOTCH FEDERAL LAWYERS.

CONGRESS DESERVES OUR THANKS FOR PROVIDING THE NEW FEDERAL TROOPS WE ASKED FOR -- NEW AGENTS, NEW PROSECUTORS, AND NEW PRISONS TO CATCH, CONVICT AND CONTAIN THOSE WHO PREY ON OUR CITIES.

BUT IT'S TIME FOR CONGRESS TO FINISH THE JOB.  
BECAUSE IT DOES NO GOOD TO SEND THE TROOPS INTO BATTLE WEARING HANDCUFFS.

SHORTLY AFTER TAKING OFFICE, I SENT A COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE TO CONGRESS TO COMBAT VIOLENT CRIME, TO BACK UP OUR NEW LAWYERS WITH NEW LAWS -- LAWS THAT ARE FAIR, FAST, AND FINAL.

FAIR -- AN EXCLUSIONARY RULE DESIGNED TO PROTECT THE TRUTH AND PUNISH THE GUILTY -- AND NOT GOOD COPS WHO HAVE ACTED IN GOOD FAITH. FAST -- HABEAS CORPUS REFORMS TO STOP THE FRIVOLOUS APPEALS THAT ARE CHOKING OUR COURTS. AND FINAL -- FAIR, CONSTITUTIONALLY SOUND DEATH PENALTY PROVISIONS. BECAUSE FOR ANY DRUG DEALER WHO KILLS A COP -- NO PENALTY IS TOO TOUGH. \\\

MAJOR PORTIONS OF OUR CRIME BILL STILL AWAIT CONGRESSIONAL ACTION. BUT TODAY THERE'S ANOTHER BILL -- A TROJAN HORSE -- STANDING AT THE GATES OF CONGRESS. IT'S CALLED "S. 1970." IT LOOKS LIKE A REAL CRIME BILL. SOUNDS LIKE A REAL CRIME BILL. BUT IN ACTUALITY IT WILL BE TOUGHER ON LAW ENFORCEMENT THAN ON CRIMINALS.

ITS SO-CALLED "REFORMS" OF THE EXCLUSIONARY RULE, HABEAS CORPUS, THE DEATH PENALTY AND THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ITSELF WILL ONLY ENTRENCH AND EXTEND THE LEGAL LOOPHOLES AND RED-TAPE THAT DISRUPT LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND HAVE ANGERED THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR FAR TOO LONG.

AMERICA NEEDS A CRIME BILL WITH TEETH -- BUT THIS  
IS A SHEEP IN WOLF'S CLOTHING. \\\

WE DON'T QUESTION ANYONE'S MOTIVES. BUT IT IS  
TIME TO DEBATE THESE DIFFERENCES OPENLY. WE CAN'T  
ACCEPT ANYTHING THAT ROLLS BACK THE CLOCK ON OUR  
ABILITY TO FIGHT CRIME AND PUNISH WRONG-DOERS. AND  
GOOD LEGISLATION SHOULDN'T HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THE FINAL,  
WEEKS OF AN ELECTION YEAR, AS HAPPENED IN 1984, 1986,  
AND 1988. \\\

AMERICA WANTS IT DONE RIGHT. AMERICA WANTS IT  
DONE RESPONSIBLY. AND AMERICA WANTS IT DONE NOW. \\\

YOU IN KANSAS CITY HAVE SET A PERSONAL EXAMPLE OF  
COURAGE IN GRAPPLING WITH TOUGH CHOICES. YOU FOUGHT  
BACK, YOU GOT INVOLVED, YOU REFUSED TO LOOK THE OTHER  
WAY. AND YOU HAVE MY THANKS -- AND THE GRATITUDE OF AN  
ADMIRING NATION.

IN THE NORMAN ROCKWELL PAINTING I MENTIONED EARLIER, THE MAN WITH THE BLUEPRINTS IS LOOKING SHARPLY TO ONE SIDE. THEY SAY A YOUNG BOY SAW THE PICTURE IN A BOOK, AND ASKED HIS FATHER: "DAD, KANSAS CITY IS IN THE CENTER OF AMERICA. WHICH WAY IS THE MAN FACING -- EAST OR WEST?"

THE FATHER'S ANSWER WAS PURE MIDWEST: "WELL SON -- IT SORT OF DEPENDS ON WHICH WAY YOU HOLD THE BOOK." \\\

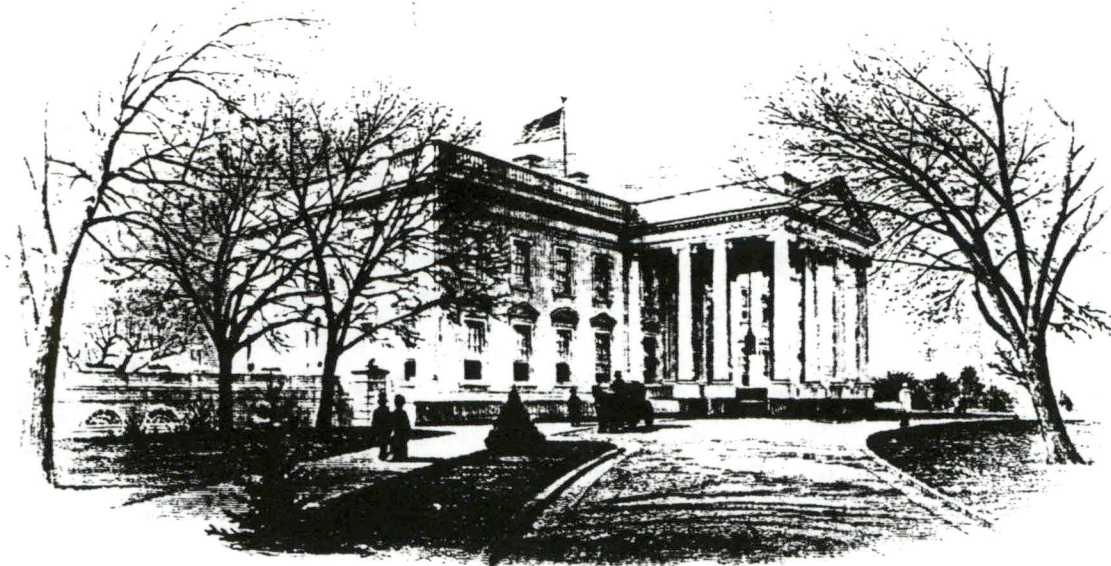
OF COURSE, THE TRUTH IS, IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW YOU HOLD THAT PICTURE. BECAUSE NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, THE KANSAS CITY SPIRIT, THE REAL "KANSAS CITY SPIRIT," ALWAYS FACES THE SAME WAY -- FORWARD TO A BRIGHTER TOMORROW, FORWARD TO THE FUTURE AHEAD.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR WARM GREETING ON THIS JANUARY DAY. GOD BLESS YOU ALL AS WE BEGIN A NEW YEAR. GOD BLESS KANSAS CITY -- AND GOD BLESS THE U.S.A.

# # #

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER 13

DATE 1/22/90

TO Joe Koss or Rich Mooney

FAX NUMBER 816/421-5492

OFFICE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS There may be changes.  
I'll call to let you know.

Gardner will be the only one  
on the trip.

FROM Stephanie Gardner

FAX NUMBER 202/456-6218

OFFICE NUMBER 202/456-2930

89 DEC 22 P7:30

McNally/Simon  
January 22, 1990  
Draft Three (B:KANSAS)

*four*

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: AD HOC GROUP AGAINST CRIME  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI  
TUESDAY, JAN. 23, 1990, 1:20 P.M.

Thank you, Mayor [[DICK]] Berkley, for that warm introduction. And I also want to thank our Attorney General, Dick Thornburg, and our drug policy Director, Bill Bennett, who are here today and who are doing such an outstanding job.

And it's always good to see the Governors of these two great states -- John Ashcroft and Mike Hayden. Senators Jack Danforth and Kit Bond. Congressmen Tom Coleman and Ike Skelton. And so many law enforcement and community leaders -- Police Chief Larry Joiner and Police Commissioner Ray Price, and [[AD HOC LEADER]] Alvin Brooks. I'll have more to say about him in a minute.

It's great to be back in the heartland. It's great to be back in Kansas City. \\

Kansas City has much of which to be proud. You've heard the tally: Grassier than Ireland. Built on more hills than ancient Rome. More water, more fountains, than Paris.

But you also know what really sets Kansas City apart. **It's not your parks. It's your people.** \\\

They call it "the Kansas City Spirit." Restless. Idealistic. Determined. It's the kind of spirit that pushed back frontiers, and brought the railroads West. Rebuilt a burned-down Convention Hall in 90 days, and survived three floods this century. And, yes, it's a community spirit, a spirit that emphasizes the value of collective well-being.

Norman Rockwell captured it in a painting called just that -- the "Kansas City Spirit." It pictures a brawny, sun-burned man, feet firmly planted on the ground, eyes on the distant horizon. One hand clutches a blueprint. The other's rolling up his sleeves.

**And, thank God, it's a spirit that's very much alive today.**

Because in recent years, it's not the Convention Hall that's caught fire, but the streets themselves. Burning with a new form of pain called crack. And crackling with bursts of gunfire not heard in Kansas City since the outlaw days of the Old West.

But people in this town refused to surrender to the drug plague. **You took back what's yours. Took back your kids. Took back your streets. \\\**

It began like the Spirit of Kansas City, when one man rolled up his sleeves and stepped forward with a blueprint, a blueprint that's become a model for our cities and an inspiration to people everywhere. I had the pleasure of meeting with him and his group this morning, and I know many of them are here this afternoon. **They're a group of home-grown, Kansas City heroes called the Ad Hoc Group Against Crime, and the man's name is Alvin Brooks. \\\**

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Working closely with police, Ad Hoc members gather in force, gather by the dozen, and use bullhorns, wooden coffins, and

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They are not subtle. **But they are determined. They are united. And they are making a difference.** \\\

I spent part of the morning here in the downtown, inner city area. Went to 33rd and Park. Saw what they used to call the "Drug Tree" -- an ancient, curb-side oak where the drug dealers put up a basketball backboard to lure young children and cover-up their deadly operations.

It's still a rough area. Still not free of crime. But a lot of crack houses are gone. And a lot of pride's come back.

And block after block, house after house carries the sign of victory, Ad Hoc's six-word warning to the cowards of the night: **"THIS NEIGHBORHOOD FIGHTS BACK AGAINST DRUGS."** \\\

Part of the solution to the drug menace lies in effective, community-based initiatives like the Ad Hoc Group here. Also, cooperation between local and federal law enforcement is essential, as we saw last Friday, when Kansas City police combined with federal agents to bust what may be the biggest crack ring in town.

Another part -- an essential part -- lies in the demand side, stopping drug use before it starts, and helping those who want to stop. And our national drug strategy calls for record levels of new funding for both education and treatment. \

But demand-side solutions alone will never be enough. There are people out there intent on doing evil. Cowardly. Amoral. And when they spot someone vulnerable -- the schoolkid who has to

cross a drug infested corner to get home -- they see their fellow man the way a pack of jackals sees a wounded fawn.

A four-year-old boy, shot dead in a suspected crack house. An 11-year-old kid gunned down outside another drug den, allegedly at the hands of a 14-year-old "guard." In a downtown bar, a mother sells her baby for crack. And a fire bombing leaves three generations dead, including a grandmother and three little kids.

The headlines are horrifying, sickening, outrageous. And though they come from Kansas City, they are tragically familiar in cities across America.

Strong families are an important element in a healthy, respectful society. Many of life's most important lessons are learned within the walls of our own homes. We must do everything we can to strengthen our families and to help them cultivate character in our children.

But let us also be clear about the role of personal accountability -- of the responsibility of the criminal for his actions. The fact of the matter is, the criminal chooses his way of life, his companions, the kinds of crime he commits. He is not the victim -- he is the victimizer. \\

You who have struggled for safe streets know this. It's time we protect the rights of our elderly, our kids and crime victims everywhere. The law-abiding community you represent has a duty to punish wrongdoers. Punishment is not -- as some may see it -- an unseemly indulgence in revenge. Just punishment is

a moral, civilized response to wrong. Punishment is necessary not only as a deterrent to future crimes, but for its own sake. Which is to say -- for the sake of justice. \\

This tradition of justice speaks not of a society that disparages human life, but rather, one that treasures innocent human life as precious and unique. In Larry McMurtry's classic Western novel, Lonesome Dove, two Rangers finally put an end to a brutal gang's deadly rampage. One of the outlaws turns out to be Jake Spoon, the Rangers' old partner.

"It's a bad situation," says Captain Call, moments before arresting his old friend. "But there he is... He put himself in it." \\

McMurtry's saga -- like the lives of the real-life pioneers who inspired it -- reveals some simple truths. Most Americans believe each of us faces the innate temptation to succumb to evil -- and yet always has the freedom to instead choose to do good.

Today, too many law-abiding Americans are prisoners in their own homes. We've got to change that. The wrong people are behind bars.

The first line of defense will always be our local law enforcement. But, as in the days of legendary U.S. Marshals like Bat Masterson and Wild Bill Hickok, places like Kansas City again need the support of top-notch federal lawmen.

Congress deserves our thanks for providing the new federal troops we asked for -- new agents, new prosecutors, and new

prisons to catch, convict and contain those who prey on our cities.

But it's time for Congress to finish the job. Because it does no good to send the troops into battle wearing handcuffs.

Shortly after taking office, I sent a comprehensive package to Congress to combat violent crime, to back up our new lawmen with new laws -- laws that are fair, fast, and final.

Fair -- an exclusionary rule designed to protect the truth and punish the guilty -- and not good cops who have acted in good faith. Fast -- habeas corpus reforms to stop the frivolous appeals that are choking our courts. And final -- fair, constitutionally sound death penalty provisions. Because for any drug dealer who kills a cop -- no penalty is too tough. \\\

Major portions of our crime bill still await Congressional action. But today there's another bill -- a Trojan Horse -- standing at the gates of Congress. It's called "S. 1970." It looks like a real crime bill. Sounds like a real crime bill. But in actuality it will be tougher on law enforcement than on criminals.

Its so-called "reforms" of the exclusionary rule, habeas corpus, the death penalty and the Justice Department itself will only entrench and extend the legal loopholes and red-tape that disrupt law enforcement, and have angered the American people for far too long.

America needs a crime bill with teeth -- but this is a sheep in wolf's clothing. \\\

We don't question anyone's motives. But it is time to debate these differences openly. We can't accept anything that rolls back the clock on our ability to fight crime and punish wrong-doers. And good legislation shouldn't have to wait until the final weeks of an election year, as happened in 1984, 1986, and 1988. \\\

**America wants it done right. America wants it done responsibly. And America wants it done now. \\\**

You in Kansas City have set a personal example of courage in grappling with tough choices. You fought back, you got involved, you refused to look the other way. And you have my thanks -- and the gratitude of an admiring nation.

In the Norman Rockwell painting I mentioned earlier, the man with the blueprints is looking sharply to one side. They say a young boy saw the picture in a book, and asked his father: "Dad, Kansas City is in the center of America. Which way is the man facing -- East or West?"

The father's answer was pure Midwest: "Well son -- it sort of depends on which way you hold the book." \\\

Of course, the truth is, it doesn't matter how you hold that picture. Because no matter how you look at it, the Kansas City Spirit, the real "Kansas City Spirit," always faces the same way -- forward to a brighter tomorrow, forward to the future ahead.

Thank you for your warm greeting on this January day. God bless you all as we begin a new year. God bless Kansas City -- and God bless the U.S.A.

McNally/Simon  
January 22, 1990  
Draft Three (B:KANSAS)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: AD HOC GROUP AGAINST CRIME  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI  
TUESDAY, JAN. 23, 1990, 1:20 P.M.

Thank you, Mayor [[DICK]] Berkley, for that warm introduction. And I also want to thank our Attorney General, Dick Thornburg, and our drug policy Director, Bill Bennett, who are here today and who are doing such an outstanding job.

And it's always good to see the Governors of these two great states -- John Ashcroft and Mike Hayden. Senators Jack Danforth and Kit Bond. Congressmen Tom Coleman and Ike Skelton. And so many law enforcement and community leaders -- Police Chief Larry Joiner and Police Commissioner Ray Price, and [[AD HOC LEADER]] Alvin Brooks. I'll have more to say about him in a minute.

It's great to be back in the heartland. It's great to be back in Kansas City. \\  
\\

Kansas City has much of which to be proud. You've heard the tally: Grassier than Ireland. Built on more hills than ancient Rome. More water, more fountains, than Paris.

But you also know what really sets Kansas City apart. It's **not your parks**. It's **your people**. \\\

They call it "the Kansas City Spirit." Restless. Idealistic. Determined. It's the kind of spirit that pushed back frontiers, and brought the railroads West. Rebuilt a burned-down Convention Hall in 90 days, and survived three floods this century. And, yes, it's a community spirit, a spirit that emphasizes the value of collective well-being.

Norman Rockwell captured it in a painting called just that -- the "Kansas City Spirit." It pictures a brawny, sun-burned man, feet firmly planted on the ground, eyes on the distant horizon. One hand clutches a blueprint. The other's rolling up his sleeves.

**And, thank God, it's a spirit that's very much alive today.**

Because in recent years, it's not the Convention Hall that's caught fire, but the streets themselves. Burning with a new form of pain called crack. And crackling with bursts of gunfire not heard in Kansas City since the outlaw days of the Old West.

But people in this town refused to surrender to the drug plague. **You took back what's yours. Took back your kids. Took back your streets. \\\**

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Working closely with police, Ad Hoc members gather in force, gather by the dozen, and use bullhorns, wooden coffins, and

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They are not subtle. **But they are determined. They are united. And they are making a difference.** \\\

I spent part of the morning here in the downtown, inner city area. Went to 33rd and Park. Saw what they used to call the "Drug Tree" -- an ancient, curbside oak where the drug dealers put up a basketball backboard to lure young children and cover-up their deadly operations.

It's still a rough area. Still not free of crime. But a lot of crack houses are gone. And a lot of pride's come back.

And block after block, house after house carries the sign of victory, Ad Hoc's six-word warning to the cowards of the night: **"THIS NEIGHBORHOOD FIGHTS BACK AGAINST DRUGS."** \\\

Part of the solution to the drug menace lies in effective, community-based initiatives like the Ad Hoc Group here. Also, cooperation between local and federal law enforcement is essential, as we saw last Friday, when Kansas City police combined with federal agents to bust what may be the biggest crack ring in town.

Another part -- an essential part -- lies in the demand side, stopping drug use before it starts, and helping those who want to stop. And our national drug strategy calls for record levels of new funding for both education and treatment. \

But demand-side solutions alone will never be enough. There are people out there intent on doing evil. Cowardly. Amoral. And when they spot someone vulnerable -- the schoolkid who has to

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A four-year-old boy, shot dead in a suspected crack house. An 11-year-old kid gunned down outside another drug den, allegedly at the hands of a 14-year-old "guard." In a downtown bar, a mother sells her baby for crack. And a fire bombing leaves three generations dead, including a grandmother and three little kids.

The headlines are horrifying, sickening, outrageous. And though they come from Kansas City, they are tragically familiar in cities across America.

Some would like to believe that society is more to blame for crime than the criminal. I don't agree.

Sure, there are many factors that probably do contribute to crime. The dissolution of the family, to name one.

But it's time to shift the focus of this debate to personal accountability -- to the responsibility of the criminal -- and to the rights of our elderly, our kids and crime victims everywhere.

You who have struggled for safe streets know this. The fact of the matter is, the criminal chooses his way of life, his companions, the kinds of crime he commits. **He is not the victim -- he is the victimizer.** \\  
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The law-abiding community you represent has a duty to punish wrongdoers. Punishment is not -- as some may see it -- an unseemly indulgence in revenge. Just punishment is a moral, civilized response to wrong. Punishment is necessary not only as

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"It's a bad situation," says Captain Call, moments before arresting his old friend. "But there he is... He put himself in it." \\

McMurtry's saga -- like the lives of the real-life pioneers who inspired it -- reveals some simple truths. Most Americans believe each of us faces the innate temptation to succumb to evil -- and yet always has the freedom to instead choose to do good.

Today, too many law-abiding Americans are prisoners in their own homes. We've got to change that. The wrong people are behind bars.

The first line of defense will always be our local law enforcement. But, as in the days of legendary U.S. Marshals like Bat Masterson and Wild Bill Hickok, places like Kansas City again need the support of top-notch federal lawmen.

Congress deserves our thanks for providing the new federal troops we asked for -- new agents, new prosecutors, and new prisons to catch, convict and contain those who prey on our cities.

But it's time for Congress to finish the job. Because it does no good to send the troops into battle wearing handcuffs.

Shortly after taking office, I sent a comprehensive package to Congress to combat violent crime, to back up our new lawmen with new laws -- laws that are fair, fast, and final.

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Its so-called "reforms" of the exclusionary rule, habeas corpus, capital punishment and the Justice Department itself will only entrench and extend the legal loopholes and red-tape that disrupt law enforcement, and have angered the American people for far too long.

America needs a crime bill with teeth -- but this is a sheep in wolf's clothing. \\\

We don't question anyone's motives. But it is time to debate these differences openly. We can't accept anything that rolls back the clock on our ability to fight crime and punish

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# # #

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

January 19, 1990

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH:           CHRISS WINSTON *cw*  
FROM:               EDWARD McNALLY *EMN*  
SUBJECT:            REMARKS FOR KANSAS CITY ANTI-DRUG EVENT

I.    SUMMARY

On Tuesday, January 23, you will travel to Kansas City, Mo. to meet with local anti-drug leaders and tour a neighborhood suffering from illegal drugs. At 1:30 p.m., you will address approximately 1,500 community leaders and local law enforcement officers in the Kansas City Music Hall and talk about the importance of community involvement in the war against drugs and the need for Congress to pass your Violent Crime Control bill.

II.   DISCUSSION

This event is similar in message and substance to the Acres Homes anti-drug event in Houston on December 7, 1989. The speech points out that the root of crime is a choice made by the criminal between doing good or doing evil.

This speech also continues on the theme of "unfinished business." It includes a call for Congress to stop trying to weaken your Violent Crime Control bill and pass it quickly.

The remarks will be teleprompted.

McNally/Simon  
January 19, 1990  
Draft Three (B:KANSAS)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: AD HOC GROUP AGAINST CRIME  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI  
TUESDAY, JAN. 23, 1990, 1:20 P.M.

[[ACKNOWLEDGMENTS]]

Thank you, \_\_\_\_\_, for that warm introduction.

It's great to be back in the heartland. It's great to be back in Kansas City. \\

Kansas City has much to be proud of. You've heard the tally: Grassier than Ireland. Built on more hills than ancient Rome. More water, more fountains, than Paris.

But you also know what really sets Kansas City apart. It's not your parks. It's your people. \\

They call it "the Kansas City Spirit." Restless. Idealistic. Determined. It's the kind of spirit that pushed back frontiers, and brought the railroads West. Rebuilt a burned-down Convention Hall in 90 days, and survived three floods this century. And, yes, it's a community spirit, a spirit that emphasizes the value of collective well-being.

Norman Rockwell captured it in a painting called just that -- the "Kansas City Spirit." It pictures a brawny, sun-burned man, feet firmly planted on the ground, eyes on the distant horizon. One hand clutches a blueprint. The other's rolling up his sleeves.

And, thank God, it's a spirit that's very much alive today.

Because in recent years, it's not the Convention Hall that's caught fire, but the streets themselves. Burning with a new form

of pain called crack. And crackling with bursts of gunfire not heard in Kansas City since the outlaw days of the Old West.

But people in this town refused to surrender to the drug plague. **You took back what's yours. Took back your kids. Took back your streets. \\\**

It began like the Spirit of Kansas City, when one man rolled up his sleeves and stepped forward with a blueprint, a blueprint that's become a model for our cities and an inspiration to people everywhere. I had the pleasure of meeting with him and his group this morning, and I know many of them are here this afternoon. They're a group of home-grown, Kansas City heroes called the Ad Hoc Group Against Crime, and the man's name is Alvin Brooks. \\\

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Because each kid saved is a victory won. \\\

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They are not subtle. **But they are determined. They are united. And they are making a difference.** \\\

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It's still a rough area. Still not free of crime. But a lot of crack houses are gone. And a lot of pride's come back.

And block after block, house after house flies the flag of victory, Ad Hoc's six-word warning to the cowards of the night: **"THIS NEIGHBORHOOD FIGHTS BACK AGAINST DRUGS."** \\\

Part of the solution to the drug menace lies in effective, community-based initiatives like the Ad Hoc Group here. Another part -- an essential part -- lies in the demand side, stopping drug use before it starts, and helping those who want to stop. And our national drug strategy calls for record levels of new funding for both education and treatment.

But demand-side solutions will never be enough. There are people out there intent on doing evil. Cowardly. Amoral. And when they spot someone vulnerable -- the schoolkid who has to cross a drug infested corner to get home -- they see their fellow man the way a pack of jackals sees a wounded fawn.

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The headlines are horrifying, sickening, outrageous. And though they come from Kansas City, they are tragically familiar in cities across America.

*and yes the dis*

Some would like to believe that society is more to blame for crime than the criminal. Some say crime is caused by parents who are too distant. Others say it's parents who pamper their kids too much. Some say crime is caused by poverty. Others say it's America's prosperity that's to blame.

T.V. violence. Boredom. Passionate impulses. Everything and everyone is blamed. **Except the criminal.** \\  
*some credit*

You who have struggled for safe streets know otherwise. The fact of the matter is, the criminal chooses his way of life, his companions, the kinds of crime he commits. **He is not the victim -- he is the victimizer.** \\  
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The law-abiding community you represent has a duty to punish wrongdoers. Punishment is not -- as some may see it -- an unseemly indulgence in revenge. Just punishment is a moral, civilized response to wrong. Punishment is necessary not only as a deterrent to future crimes, but for its own sake. Which is to say -- **for the sake of justice.** \\  
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Today, too many law-abiding Americans are prisoners in their own homes. We've got to change that. The wrong people are behind bars.

The first line of defense will always be our local law enforcement. But, as in the days of legendary U.S. Marshals like Bat Masterson and Wild Bill Hickok, places like Kansas City again need the support of top-notch federal lawmen.

Congress deserves our thanks for providing the new troops we asked for -- new agents, new prosecutors, and new prisons to catch, convict and contain those who prey on our cities.

But it's time for Congress to finish the job. Because it does no good to send the troops into battle wearing handcuffs.

Shortly after taking office, I sent a package to Congress to combat violent crime, to give our lawmen the tools they need.

But today there's a Trojan Horse rolling through the Senate. It looks like a real crime bill. Sounds like a real crime bill. But it's filled with an army of new loopholes and technicalities.

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# # #

from Maryann McGettigan

6

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McNally/Simon  
January 16, 1990  
Draft One (B:KANSAS)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: AD HOC GROUP AGAINST CRIME  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI  
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But people in this town refused to accept the drug plague as inevitable.

**You took back what's yours.**

**Took back your kids.**

**Took back your streets. \\\**

It began when a man stepped forward with a blueprint in hand, a blueprint that's become a model for our cities and an inspiration to people everywhere. I had the pleasure of meeting with him and his group this morning, and I know many of them are here this afternoon. **They're a group of home-grown, Kansas City heroes called the Ad Hoc Group Against Crime, and the man's name is Alvin Brooks.** \\\

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Working closely with the police, Ad Hoc members gather in force, gather by the dozen, and use bullhorns, wooden coffins, and street rallies to warn drug dealers to get off the street.

They are not subtle.

**But they are determined.**

**They are united.**

**And they are making a difference.**

I spent part of the morning here in the downtown, inner city area. Went to 33rd Street and Park Avenue. Saw what they used to call the "Drug Tree" -- an ancient, curb-side oak where the drug dealers put up a basketball backboard to lure young children and cover-up their deadly operations.

It's still a rough area. Still not free of crime. But a lot of crack houses are gone. And a lot of pride's come back.

And block after block, house after house flies the flag of victory, Ad Hoc's four-word warning to the cowards of the night: **"THIS NEIGHBORHOOD FIGHTS BACK."** \\\

Part of the solution to the drug menace lies in effective, community-based initiatives like the Ad Hoc group here. Another part -- an essential part -- lies in the demand side, stopping drug use before it starts, and helping those who want to stop. And our national strategy calls for record levels of new funding for drug education and treatment.

But demand-side solutions will never be enough. There are people out there intent on doing evil. Cowardly. Amoral. When they spot someone vulnerable -- the schoolkid who has to cross a drug infested corner from the bus stop to their front door -- they see their fellow man the way a pack of jackals sees a wounded fawn.

A four-year-old boy, shot dead in a suspected crack house. An 11-year-old kid felled outside another drug den, allegedly at the hands of a 14-year-old "guard." In a downtown bar, a mother

sells her baby for crack. And a fire bombing leaves three generations dead, including a grandmother and three little kids.

The headlines are horrifying, sickening, outrageous. And they come from Kansas City, not New York City.

As such unspeakable acts reveal, a criminal thinks in a way simply unlike that of any other person.

Some would like to believe that society is more to blame for crime than the criminal. Some say crime is caused by parents who are too distant. Others say it's parents who pamper their kids too much. Some say crime is caused by America's poverty. Others say it's America's prosperity that's to blame.

TV violence. Boredom. Passionate impulses. Everything and everyone is blamed. **Except the criminal.** \\  
\

You who have struggled for safe streets know otherwise. The fact of the matter is, the criminal chooses his way of life, his companions, the kinds of crime he commits. **He is not the victim -- he is the victimizer.** \\  
\ And it's about time to drive that point home.

The law-abiding community you represent has a duty to punish wrongdoers. Punishment is not -- as some may see it -- an unseemly indulgence in revenge. Just punishment is a moral, civilized response to wrong. Punishment is necessary not only as a deterrent to future crimes, but for its own sake. Which is to say -- **for the sake of justice.** \\  
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This tradition of justice speaks not of a society that disparages human life, but rather, one that treasures innocent

human life as precious and unique. In Larry McMurtry's classic Texas novel, Lonesome Dove, two Rangers finally put an end to a brutal gang's deadly rampage. One of the outlaws turns out to be Jake Spoon, the Rangers' old partner.

"It's a bad situation," says Captain Call, moments before arresting his old friend. "But there he is... He put himself in it." \\\

McMurtry's saga -- like the lives of the real-life Western pioneers who inspired it -- reveals some simple truths. Most Americans believe that each of us faces the innate temptation to succumb to evil -- and yet always has the freedom to instead choose to do good.

Today, too many law-abiding Americans are prisoners in their own homes. I was saddened this morning to see how many windows in the stores and houses downtown had to be protected by bars.

We've got to change that. The wrong people are behind bars.

[[CRIME PACKAGE INSERT]]

In the Norman Rockwell painting I mentioned earlier, the man with the blueprints is looking sharply to one side. It's said a young Missouri boy saw the picture in a book, and asked his father: "Dad, Kansas City is in the center of America. Which way is the man facing -- East or West?"

And the father answered: "Well son -- it sort of depends on which way you hold the book." \\\

Of course, the truth is, it doesn't matter how you hold that picture. Because no matter how you look at it, the real "Kansas City Spirit" always faces the same way -- forward, to the future.

Thank you for your warm greeting on this January day. God bless you all as we begin a new year. God bless Missouri -- and God bless the U.S.A.

# # #

*Nice physician p.1*

**WHITE HOUSE STAFFING REQUEST**

SUBJECT: *Presidential Remarks: Ad Hoc Group*  
*Against Crime*

RECEIVED/STAFFED (date/time): *1/19/90 8:30 A.M.*

RESPONSE DUE TO DOSG (date/time): *1/19/90 1:00 P.M.*

(Even if "no comment", response should be called in to DOSG x3060)

**DISTRIBUTION WITHIN OMB**

	<u>Action</u>	<u>FYI</u>		<u>Action</u>	<u>FYI</u>		<u>Action</u>	<u>FYI</u>
DARMAN	—	—	GRADY	✓	—	CLARK	—	—
DIEFENDERFER	—	✓	HAUN	—	✓	AL-SAMARRIE	—	—
ANDERSON	—	—	HOLEN	—	—	SCULLY	✓	—
DUSAULT	—	—	MURR	✓	—	CLAY	—	—
HOWARD	—	—	BASSO	—	—	FILE	—	—
DALE	✓	—	MACRAE	—	—	_____	—	—
BURMAN	—	—	DAMUS	✓	—	_____	—	—
HALE	✓	—	HODSOLL	—	—	_____	—	—

COMMENTS:

**WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM**

DATE: 01/18/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 2:00 p.m. Friday 01/19

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: AD HOC GROUP AGAINST CRIME (01/18 draft two)

	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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BENNETT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<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 provide any comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston by 2:00 p.m. on Friday, 01/19, with a copy to my office. Thanks.

**RESPONSE:**

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

McNally/Simon  
January 18, 1990  
Draft Two (B:KANSAS)

1990 JAN 18 PM 5:50

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: AD HOC GROUP AGAINST CRIME  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI  
TUESDAY, JAN. 23, 1990, 1:20 P.M.

[[ACKNOWLEDGMENTS]]

Thank you, \_\_\_\_\_, for that warm introduction.

It's a pleasure to be back in the heartland. It's a  
pleasure to be back in Kansas City. \\

Kansas City has much of which to be proud. You've heard the  
tally: Grassier than Ireland. Built on more hills than ancient  
Rome. More water, more fountains, than Paris.

But you also know what really sets Kansas City apart. It's  
not your parks. It's your people. \\\

They call it "the Kansas City Spirit." Restless.  
Idealistic. Determined. It's the kind of spirit that pushed  
back frontiers, and brought the railroads West. Rebuilt a  
burned-down Convention Hall in 90 days, and survived three floods  
this century. And, yes, it's a community spirit, a spirit that  
emphasizes the value of collective well-being.

Norman Rockwell captured it in a painting called just that  
-- the "Kansas City Spirit." It pictures a brawny, sun-burned  
man, feet firmly planted on the ground, eyes on the distant  
horizon. One hand clutches a blueprint. The other's rolling up  
his sleeves.

And, thank God, it's a spirit that's very much alive today.

Because in recent years, it's not the Convention Hall that's  
caught fire, but the streets themselves. Burning with a new form

*Playwright's  
Gund*

of pain called crack. And crackling with bursts of gunfire not heard in Kansas City since the outlaw days of the Old West.

But people in this town refused to surrender to the drug plague. **You took back what's yours. Took back your kids. Took back your streets. \\\**

It began like the Spirit of Kansas City, when one man rolled up his sleeves and stepped forward with a blueprint, a blueprint that's become a model for our cities and an inspiration to people everywhere. I had the pleasure of meeting with him and his group this morning, and I know many of them are here this afternoon. They're a group of home-grown, Kansas City heroes called the Ad Hoc Group Against Crime, and the man's name is Alvin Brooks. \\\

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Working closely with police, Ad Hoc members gather in force, gather by the dozen, and use bullhorns, wooden coffins, and street rallies to warn drug dealers to get off the street.

They are not subtle. **But they are determined. They are united. And they are making a difference.** \\\

I spent part of the morning here in the downtown, inner city area. Went to 33rd and Park. Saw what they used to call the "Drug Tree" -- an ancient, curb-side oak where the drug dealers put up a basketball backboard to lure young children and cover-up their deadly operations.

It's still a rough area. Still not free of crime. But a lot of crack houses are gone. And a lot of pride's come back.

And block after block, house after house flies the flag of victory, Ad Hoc's four-word warning to the cowards of the night: **"THIS NEIGHBORHOOD FIGHTS BACK."** \\\

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But demand-side solutions will never be enough. There are people out there intent on doing evil. Cowardly. Amoral. And when they spot someone vulnerable -- the schoolkid who has to cross a drug infested corner to get home -- they see their fellow man the way a pack of jackals sees a wounded fawn.

A four-year-old boy, shot dead in a suspected crack house. An 11-year-old kid felled outside another drug den, allegedly at the hands of a 14-year-old "guard." In a downtown bar, a mother sells her baby for crack. And a fire bombing leaves three generations dead, including a grandmother and three little kids.

The headlines are horrifying, sickening, outrageous. And though they come from Kansas City, they are tragically familiar in cities across America.

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are too distant. Others say it's parents who pamper their kids too much. Some say crime is caused by poverty. Others say it's America's prosperity that's to blame.

T.V. violence. Boredom. Passionate impulses. Everything and everyone is blamed. Except the criminal. \\

You who have struggled for safe streets know otherwise. The fact of the matter is, the criminal chooses his way of life, his companions, the kinds of crime he commits. He is not the victim -- he is the victimizer. \\

The law-abiding community you represent has a duty to punish wrongdoers. Punishment is not -- as some may see it -- an unseemly indulgence in revenge. Just punishment is a moral, civilized response to wrong. Punishment is necessary not only as a deterrent to future crimes, but for its own sake. Which is to say -- for the sake of justice. \\

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"It's a bad situation," says Captain Call, moments before arresting his old friend. "But there he is... He put himself in it." \\

McMurtry's saga -- like the lives of the real-life pioneers who inspired it -- reveals some simple truths. Most Americans

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Today, too many law-abiding Americans are prisoners in their own homes. I was saddened this morning to see how many windows in the stores and houses downtown had to be protected by bars.

We've got to change that. The wrong people are behind bars.

The first line of defense will always be our local law enforcement. But, as in the days of legendary U.S. Marshals like Bat Masterson and Wild Bill Hickok, places like Kansas City again need the support of top-notch federal lawmen.

Congress deserves our thanks for providing the new troops we asked for -- new agents, new prosecutors, and new prisons to catch, convict and contain those who prey on our cities.

But it's time for Congress to finish the job. Because it does no good to send the troops into battle wearing handcuffs.

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But today there's a Trojan Horse rolling through the Senate. It looks like a real crime bill. Sounds like a real crime bill. But it's filled with an army of new loopholes and technicalities.

Its so-called "reforms" of the exclusionary rule, habeas corpus, capital punishment and the Justice Department itself will only entrench and extend the legal loopholes and red-tape that have angered the American people for far too long.

America needs a crime bill with teeth -- but this is a sheep in wolf's clothing. \\\

I won't accept anything that rolls back the clock on our ability to fight crime and punish wrong-doers. Let's debate these differences openly. But let's not table it until the final weeks of an election year, as happened in 1984, 1986, and 1988. You can't table a crisis. \\\

America wants it done right. America wants it done responsibly. And America wants it done now. \\\

You in Kansas City have set a personal example of courage in grappling with tough choices. You fought back, you got involved, you refused to look the other way. And you have my thanks -- and the gratitude of an admiring nation.

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(01/18 draft two)

	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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BENNETT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: AD HOC GROUP AGAINST CRIME  
SUBJECT: (01/18 draft two)

	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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DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<del>BATES</del>	<del><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></del>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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GRAY	<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:**

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**RESPONSE:**

*No comments.*

89 DEC 22 10:24

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

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

January 19, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: JIM PINKERTON

SUBJECT: Ad Hoc Group Against Crime Draft Speech

A powerful draft. We particularly admire the tough language calling for a crime bill with teeth, the "Don't blame society, blame the criminal" passages, and the explanation of crime as evil. Characterizations of the crime bill as it now stands in the Senate, e.g., "Trojan Horse," "sheep in wolf's clothing" will need to be checked with Legislative Affairs.

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The fact that Kansas City straddles two states may suggest that we avoid referring to Missouri alone. Perhaps "Midwest" and "Midwestern" are safer fallbacks.

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



January 19, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT  
FOR COMMUNICATIONS

FROM: NELSON LUND   
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Draft Presidential Remarks: Ad Hoc Group Against  
Crime

At the request of James W. Cicconi, Counsel's office has reviewed the captioned draft remarks. We have no legal objections.

We appreciate having had the opportunity to review these remarks.

cc: James W. Cicconi

89 DEC 19 P 3: 16

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

January 19, 1990

V

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *RBP*  
SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Ad Hoc Group Against Crime

You requested my comments on the Presidential remarks before the Ad Hoc Group Against Crime. The speech is well done and sets exactly the tone we want. I have only two editorial comments for purposes of clarification.

1. At page 5, in the paragraph that begins "Congress deserves ...", the word "federal" should be inserted between "new" and "troops". We should make it clear that these are federal resources.
2. At page 5, in the paragraph that begins "Its so-called 'reforms'.." at the end of the sentence add "and disrupt law enforcement."

*Great rhetoric. Fun to read. It  
should go over well.  
Roger*

81:2d 61 DEC 19 83

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

01/18/90

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 2:00 p.m. Friday 01/19

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: AD HOC GROUP AGAINST CRIME  
 SUBJECT: (01/18 draft two)

	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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FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BENNETT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<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 provide any comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston by 2:00 p.m. on Friday, 01/19, with a copy to my office. Thanks.

**RESPONSE:**

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

McNally/Simon  
January 18, 1990  
Draft Two (B:KANSAS)

1990 JAN 18 PM 5:50

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: AD HOC GROUP AGAINST CRIME  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI  
TUESDAY, JAN. 23, 1990, 1:20 P.M.

[[ACKNOWLEDGMENTS]]

Thank you, \_\_\_\_\_, for that warm introduction.

It's a pleasure to be back in the heartland. It's a  
pleasure to be back in Kansas City. \\

Kansas City has much of which to be proud. You've heard the  
tally: Grassier than Ireland. Built on more hills than ancient  
Rome. More water, more fountains, than Paris.

But you also know what really sets Kansas City apart. It's  
not your parks. It's your people. \\\

They call it "the Kansas City Spirit." Restless.  
Idealistic. Determined. It's the kind of spirit that pushed  
back frontiers, and brought the railroads West. Rebuilt a  
burned-down Convention Hall in 90 days, and survived three floods  
this century. And, yes, it's a community spirit, a spirit that  
emphasizes the value of collective well-being.

Norman Rockwell captured it in a painting called just that  
-- the "Kansas City Spirit." It pictures a brawny, sun-burned  
man, feet firmly planted on the ground, eyes on the distant  
horizon. One hand clutches a blueprint. The other's rolling up  
his sleeves.

And, thank God, it's a spirit that's very much alive today.

Because in recent years, it's not the Convention Hall that's  
caught fire, but the streets themselves. Burning with a new form

of pain called crack. And crackling with bursts of gunfire not heard in Kansas City since the outlaw days of the Old West.

But people in this town refused to surrender to the drug plague. **You took back what's yours. Took back your kids. Took back your streets. \\\**

It began like the Spirit of Kansas City, when one man rolled up his sleeves and stepped forward with a blueprint, a blueprint that's become a model for our cities and an inspiration to people everywhere. I had the pleasure of meeting with him and his group this morning, and I know many of them are here this afternoon. **They're a group of home-grown, Kansas City heroes called the Ad Hoc Group Against Crime, and the man's name is Alvin Brooks. \\\**

Ad Hoc recognized early on that the war on drugs meant unconventional warfare -- a battle to be fought day by day, house by house, family by family, child by child.

**Because each kid saved is a victory won. \\\**

Working closely with police, Ad Hoc members gather in force, gather by the dozen, and use bullhorns, wooden coffins, and street rallies to warn drug dealers to get off the street.

**They are not subtle. But they are determined. They are united. And they are making a difference. \\\**

I spent part of the morning here in the downtown, inner city area. Went to 33rd and Park. Saw what they used to call the "Drug Tree" -- an ancient, curb-side oak where the drug dealers put up a basketball backboard to lure young children and cover-up their deadly operations.

It's still a rough area. Still not free of crime. But a lot of crack houses are gone. And a lot of pride's come back.

And block after block, house after house flies the flag of victory, Ad Hoc's four-word warning to the cowards of the night:

**"THIS NEIGHBORHOOD FIGHTS BACK."** \\\

Part of the solution to the drug menace lies in effective, community-based initiatives like the Ad Hoc Group here. Another part -- an essential part -- lies in the demand side, stopping drug use before it starts, and helping those who want to stop. And our national drug strategy calls for record levels of new funding for both education and treatment.

But demand-side solutions will never be enough. There are people out there intent on doing evil. Cowardly. Amoral. And when they spot someone vulnerable -- the schoolkid who has to cross a drug infested corner to get home -- they see their fellow man the way a pack of jackals sees a wounded fawn.

A four-year-old boy, shot dead in a suspected crack house. An 11-year-old kid felled outside another drug den, allegedly at the hands of a 14-year-old "guard." In a downtown bar, a mother sells her baby for crack. And a fire bombing leaves three generations dead, including a grandmother and three little kids.

The headlines are horrifying, sickening, outrageous. And though they come from Kansas City, they are tragically familiar in cities across America.

Some would like to believe that society is more to blame for crime than the criminal. Some say crime is caused by parents who

are too distant. Others say it's parents who pamper their kids too much. Some say crime is caused by poverty. Others say it's America's prosperity that's to blame.

T.V. violence. Boredom. Passionate impulses. Everything and everyone is blamed. **Except the criminal.** \\  
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You who have struggled for safe streets know otherwise. The fact of the matter is, the criminal chooses his way of life, his companions, the kinds of crime he commits. **He is not the victim -- he is the victimizer.** \\  
 \

The law-abiding community you represent has a duty to punish wrongdoers. Punishment is not -- as some may see it -- an unseemly indulgence in revenge. Just punishment is a moral, civilized response to wrong. Punishment is necessary not only as a deterrent to future crimes, but for its own sake. Which is to say -- **for the sake of justice.** \\  
 \

This tradition of justice speaks not of a society that disparages human life, but rather, one that treasures innocent human life as precious and unique. In Larry McMurtry's classic Western novel, Lonesome Dove, two Rangers finally put an end to a brutal gang's deadly rampage. One of the outlaws turns out to be Jake Spoon, the Rangers' old partner.

"It's a bad situation," says Captain Call, moments before arresting his old friend. "But there he is... He put himself in it." \\  
 \\  
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McMurtry's saga -- like the lives of the real-life pioneers who inspired it -- reveals some simple truths. Most Americans

believe each of us faces the innate temptation to succumb to evil -- and yet always has the freedom to instead choose to do good.

Today, too many law-abiding Americans are prisoners in their own homes. I was saddened this morning to see how many windows in the stores and houses downtown had to be protected by bars.

We've got to change that. The wrong people are behind bars.

The first line of defense will always be our local law enforcement. But, as in the days of legendary U.S. Marshals like Bat Masterson and Wild Bill Hickok, places like Kansas City again need the support of top-notch federal lawmen.

Congress deserves our thanks for providing the new troops we asked for -- new <sup>Federal</sup> agents, new prosecutors, and new prisons to catch, convict and contain those who prey on our cities.

But it's time for Congress to finish the job. Because it does no good to send the troops into battle wearing handcuffs.

Shortly after taking office, I sent a package to Congress to combat violent crime, to give our lawmen the tools they need.

But today there's a Trojan Horse rolling through the Senate. It looks like a real crime bill. Sounds like a real crime bill. But it's filled with an army of new loopholes and technicalities.

Its so-called "reforms" of the exclusionary rule, habeas corpus, capital punishment and the Justice Department itself will only entrench and extend the legal loopholes and red-tape that have angered the American people for far too long. † *disrupt law-enfor-  
ment*

America needs a crime bill with teeth -- but this is a sheep in wolf's clothing. \\\

I won't accept anything that rolls back the clock on our ability to fight crime and punish wrong-doers. Let's debate these differences openly. But let's not table it until the final weeks of an election year, as happened in 1984, 1986, and 1988.

You can't table a crisis. \\\

America wants it done right. America wants it done responsibly. And America wants it done now. \\\

You in Kansas City have set a personal example of courage in grappling with tough choices. You fought back, you got involved, you refused to look the other way. And you have my thanks -- and the gratitude of an admiring nation.

In the Norman Rockwell painting I mentioned earlier, the man with the blueprints is looking sharply to one side. They say a young boy saw the picture in a book, and asked his father: "Dad, Kansas City is in the center of America. Which way is the man facing -- East or West?"

The father's answer was pure Missouri: "Well son -- it sort of depends on which way you hold the book." \\\

Of course, the truth is, it doesn't matter how you hold that picture. Because no matter how you look at it, the Kansas City Spirit, the real "Kansas City Spirit," always faces the same way -- forward to a brighter tomorrow, forward to the future ahead.

Thank you for your warm greeting on this January day. God bless you all as we begin a new year. God bless Missouri -- and God bless the U.S.A.

# # #

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January 19, 1990

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89 DEC 19 P2:37

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