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Series: Speech File Draft Files
Subseries: Chron File, 1989-1993

OA/ID Number: 13517
Folder ID Number: 13517-002

Folder Title:
Kansas City Crime Address 1/23/90 [OA 4390] [2]

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

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"/>
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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:

1/19
OK - No comment from CP - per Jim Bolestein and Michael Cassa
0203 174

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.** \\
 \

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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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 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.

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." \\\

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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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RESPONSE:

No comment

69 DEC 19 P2:32

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#

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

7/27/89

July 26, 1989

100 JUL 28 1989

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *W*
FROM: EDWARD E. McNALLY *EM*
SUBJECT: REMARKS -- FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

I. SUMMARY

Attached for your consideration and review are draft remarks for next Tuesday's keynote address at the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) convention in Oklahoma City.

II. DISCUSSION

At approximately 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 1, 1989 you are scheduled to address the Fraternal Order of Police at the State Fairgrounds in Oklahoma City, where you be introduced from offstage. An audience of up to 10,000 F.O.P. delegates, police officers and spouses is expected at the Jim Norick Arena (named after the father of Ron Norick -- Oklahoma City's GOP mayor -- who will be onstage). Your remarks are expected to be prepared for TelePrompter.

The suggested remarks not only offer a plug for the nuts and bolts of your crime package -- but also seek to discuss crime and punishment in a thoughtful way -- staking out the fundamental principles that will always distinguish your Administration's anti-crime philosophy from that of its critics.

By "laying down your marker" about the nature of crime and punishment, this address can help underscore the "bright line" distinction between those who believe the problem is with society -- and that great majority of Americans who share your view that the problem is with the criminal.

W.O.P. Fraternal Order of Police
POTUS Comments

3

gang-controlled streets from the bus stop to
they see their fellow man the way a jackal

As such barbarous acts reveal, a criminal is
simply unlike that of any other person. Some
believe that society is more to blame for a
criminal. Some say crime is caused by parents who are too
distant -- others say it's parents who pamper their children 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. Everyone -- except the criminal.

You who work the 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 rejects society and its
values. He is the victimizer -- not the victim.

And the law-abiding society 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 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, Lonesome Dove, two pioneering lawmen finally put an end
to a brutal gang's deadly rampage through the Oklahoma Territory.

Chriss - Legis. Affairs is
off track here.
Not only has POTUS
(who read Gonsoums Dove
and told Newweek (?) it was
one of his favorite books), but
he specifically approved
this language for the
(never-delivered) Oklahoma
speech - "I LIKE IT"
- Mully

*

✓

/ I
think it

One of the outlaws turns out to be Jake Spoon, the lawmen's old partner.

"It's a bad situation," says Captain Call, in the 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 that each of us has an innate capability of succumbing to evil -- but always the freedom to choose instead to do good. We're talking about individual responsibility. We're talking about character.

We must do a better job of cultivating character. We hear a lot about what our rights are -- but not enough about our duties. We need to rekindle a spirit of duty, decency and personal responsibility. As always, Harry Truman spoke the truth when he said: "We must not permit the existence of conditions which cause our children to believe that crime is inevitable and normal."

Only the American people can make this change in attitude, this cultivation of character. It is not a federal problem for which there is a simple federal solution. We won't do it by looking to the government. And we certainly won't do it by blaming injustice on abstract social forces.

But parents and teachers and religious and neighborhood leaders can do it. They -- and probably only they -- can teach our kids right from wrong.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

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RESPONSE:

Please see suggestions.

1/19/90

61:22 61 DEC 19

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

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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. \\\

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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 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.** \\

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.** \\

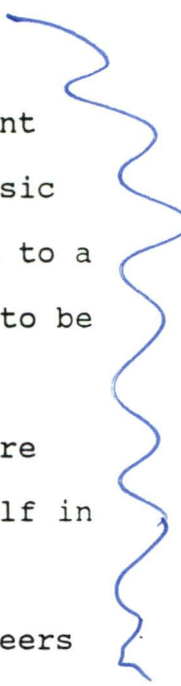
The law-abiding community you represent has a duty to punish wrongdoers. Punishment is not -- as some may see it -- an unseemly indulgence in revenge. Just punishment is a moral, civilized response to wrong. Punishment is necessary not only as a deterrent to future crimes, but for its own sake. Which 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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loved Lonesome Dove,
Not sure
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use this -
Spoon hung
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buddies who
were retired
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state.
Esp. b/c this
is in the
td Hoc context,
could be
misinterpreted
by press.*



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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.

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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.

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McNALLY/SIMON/MARTIN
comments

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

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

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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
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man, feet firmly planted on the ground, eyes on the distant
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And, thank God, it's a spirit that's very much alive today.

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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.

Christina worries about this because the slogan is painted on the boarded-up doors - not, literally, on "flags." If you think the poetic license too much, it could be changed to "bears the banner of victory"...

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 ^{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.

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- DJ

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Today, too many law-abiding Americans are prisoners in their own homes. I was saddened this morning to ^{hear (or "to learn" that)} 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.**

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Christina says the President actually may not place the many streets that are covered w/ bars.

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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"/>
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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:

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:

*OK - GREAT SPEECH
Bruce Zimm for DR*

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

1990 JAN 18 PM 5:50

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

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RESPONSE:

*nice -
 except for the sheeps
 in wolf's
 cloths metaphor
 JD*

89 DEC 22 AIO: 57

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

McNally/Simon
January 18, 1990
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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 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.

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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89 DEC 22 P6:31

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 [[RICHARD]] 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. **

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.

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.** \\
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." \\

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} ~~seek~~ the truth and punish the guilty -- and not good cops who have acted in good faith. Fast -- habeas ^{corpus} reforms ^{to} ~~that put~~ a stop ^{to the frivolous appeals} ~~to the endless re-~~ ^{are} ~~litigation that's~~ choking our courts. And final -- fair, constitutionally sound death penalty provisions ~~because~~ ^{because} for any drug dealer who kills a cop -- no penalty is too tough. \\\

Our crime bill has awaited Congressional action since June. 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 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 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 we can't table it until the final weeks of an election year, as happened in 1984, 1986, and 1988. You can't table a crisis. \\\

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#

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. \\\

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.

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. \\

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. \\\

OUR CRIME BILL HAS AWAITED CONGRESSIONAL ACTION SINCE JUNE. 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 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 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 WE CAN'T 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 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.

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McNally/Simon
January 18, 1990
Draft Two (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.

*Last strip
10/31/89*
It's a pleasure to be back in the heartland. It's a
pleasure to be back in Kansas City. \\
X X X X X X X X X X

*"Kansas
City"
p. 9*
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.
X X X X X X X X X X

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.

*"Kansas
City"
p. 64-64*
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.
X X X X X X X X X X

*"Kansas
City"
p. 60-
61*
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.
X X X X X X X X X X

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. \\\

6-73-2512
Chuck Wepler
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~~ *Shows the symbol* victory, Ad Hoc's ^{SIX} four-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.

*Alvin Brooks
816-274-1432
+
KC Police* A four-year-old boy, shot dead in a suspected crack house. An 11-year-old kid ~~felled~~ *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. 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.** \\

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." \\\

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

Lonesome
Dove
p. 632

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 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.

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

Fred
Calhoun
USM Source
307-9015

speech
5-15-89

DoJ
Graae
Mastalli
633-4600

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.

Grace Mastalli
633-4606

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.

"Kansas City"
P. 60

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.

Kansas City

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