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OA/ID Number: 13539
Folder ID Number: 13539-013

Folder Title:
Federal, State, & Local Prosecutors 9/12/90 [OA 5376]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	16	4	3

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 09/10/90ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: NOON Tuesday 09/11SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL PROSECUTORS
(09/10 draft two)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	MCCLURE	☒	☐
SUNUNU	☐	☐	NEWMAN	☐	☐
SCOWCROFT	☐	☐	PORTER	☒	☐
DARMAN	☒	☐	ROGICH	☐	☒
CARD	☐	☒	UNTERMAYER	☐	☐
CICCONI	☐	☒	ROGERS	☐	☒
DEMAREST	☒	☐	PINKERTON	☒	☐
FITZWATER	☐	☒	WINSTON	☐	☒
GRAY	☒	☐	BENNETT	☒	☐
HAGIN	☐	☐		☐	☐
HOLIDAY	☒	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS:

Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston by NOON on Tuesday, 09/11, with a copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

* OK as is - per David Tell, Jean Balistreri
09013 176
#2992

* reported by phone at 12 noon 9/11 JWB -

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

(McNally/Simon)
Sept. 10, 1990
Draft Two (B:NAAG)

90 SEP 10 16:25
PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL PROSECUTORS
ROOM 450, O.E.O.B.
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1990, 2:00 P.M.

Thank you. Mr. Attorney General, U.S. Attorneys, State Attorneys General, other officials and local D.A.'s: It is an honor to welcome our Nation's prosecutors to the White House.

When Bill Bennett and I met last week to take stock of America's important new progress in the War on Drugs, we noted that other subjects are preoccupying all of us these days. But I said then and I repeat today: Drugs and violent crime remain our number one priority. And on behalf of all the American people, I want to thank you for working to help us "Take Back The Streets."

We know the life of a prosecutor is not easy. For gifted, hardworking lawyers like yourselves, the financial sacrifice is immense. More importantly, over the past 30 years, America's criminal justice system has become bogged down with technicalities that stymie our prosecutors' simple goals: To see the truth come out, the guilty punished, the law upheld, and justice done.

Too many times, in too many cases, too many criminals go free because the scales of justice are unfairly loaded against dedicated lawmen and women like you.

Since taking office, we've worked with many of you to try to steady the scales of justice, to seek a fair balance between the legitimate rights of criminal suspects, and society's right to protect itself from evil predators. And America took an important step towards balancing those scales when I had the chance to

name a tough, fair-minded, law-and-order judge as my first nominee to the Supreme Court -- New Hampshire's Judge David Souter.

With a decade of law enforcement experience prior to being elevated to the bench, Judge Souter is one of your own, hopefully soon to take his place as the only career prosecutor on the Court. And we're very pleased that -- as with the A.B.A. -- the National Association of Attorneys General rated Judge Souter "well-qualified" by a unanimous vote. And we're especially pleased that the National District Attorney's Association endorsed Judge Souter for the Supreme Court, praising him as a "tough anti-crime judge." It's clear that he will not handcuff police by creating new rules not found in the Constitution.

But this group knows all too well that judge-made laws are not the only problem with a criminal justice system that all too often simply does not work. That's why I stood before the Capitol on that rainy day in May last year -- many of you were there -- calling on Congress to give our prosecutors and police the tools they need to fight back against the epidemic of violent crime still raging in America.

That was over a year ago, and despite the urgency of the problem, the Congress has failed to act on our proposals. What is worse, several measures receiving serious consideration on the Hill would actually weaken law enforcement, and hamper your efforts to protect the citizens of this Nation.

But your presence here today sends a powerful warning to Congress, a shot across the bow of a ship that is moving in the

wrong direction. America's prosecutors will not accept a phony crime bill that is tougher on law enforcement than it is on criminals. \\\

We need a crime bill that will stop the endless abuse of habeas corpus, that guarantees that criminals who use serious weapons face serious weapons charges and serious time, and that ensure that evidence gathered by good cops acting in good faith isn't barred by technicalities that let bad people go free. And for the most unspeakable of crimes, we need a workable death penalty -- which is to say -- a real death penalty. \\\

I won't accept anything that rolls back the clock on America's ability to fight crime and punish wrong-doers. The bottom line is this: I will not sign a phony crime bill. I will not sign a bill that overturns recent Supreme Court decisions limiting frivolous appeals, that expands the coverage of the exclusionary rule, or that creates a racial quota system for capital punishment.

You know the difference between my proposals, which give you the legal tools you need to win this fight, and the anti-law enforcement proposals some in Congress are attempting to peddle as a crime bill. I urge the Congress to heed the voices of our people, our police, and our prosecutors -- and send me a crime bill that will help take back the streets.

Thank you for your dedicated efforts to makes our cities safe. Good luck. And God bless the United States.

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RESPONSE:

No comment

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(McNally/Simon)
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