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

OA/ID Number: 13643
Folder ID Number: 13643-010

Folder Title:
DeSales Catholic Church 9/28/92 [OA 5813]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	18	5	2

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 9/27/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: _____
PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DeSALES CATHOLIC CHURCH
FOX PARK, MISSOURI
SUBJECT: _____ SEPTEMBER 28, 1992

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BAKER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MOORE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MULLINS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PROVOST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROSS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CALIO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TUTWILER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ZOELICK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	KAUFMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	GROOMES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MCGROARTY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

The attached has been forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE:

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 27, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: STEVE PROVOST

FROM: KEN ASKEW ~~KA~~

SUBJECT: PROPOSED REMARKS TO FOX PARK COMMUNITY

I. SUMMARY

On Monday, September 28th at 10:00 a.m., you will deliver remarks, to 500 community members in the St. Francis DeSales Catholic Church Parish Hall in Fox Park, Missouri.

II. DISCUSSION

Your remarks (approximately 18 minutes / teleprompter) focus on crime, and reflect the current status of your crime bill.

(Askew/Bunton)
September 27, 1992
1:00 p.m.
CRIME

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DeSALES CATHOLIC CHURCH
FOX PARK, MISSOURI
SEPTEMBER 28, 1992
10:00 A.M.

Thank you for that kind introduction, and good morning,
everybody.

It's delightful to be in Fox Park. St. Louis is such a
friendly city. It really warms my heart. So thank you for your
wonderful Missouri welcome.

I want to apologize to everyone who was counting on the
usual Sunday Bingo game last night. I hear the Secret Service
spoiled your fun when they had to check out the building. Well,
I'm sorry you missed the game, but it was smart to stay away.
Believe me, you don't want to be jumping up suddenly and yelling
"Bingo!" around these guys.//

I want to talk to you today about what I consider
government's first and most-basic function.

I know what you're thinking. You've been listening to that
other fellow... and all you can think about is taxes. Well, I'm
not going to talk about taxes today. But I think it's only fair
to warn you that for years down in Arkansas, my opponent has been
trying to declare April 15th a religious holiday.//

But what I do want to talk about is the fundamental duty of
our government... to protect every American citizen from violence
-- at home, on the streets, and abroad.

Now... that's nothing new. Security is one big reason government was created in the first place.

What's new... are the terrible forms violence has taken recently... beyond anything our founding fathers could've imagined.

A whole generation has grown up with the threat of nuclear terror hanging like a sword over its head. And it's been horrible. Our kids had nightmares. It seemed like it would never end.

Well, it did end. And today I can stand up here and say something no President could ever say before.

The Cold War is over. Freedom finished first.//

Now, we need to win the peace... right here at home and in the streets of Fox Park.//

What's the point, after all... of winning a Cold War if our grandparents and grandchildren lock themselves behind the bars on their windows, afraid to come out from a jail called home?

Now, I'm not saying we haven't made progress against violent crime. We certainly have. We've slowed it dramatically the past twelve years. And we're beginning to turn the tide on the drugs that so often fuel it.

But we got soft on crime in the 1960s, and we paid for it. By the time we cracked down again in the 80s, violent crime had gone up 400% in twenty years. Since we cracked down, it's gone up just 27% in a little over ten years, and the overall crime index is actually down.

So we've stemmed the tide... prevented millions of crimes... but of course, that's not enough. It's never enough.

The face of crime is changing fast, and we need our laws to react just as quickly... so we can beat it.

Carjacking, for a timely example -- a brand-new word for a brand-new crime. Someone figured out it's easy to steal a car when it's already running, with the keys in the ignition. Of course, the owner's behind the wheel. So they use a gun.

It makes me sick to think about it... but just a few weeks ago, in a nice neighborhood near Baltimore, a woman was sitting in her car at a stop sign. In broad daylight, two men forced her out of her car and drove off.

But she hung onto her seat-belt from outside the car. What mother wouldn't? Because her baby was in the back seat. The mother was dragged for almost two miles. The thieves tried to knock her off by banging into a fence. And she finally died.

And you know what they did with her little baby? They tossed her out of the car like so much trash.

Miraculously, that baby survived.

And you know what? America's going to survive, too. We don't have to put up with this kind of depravity.//

These people have no place in a decent society. And as far as this President's concerned, they can go to jail... they can stay in jail... and they can rot in jail.//

And for that to happen, we need tough laws that don't bend over backwards protecting the criminal... while saying to the victim, "Tough luck, buddy."//

Now, my opponent has learned to talk tough on crime. But let me tell you: When push comes to shove, what he really believes is that same old hogwash that says it's society's fault when someone gets mugged. And society should suffer.

Well, maybe that's why most inmates in Arkansas serve less than one-fifth of their sentence. Maybe that's why violent crime in Arkansas went up almost 60 percent in the 80s -- over twice the national average. Maybe that's why, in the 80s, Arkansas had the nation's biggest increase in overall crime -- and the third-biggest in violent crime.

If you don't believe me... just ask the Fraternal Order of Police in Little Rock, Arkansas. They're endorsing me for President. Because they know my record.

And because they know better than anyone... that we're all vulnerable: Men, women, children; white, black, brown; young, old; rich and poor. To a bullet or a blade -- we all look just the same.

And Americans deserve a government that goes after the problem -- that prevents and punishes crime, and helps victims.//

That's why I want to see America make a move at the Federal level... to step forward and support state and local police around the country -- in real, concrete ways. We need to help them fight.//

That's why, twelve-hundred and one days ago, on June 15, 1989 -- the same day Gorbachev first hinted the Berlin Wall might come down -- I sent a comprehensive Crime Bill to Capitol Hill. I offered the hand of partnership to Congress, and asked it to help me fight crime on a national level.

You know, since I first sent that bill to the Hill in 1989, here in the United States, we've had almost 60,000 murders, 260,000 rapes, 1,600,000 robberies and 2,600,000 assaults. 506 of those violent crimes took place right here in Fox Park.

I know the numbers are staggering. I know that Americans sit down in front of their TVs at night... watch the news and say... why doesn't somebody do something about this incredible mess? People are dying in the streets, for God's sake.

Well... twelve-hundred and one days later... Congress still hasn't acted on my Bill.

I think if they had a glacier on Capitol Hill, they'd name it "Speedy."//

But frustrating as this Crime Bill has been for me... it's still my job as President to get results. There are good people on both sides of the issue, working in good faith for a compromise... and I will not rest until this matter is settled.

This very week, we're close to an agreement on a bill the Congress could send me -- and I will sign. The Comprehensive Bill could include, for example, a workable death-penalty provision for horrible murders... committed by terrorists, assassins, drug lords and others of that nature.

But when it comes to crime, we always -- always -- have more to do. We can never rest.

So I want you to know what's on my crime agenda. I'm not asking for anything but common sense and reasonable justice... especially for women, children and elderly victims of crime.

Specifically, I want to help our states do the following eight things:

One, apprehend and severely punish carjackers, like the ones I just described. I want to make carjacking a Federal offense with harsh penalties. I want thugs who take cars at gunpoint to stay in a cell so long that when they get out -- they're too old to drive.//

Two, call deadbeat dads onto the carpet. Right now, a single mother here in Missouri can be struggling to keep the kids fed and clothed on her small salary... while their father's up in Chicago, picking out a new Chevy truck with terrycloth pom-poms and a gun rack. He could be six months behind in child-support, but no one can touch him because he's over state lines. Well, I think that's a disgrace, and it's about time the long arm of the law reaches out over that state line... taps that deadbeat dad on the shoulder... and says loud and clear -- time to pay up, buddy. Cough up the cash or go to jail.

Three, strengthen laws dealing with sexual and domestic violence. To start with, we need to protect the victim's privacy. It's cruel to put her in the spotlight. And I want repeat sex and domestic-violence offenders behind bars until

trial. Today, even a repeat offender can get arrested and be out on bond hours later... stalking his next victim... or beating his wife and kids for turning him in. I want him detained until trial, and I want the prosecution to be able to use past convictions against him. Right now, so-called little details -- like the fact he's a three-time loser -- can't even be mentioned in court. And that's wrong. Let him pay for what he's done.//

Four, crack down on gang violence. I want gangs to be reclassified under the law as criminal enterprises, just like any other organized crime. That way, we can go after the leaders, and we can deal harshly with them, and we can untie the hands of good cops so they can clean up decent neighborhoods. I also want to toughen the penalties for using juveniles in crimes. Gangs right now can send under-age kids out to do their dirty work, because they're minors and they'll get off if they're caught. I think the older gang members should be punished harshly for treating these little kids like bullet fodder.//

Five, protection for the elderly. It's absurd that the folks who've contributed to this society all through their lives have to live in terror when they're old and frail, just because some young punks see them as an easy target. They're as low as the thugs who pick on children, and I want to beef up the laws that put them behind bars so they're not on the streets mugging grandmothers. Instead, they'd be in front of a police camera... mugging pictures for their criminal files.//

Six, Habeas Corpus reform. Habeas Corpus is a fancy way of saying, if you're found guilty of something, you can challenge the decision in court. It's supposed to protect the innocent, but it's turned into a ridiculous perversion of the law. Criminal lawyers use it to postpone justice. A guilty verdict can mean seemingly endless appeals that choke our courts and delay justice. It's about time we put a stop to this travesty. Let them have one Habeas Corpus petition and be done with it.//

Seven, a Federal death penalty. I think certain acts of violence deserve the ultimate penalty. I'm talking about assassinations, murder for hire, terrorism and other depraved acts. These people are merchants of death, who trade in death... so when they kill someone, let's complete the transaction.//

And eight, firearms. This one's short and sweet. I want tougher penalties for any crime committed with a gun. Period.//

(Brief pause.)

Now, I'm not saying that tougher laws are going to fix everything. I'm a firm believer in justice, but I think punishment is only part of the solution.

The other part has a more human face.

Tomorrow's criminals are still just kids today. And while I believe in resources for law enforcement... and in reform for law enforcement... I also believe that at some point early in life, a youngster at a critical juncture can be steered to a life of right... or a life of terrible wrong. It all depends on the kind of soil you plant these kids in... and how you nourish them.

That's why I believe our weed-and-seed program is so very crucial. Weed-and-seed means going into a rough neighborhood... eradicating the 'weeds' of violent crime that can choke a young life... and replacing them with 'seeds' of social opportunity and reform.

That's what Operation Crackdown is all about: The Federal Government, working with local law enforcement, reclaiming crack houses and giving them back to the community.

And that's what your COPS program, here in Fox Park, is all about, too, on a local level. Real people making real changes in your own neighborhood.

You know, just the other day, only a few blocks from here, police officers raided a crack house on Ohio Avenue. And as those officers came out of the house with those drug-dealers handcuffed, the neighbors -- maybe some of you -- came out to their porches and gave those police a standing ovation and a cheer.

That's what this country's hungry for. Americans want to take crime out of their neighborhoods... and put the neighbors back. We've got to weed the poison growth from the soil... and in its place, plant the seeds of hope.

I know you just want to be able to walk down to Worth's Market, or down to Fox Park for a stroll, or over to Bartlett's Grocery Store for a newspaper or Mary's Restaurant for a cup of coffee ((even if she is a Democrat))... and you want to do it

knowing you're safe in your own neighborhood, that you've helped build and kept alive.

I think John Mirgaux said it best. He lives near that old crack house over on Ohio. And he said he and his wife Eleanor had been thinking about selling their house and just moving away from the drugs and all the ugly crime.

But you know... he's lived in Fox Hill his whole life. It's his neighborhood.

And after the raid... he and Eleanor did some thinking. And he put it this way. He said:

"You know, I've been waiting for this to happen. Now... we're going to make a stand."

Please join us... join John and Eleanor... and Ohio Avenue... and Fox Park... and St. Louis... and Missouri... and this whole United States... and make a stand against crime today.

Because the people deserve it.

Thank you... thank you all for listening... God bless Fox Park, Missouri... and God bless the United States of America.

(Askew/Bunton)
September 27, 1992
7:00 p.m.
CRIME

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DeSALES CATHOLIC CHURCH
FOX PARK, MISSOURI
SEPTEMBER 28, 1992
10:00 A.M.

Thank you for that kind introduction, and good morning, everybody.

It's delightful to be in Fox Park. St. Louis is such a friendly city. It really warms my heart. So thank you for your wonderful Missouri welcome.

I want to apologize to everyone who was counting on the usual Sunday Bingo game last night. I hear the Secret Service spoiled your fun when they had to check out the building. Well, I'm sorry you missed the game, but it was smart to stay away. Believe me, you don't want to be jumping up suddenly and yelling "Bingo!" around these guys.//

I want to talk to you today about what I consider government's first and most-basic function: to protect every American citizen from violence -- at home and on the streets.

Now... that's nothing new. Security is one big reason government was created in the first place.

What's is new... are the terrible forms violence has taken recently... beyond anything our founding fathers could've imagined.

A whole generation has grown up with the threat of nuclear terror hanging like a sword over its head. And it's been

horrible. Our kids had nightmares. It seemed like it would never end.

Well, it did end. And today I can stand up here and say something no President could ever say before.

The Cold War is over. Freedom finished first.//

Now, we need to win the peace... right here at home and in the streets of Fox Park.//

What's the point, after all... of winning a Cold War if our grandparents and grandchildren lock themselves behind the bars on their windows, afraid to come out from a jail called home?

Now, I'm not saying we haven't made progress against violent crime. We certainly have. We've slowed it dramatically the past twelve years. And we're beginning to turn the tide on the drugs that so often fuel it.

But we got soft on crime in the 1960s, and we paid for it. By the time we cracked down again in the 80s, violent crime had gone up 400% in twenty years. Since we cracked down, it's gone up just 27% in a little over ten years, and the overall crime index is actually down.

So we've stemmed the tide... prevented millions of crimes... but of course, that's not enough. It's never enough.

The face of crime is changing fast, and we need our laws to react just as quickly... so we can beat it.

Let me give you a timely example. Carjacking -- a brand-new word for a brand-new crime. Someone figured out it's easy to steal a car when it's already running, with the keys in the

ignition. Of course, the owner's behind the wheel. So the criminal uses a gun.

I want to tell you a story that sickens me, but describes what we're up against. Just a few weeks ago, in a nice neighborhood near Baltimore, a woman was sitting in her car at a stop sign. In broad daylight, two men forced her out of her car and drove off.

But she got tangled in her seatbelt outside the car. Or maybe she was hanging on. What mother wouldn't? Her baby was in the back seat.

The mother was dragged for almost two miles. The thieves tried to knock her off by banging into a fence. And tragically, she died.

And you know what they did with her little baby? They tossed her out of the car like a piece of trash.

Miraculously, that baby survived.

And you know what? America is going to survive, too! We cannot put up with this kind of animal behavior.//

These people have no place in a decent society. And as far as this President's concerned, they can go to jail... they can stay in jail... and they can rot in jail.//

For that to happen, we need tough laws that don't bend over backwards protecting the criminal... while saying to the victim, "Tough luck, buddy."//

Now, my opponent has learned to talk tough on crime. But let me tell you: When push comes to shove, what he really

believes is that same old hogwash that says it's society's fault when someone gets mugged. And society should suffer.

Maybe that's why an average inmate in Arkansas served less than one-fifth of his sentence last year. Maybe that's why violent crime in Arkansas went up almost 60 percent in the 80s - - over twice the national average. And maybe that's why Arkansas in the 80s had the nation's biggest increase in overall crime -- and the third-biggest in violent crime.

If you don't believe me... just ask the Fraternal Order of Police in Little Rock, Arkansas. They know Bill Clinton's record best. And guess who they're endorsing for President. That's right -- it's not Bill Clinton. It's George Bush.

The police know better than anyone... that we're all vulnerable: Men, women, children. White, black, brown. Young, and old. Rich and poor. To a bullet or a blade -- we all look just the same.

Americans deserve a government that goes after the problem - - that prevents and punishes crime, and helps victims.//

That's why I want to see America make a move at the Federal level... to step forward and support state and local police around the country -- in real, concrete ways. We need to help them fight.//

That's why, twelve-hundred and one days ago, on June 15, 1989 -- the same day Mikhail Gorbachev first hinted the Berlin Wall might someday fall -- I sent a comprehensive crime bill to

Capitol Hill. I offered the hand of partnership to Congress, and asked it to help me fight crime on a national level.

Listen to this: Since I first sent that bill to the Hill in 1989, here in the United States, we've had almost 60,000 murders, 260,000 rapes, 1,600,000 robberies and 2,600,000 assaults. By the way, 506 of those violent crimes took place right here in Fox Park.

Think about that. Enough people to fill the city of St. Louis more than ten times over... were brutalized while that bill languished on the Hill.

I know the numbers are staggering. I know that Americans sit down in front of their TVs at night... watch the news and ask... why doesn't somebody do something about this incredible mess? People are dying in the streets, for God's sake.

Well... twelve-hundred and one days later... Congress still hasn't acted on my Bill.

I think if they had a glacier on Capitol Hill, they'd name it "Speedy."//

But frustrating as this crime bill has been for me... it's still my job as President to get results. There are good people on both sides of the issue, working in good faith for a compromise... and I will not rest until this matter is settled.

This very week, we're close to an agreement on a bill the Congress could send me -- and I will sign. The compromise bill could include, for example, a workable death-penalty provision for horrible murders... committed by terrorists, assassins and

drug lords. And it would target the shocking violence we see on TV -- the drive-by shootings and gang turf-wars.

It could also include provisions recommended by Supreme Court Justice Powell, to short-circuit an endless process of appeals that make a mockery of justice.

There are other items prompting strong feelings on all sides, but we're making a good-faith effort to reach a compromise.

So I want you to know what's on my crime agenda. I'm not asking for anything but common sense and reasonable justice... especially for women, children and elderly victims of crime.

I think I can get some of these items this year -- then, I'll come back to get more.

First, apprehend and severely punish carjackers, like the ones I just described. I want to make carjacking a Federal offense with harsh penalties. I want thugs who take cars at gunpoint to stay in a cell so long that when they get out -- they're too old to drive.//

Second, call deadbeat dads onto the carpet. Right now, a single mother here in Missouri can be struggling to keep the kids fed and clothed on her small salary... while their father's up in Chicago, picking out a new Chevy truck with terrycloth pom-poms and a gun rack. He could be 'way behind in child-support, but no one can touch him because he's over state lines. Well, I think that's a disgrace, and it's about time the long arm of the law reaches out over that state line... taps that deadbeat dad on the

shoulder... and says loud and clear -- time to pay up, buddy. Cough up the cash or go to jail.

Third, strengthen laws dealing with sexual and domestic violence. For starters, we need to protect the victim. It's bad enough a rape victim is attacked in the first place. Then she takes the stand and gets attacked by the rapist's lawyers. I say that's two too many attacks.

And I want repeat sex and domestic-violence offenders behind bars until trial. Today, even a repeat offender can get arrested and be out on bond hours later... stalking his next victim... or beating his wife and kids for turning him in. I want him detained until trial, and I want the prosecution to be able to use past convictions against him. Right now, certain details can't even be mentioned in court. So-called little details -- like the fact that everyone and their dog, within ten country miles, knows the guy has done this before. And that's wrong. Let him pay for what he's done.//

Fourth, crack down on gang violence. I want gangs to be treated like the criminal enterprises they are. That way, we can go after the leaders, and we can deal harshly with them, and we can untie the hands of good cops so they can clean up decent neighborhoods. I also want to toughen the penalties for using juveniles in crimes. Gangs right now can send under-age kids out to do their dirty work, because they're minors and will get off if they're caught. I think the older gang members should be

punished harshly for treating these little kids like bullet fodder.//

Fifth, protection for the elderly. It's absurd that the folks who've contributed to this society all through their lives have to live in terror when they're old and frail, just because some young punks see them as an easy target. They're as low as the thugs who pick on children, and I want to beef up the laws that put these thugs behind bars -- so instead of being on the streets mugging grandmothers -- they're mugging for the police camera and their criminal file.//

Sixth, Habeas Corpus reform. Habeas Corpus is a fancy way of saying, if you're found guilty of something, you can challenge the decision in court. It's supposed to protect the innocent, but it's turned into a ridiculous perversion of the law. Can you believe that a lot of these petitions drag on for more than a decade? Criminal lawyers use it to postpone justice. A guilty verdict can mean seemingly endless appeals that choke our courts and delay justice. It's about time we put a stop to this travesty. Let them have one Habeas Corpus petition and be done with it.//

Seventh, a Federal death penalty. I think certain acts of violence deserve the ultimate penalty. I'm talking about assassinations, murder for hire, terrorism and other depraved acts. And add to that the new urban violence we see with gangs. Drive-by shootings, random violence, gang massacres -- these

people are merchants of death, who trade in death... so when they kill someone, let's complete the transaction.//

And eighth, firearms. This one's short and sweet. I want much-tougher penalties for criminal use of firearms. Period.//

(Brief pause.)

Now, I'm not saying that tougher laws are going to fix everything. I'm a firm believer in justice, but I think punishment is only part of the solution.

The other part has a more human face.

Tomorrow's criminals are still just kids today. And while I believe in resources for law enforcement... and in reform for law enforcement... I also believe that at some point early in life, a youngster at a critical juncture can be steered to a life of right... or a life of terrible wrong. It all depends on the kind of soil you plant these kids in... and how you nourish them.

That's why I believe our weed-and-seed program is so very crucial. Weed-and-seed means going into a rough neighborhood... eradicating the 'weeds' of violent crime that can choke a young life... and replacing them with 'seeds' of social opportunity and reform.

That's what Operation Crackdown in St. Louis is all about: The Federal Government, working with local law enforcement, reclaiming crack houses and giving them back to the community.

And that's what your COPS program, here in Fox Park, is all about, too, on a local level. Real people making real changes in your own neighborhood.

You know, just the other day, only a few blocks from here, police officers raided a crack house on Ohio Avenue. And as those officers came out of the house with those drug-dealers handcuffed, the neighbors -- maybe some of you -- came out to their porches and gave those police a standing ovation and a cheer.

That's what this country's hungry for. Americans want to take crime out of their neighborhoods... and put the neighbors back. We've got to weed the poison growth from the soil... and in its place, plant the seeds of hope.

I know you just want to be able to walk down to Worth's Market, or down to Fox Park for a stroll, or over to Bartlett's Grocery Store for a newspaper or Mary's Restaurant for a cup of coffee ((even if she is a Democrat))... and you want to do it knowing you're safe in your own neighborhood, that you've helped build and kept alive.

I think John Mirgoux said it best. He lives near that old crack house over on Ohio. And he said he and his wife Eleanor had been thinking about selling their house and just moving away from the drugs and all the ugly crime.

But you know... he's lived in Fox Hill his whole life. It's his neighborhood.

And after the raid... he and Eleanor did some thinking. And he put it this way. He said:

"You know, I've been waiting for this to happen. Now... we're going to make a stand."

Congress, can you hear him?

Please join us... join John and Eleanor... and Ohio Avenue... and Fox Park... and St. Louis... and Missouri... and this whole United States... and make a stand against crime today.

Because the people deserve it.

Thank you... thank you all for listening... God bless Fox Park, Missouri... and God bless the United States of America.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 9/25/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5:00PM, TODAY, SEPT. 2

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DeSALE CATHOLIC CHURCH
FOX PARK, MICHIGAN *Missouri*
SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 28, 1992 (MONDAY)

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BAKER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	X MOORE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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CALIO <i>n/c</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH <i>n/c</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TUTWILER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	X ZOELICK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY <i>Lee Weiberman</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	KAUFMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	GROOMES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MCGROARTY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide comments on the attached directly to Dan McGroarty, Rm. 122, x2930, with a copy to this office NO LATER THAN 5:00PM, TODAY, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

Called 3 times

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

2 SEP 25 12:07

(Askew/Bunton)
September 25, 1992
12:00 p.m.
CRIME

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DeSALE CATHOLIC CHURCH
FOX PARK, MISSOURI
SEPTEMBER 28, 1992
10:00 A.M.

Thank you for that kind introduction, and good morning,
everybody.

It's delightful to be in St. Louis, such a friendly city.
It really warms my heart. So thank you for your wonderful
Missouri welcome.

And I'm afraid I have to apologize to everyone who was
counting on the usual Sunday-evening Bingo game last night. I
hear the Secret Service spoiled your fun when they had to check
out the building. Well, I'm sorry you missed the game, but
believe me, it was smart to stay away. You don't want to be
shouting out or making sudden moves around these guys. (("Bingo"
could take on a whole new meaning.))//

I want to talk to you today about what I consider
government's most-basic and maybe its most-important function.

I know what you're thinking. You've been listening to that
other fellow... and all you can think about is taxes. Well, I'm
not going to talk about taxes today. But I think it's only fair
to warn you that for years down in Arkansas, my opponent has been
trying to declare April 15th a religious holiday.//

But what I do want to talk about is the fundamental duty of our government... to protect every American citizen from violence -- at home, on the streets, and abroad.

Now... that's nothing new. Security's one big reason government was created in the first place.

What's new... are the terrible forms violence has taken recently... beyond anything our founding fathers could've imagined.

A whole generation has grown up with the threat of nuclear terror hanging like a sword over its head. And it's been horrible. Our kids had nightmares. It seemed like it would never end.

Well, it did end. And today I can stand up here and say something no President could ever say before.

The Cold War is over. Freedom finished first.//

Now, we need to win the peace... right here at home and in the streets of Fox Park.//

What's the point, after all... of winning a Cold War if our grandparents and grandchildren lock themselves behind the bars on their windows, afraid to come out from a jail called home?

Now, I'm not saying we haven't made progress against violent crime. We certainly have. We've slowed it dramatically the past twelve years. And we're beginning to turn the tide on the drugs that often fuels it. ((Insert brief description of our greatest areas of progress.))

But the face of crime is changing fast, and we need our laws to react just as fast, if we're ever going to beat it.

Carjacking, for a timely example -- a brand-new word for a brand-new crime. Someone figured out it's easy to steal a car when it's already running, with the keys in the ignition. Of course, that means the owner's behind the wheel. So they use a gun.

It makes me sick to think about it... but just a few weeks ago, in a middle-class suburb of Washington. D.C., a Federal employee -- she worked at (?) -- was sitting in her car at a red light at (time of day). Two men stuck a gun in her face, pushed her out, and took off.

But she hung on to the car. And you know why? Because her baby was in the back seat.

She was dragged for miles. The thieves tried to knock her off by banging into a guard rail. And finally, they did. She fell off. Dead.

And you know what they did with her ((X-month-old)) baby? At forty miles an hour -- they threw her out the window like so much trash. Never even slowed down.

The miracle is, that baby survived.

And you know what? America's going to survive, too. We don't have to put up with this kind of depravity.//

These people have no place in a decent society. And as far as this President's concerned, they can go to jail... they can stay in jail... and they can stew in jail.//

But how do we do it? How do we respond to these horrible new forms of crime?

Well, we've had a comprehensive crime strategy in place for some time now... and it's effective. But criminals are working overtime. So it's time to dramatically step up our efforts and stare down the realities of crime in 1992.

And so today I'm challenging Congress to action.

Twelve-hundred and fifteen days ago, on June 15, 1989, back when ((notable occurrence on or around that day)), I sent a comprehensive Crime Bill to Congress.

It never came back.

I've followed up with new versions... tried to work something out with Congress... and still -- nothing.

You know, since I first sent that bill to the Hill in 1989, there have been ((X number of rapes, X number of murders, X number of assaults and X number of robberies)) in the United States. (X number) of those violent crimes took place right here in Fox Park.

I know the numbers are staggering. I know that Americans sit down in front of their TVs at night... watch the news and say... why doesn't somebody do something about this incredible mess? People are dying in the streets, for God's sake.

Well... you've heard me talk about the gridlock Congress. It's a truly amazing phenomenon. If they had an iceberg over there, they'd nickname it "Speedy."

And liberals in Congress like to say that George Bush won't bend on this, won't bend on that. And I admit that I do stick to my principles.

But it's still my job as President to get results.

So today I'm going to say something you don't hear very often from Washington. I'm going to bend a little, for the good of the country.

Congress wants the Brady Bill. I don't. It calls for a waiting period when someone wants to buy a gun... and I don't think that kind of stuff slows a criminal down one bit.

But I do know that some people in Congress genuinely believe the Brady Bill could save some innocent lives. And they won't support my Crime Bill unless I support their Brady Bill.

So today, I'm prepared to break that logjam.

Congress, I sent over to you this morning eight points of action I want included my Crime Bill. Some of them you've seen before, and some of them are new. But I want to make sure they all get into the Bill.

You agree to all of them... you pass the comprehensive Bill within the next thirty days... you add the Brady Bill on to the end...

And I'll sign the whole package into law -- including Brady.

Fair enough? Thirty days doesn't seem too short a notice, in view of those twelve-hundred-and-fifteen that've gone by already. I'll give you the Brady Bill wrapped with a ribbon.

Now, folks, in case you're wondering about those eight points I sent over to Congress this morning... let me assure you I'm not asking for anything but common sense and reasonable justice. I want to offer Federal money and support to help States do the following things:

One, apprehend and severely punish carjackers, like the ones I just described. I want to make carjacking a Federal offense with harsh penalties. I want thugs who take cars at gunpoint to stay in a cell so long that when they get out -- they've forgotten how to drive.//

((Two, call deadbeat dads onto the carpet. Right now, a single mother here in Missouri can be struggling to keep the kids fed and clothed on her small salary... while their father's over in East St. Louis, picking out a new Chevy truck with terrycloth pom-poms and a gun rack. He could be six months behind in child-support, but no one can touch him because he's over state lines. Well, I think that's a disgrace, and it's about time the long arm of the law reaches out over that state line... taps that deadbeat dad on the shoulder... and says loud and clear -- time to pay up, buddy. Cough up the cash or go to jail.)) [Do we want to hold this section until Wednesday?]

Three, strengthen laws dealing with sexual and domestic violence. To start with, we need to protect the victim's privacy. It's cruel to put her in the spotlight. And I want repeat sex and domestic-violence offenders behind bars until trial. Today, even a repeat offender can get arrested and be out

on bond hours later... stalking his next victim... or beating his wife and kids for turning him in. I want him detained until trial, and I want the prosecution to be able to use past convictions against him. Right now, little details -- like the fact he's a three-time loser -- can't even be mentioned in court. And that's wrong. Let him pay for what he's done.//

Four, crack down on gang violence. I want gangs to be reclassified under the law as criminal enterprises, just like any other organized crime. That way, we can go after the leaders, and we can deal harshly with them, and we can untie the hands of good cops so they can clean up decent neighborhoods. I also want to toughen the penalties for using juveniles in crimes. Gangs right now can send underage kids out to do their dirty work, because they're minors and they'll get off if they're caught. I think the older gang members should be punished harshly for treating these little kids like personal slaves.//

Five, protection for the elderly. It's absurd that the folks who've contributed to this society all through their lives have to live in terror when they're old and frail, just because some young punks see them as an easy target. They're as low as the thugs who pick on children, and I want to beef up the laws that put them behind bars so they're not on the streets mugging grandmothers.//

Six, Habeas Corpus reform. Habeas Corpus is a fancy way of saying, if you're found guilty of something, you can appeal the decision to a higher court. It's supposed to protect the

innocent, but it's turned into a ridiculous perversion of the law. Criminal lawyers use it to postpone justice. A guilty verdict means an automatic appeal. It goes on and on, sometimes up to ((ten??)) appeals... keeping criminals on the streets and choking our courts. It's about time we put a stop to this travesty of justice. Let them appeal once and be done with it.//

Seven, a Federal death penalty. I think certain acts of violence deserve the ultimate penalty. I'm talking about assassinations, murder for hire, terrorism and other depraved acts. They're an outrage, and should be treated as such.

And eight, firearms. I want tougher penalties for any crime committed with a gun. Period.//

(Brief pause.)

Now, I'm not saying that tougher laws are going to fix everything. I'm a firm believer in justice, but I think punishment is only part of the solution.

The other part has a more human face.

Tomorrow's criminals are still just kids today. And while I believe in resources for law enforcement... and in reform for law enforcement... I also believe that at some point early in life, a youngster at a critical juncture can be steered to a life of right... or a life of terrible wrong. It all depends on the kind of soil you plant these kids in... and how you nourish them.

That's why I believe our weed-and-seed program is so very crucial. Weed-and-seed means going into a rough neighborhood... eradicating the 'weeds' of violent crime that can choke a young

life... and replacing them with 'seeds' of social opportunity and reform.

That's what Operation Crackdown is all about. Taking a crack house and giving it back to the community.

You know, just the other day, only a few blocks from here, police officers raided a crack house on Ohio Avenue. And as those officers came out of the old ((brownstone?)) with those drug-dealers handcuffed, the neighbors -- maybe some of you -- came out onto their porches and gave those police a standing ovation and a cheer.

That's what this country's hungry for. Americans want to take the hoods out of neighborhoods... and give 'em back to the neighbors. We've got to weed the poison growth from the soil... and in its place, plant the seeds of hope.

I know you want to just be able to walk down to Whaley's Five and Dime, or Mr. Grady's dry-cleaners, down to Fox Park for a stroll, or over to Peaches and Rufus' for a newspaper and a cup of coffee... and you want to do it knowing you're safe in your own neighborhood, that you've helped build and kept alive.

I think John Mirgaux said it best. He lives next to that old crack house over on Ohio. And he said he and his wife Eleanor had been thinking about selling their house and just moving away from the drugs and all the ugly crime.

But you know... he's lived in Fox Hill his whole life. It's his neighborhood.

And after the raid... he and Eleanor did some thinking. And he put it this way. He said:

"You know, I've been waiting for this to happen. Now... we're going to make a stand."

Congress -- do you hear me? It's time to make a stand.

Not next year. Not next month. Now.

Please join me... join John and Eleanor... and Ohio Avenue... and Fox Park... and St. Louis... and Missouri... and this whole United States... and make a stand against crime today.

Thank you... thank you all for listening... God bless Fox Park, Missouri... and God bless the United States of America.

September 25, 1992

MEMORANDUM TO: Paul Korfonta

FROM: Julie E. Samuels *[Signature]*
Assistant to the Attorney General

SUBJECT: Comments on Presidential Remarks: DeSole
Catholic Church, Fox Park, Missouri

Based on a meeting held this evening, we understand that this speech is likely to be substantially re-written. Please provide the revised version to Paul McNulty, fax number 514-2424. You can reach Paul through the DOJ Command Center, if necessary.

Lee Liebermann *[Signature]*
for Bryan
12:15 days.

Dennis *[Signature]*

Election - looks manipulative
[Signature]

Why not talk about

~~Contrast to Demo.~~

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671		P. 1 # of pages
To <i>James Burton</i>	From <i>Rich McClure</i>	
White House	Co.	
Dept. <i>Special Writing</i>	Phone # <i>314-751-3222</i>	
Fax #	Fax #	

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mel Lukens
Dave Anderson

FROM: Richard McClure *Rich*

DATE: September 25, 1992

RE: Fox Park Event Program
September 28, 1992

Here is our proposal for the program at the St. Francis Desales Parish Hall in the Fox Park neighborhood in St. Louis:

• Upon the arrival of the President, he is greeted in the holding room by a small group of law enforcement, neighborhood, and community leaders. The purpose of this greeting is to have the U.S. District Attorney, Steve Higgins, and the President of the Police Board, David Robbins introduce the President to individuals active in crime prevention and law enforcement programs funded by the federal government. This also allows the President to refer to these programs and individuals related to them in his speech. Present would be:

Steven B. Higgins, U.S. Attorney, Eastern District
David Robbins, President of the St. Louis Police Board
Clarence Harmon, St. Louis Police Chief
Rev. Bill Charlton, Director of North Side Team Ministries
Lt. Tom Malecek, Juvenile Commander, St. Louis Police
Delores Atkins, teacher, Sumner High School teacher and parent, active in school drug and crime prevention programs.

• These individuals highlight important crime programs funded with federal resources:

Operation Crack Down--this program is designed to deed back to the community seized drug houses. This is a new program, recently approved by the Justice Department. The U. S.

Attorney has seized 15 houses, and just deeded the first house to North Side Team ministries to be used for single family low income housing. (A news clipping is attached.) Rev. Charlton and U. S. Attorney Higgins are familiar with this program.

School Assistance Program--This program uses funds from the federal Narcotics Control Assistance Program to provide police officers in and around St. Louis schools in higher crime areas. Officers have been placed in or within 1000 ft. of four high schools, five middle schools and one elementary school. (Press release attached). Lt. Malecek, Chief Harmon, and Delores Atkins are familiar with this program.

Gun Free School Zone Program--In cooperation with the DEA and the public schools the program uses a new federal law to obtain firearms convictions for offenses committed at schools. The U.S. Attorney recently obtained the first conviction with a six year, no parole sentence. **Also, Operation Triggerlock**, a Department of Justice Program which uses the federal armed career criminal laws to put away the most violent street criminals has met with local success. Steve Higgins and Lt. Malecek are familiar with these programs.

Community Oriented Policing (COPS)--This program provides a regular presence of the same assigned officers in specific neighborhoods and around schools. It is a philosophy of police work that permeates the entire police force. It gets officers out of their cars for about half of the time, and allows them to become familiar with a particular neighborhood and its problems. Chief Harmon and Dave Robbins are familiar with this program

• The program for the crowd event in the parish hall could begin 5 to 10 minutes before the President arrives and continue as the President is greeting the law enforcement and community leaders.

Introductions to be made by David
Robbins, President of the Police Board:

Parish Priest, Father Rich Bockroft--
Richard Swateck, Circuit Attorney (for
brief remarks)
Steve Higgins, U. S. Attorney, (for brief

remarks)

Bill Webster, attorney general. (for brief
remarks)

(Note: after the President arrives, Robbins
leaves stage after introducing Sen. Danforth)

Senator Jack Danforth, (for brief remarks,
introduces Gov. Ashcroft)

Governor John Ashcroft, (for brief remarks,
introduces Chief Harmon)

Chief Harmon introduces the President

• We will work with you on those that are on the stage
when the President is speaking. Please let us know your reaction to
this proposal so we can make contact with the participants.

cc: Gary Foster

BRIEFING FOR PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH FOR SEPTEMBER 29, 1992 TRIP TO ST. LOUIS

A BACKGROUNDER ON CIVIC LEADERS AND FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN OPERATION CRACKDOWN

REV. BILL CHARLTON, Director of North Side Team Ministries (314--534-5656)

Age: 55

Native: born in Conrad, Montana.

Professional background: An ordained Presbyterian minister, Charlton has been Executive Director of since 1990. He is also Executive Director of the Water Tower Community Center, which is a neighborhood based recreation center. His overriding objective: get to kids before trouble gets to them. He initially got involved in order to provide recreation and contact with street kids. Within the last two years, the gangs have infiltrated the area. He found some of the kids at the rec center were falling out and into gangs. His programs are targeted at keeping them out of the gangs. He also has a program started working with the kids already gang members.

As head of NSTM, he is in charge of the property on Pleasant Avenue. He reported this morning that they plan to move a homeless family (mother with five children) into the house as soon as they can make it habitable. The woman's previous home was condemned. According to Rev. Charlton, she is hard working at a minimum wage job, is very bright and very determined to care for her family.

EDUCATION: Masters in Public Administration, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville; Masters in Theology, San Francisco Theology Center; UCLA.

PERSONAL DETAIL: Married, father to seven children.

NORTH SIDE TEAM MINISTRY:

First established in 1964 to provide religious education to the residents of Pruitt-Igoe, a low-income housing development. The group -- a collaborative effort of four Christian denominations, quickly realized more than spiritual enrichment was needed here. They started collecting and distributing food, clothing and household goods to the needy Pruitt-Igoe residents. After the development was shut down (actually, blown up), many people served by NSTM were forced to relocate to North St. Louis. NSTM followed them and set up a store-front office on East Grand. Now among other functions, NSTM rehabs apartments and provides single family homes; it manages Section 8 housing; it helps in community organization, leadership and consultation as well as offer parent support groups, family nutrition and budgeting classes, employment resourcing, emergency transportation and a variety of programs for children.

Currently has a staff of 14 -- seven in the office, seven at the rec. center. Funding half from the Monsanto Fund and Pillsbury Foundation and the other half from private citizens and the community.

Neighbors Reclaim Drug Den

Seized Crack House Will Go To Needy

By Margaret Gilman
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Last year, 4247 Pleasant Avenue was a "crack house" where drug traffickers streamed in and out, menacing neighbors whose young children played on a nearby empty lot in the shadow of the city's old Water Tower.

On Saturday, the dilapidated house with bars on its windows was returned to the community. The keys were handed over to a church group, the North Side Team Ministry, which plans to rehabilitate the building and turn it over to a family needing a home.

U.S. Attorney Stephen B. Higgins, who was instrumental in Operation Crackdown, the program that turned the house around, said Saturday that he hoped the program could become a model for the nation.

"One single house where drugs can be bought can ultimately destroy an entire neighborhood," Higgins said at a ceremony at the house. "If we don't act, people looking for drugs will continue to stream into ... neighborhoods. The communities need help, and we intend to do everything we can."

Authorities seized the house using federal forfeiture laws that give them the right to confiscate houses where drugs are sold or stored, Higgins said. Ever since Operation Crackdown began a year ago, three houses in St. Louis County and 12 in St. Louis have been seized in drug raids, he said.

The house on Pleasant Avenue was



Larry Williams/Post-Dispatch
Bill Charlton (left) and Marie Tessa Thompson of North Side Team Ministry at the former crack house at 4247 Pleasant Avenue that their organization will be rehabilitating.

Houses

From page one

the first to be donated to a neighborhood group.

The program is a joint effort of federal and local law enforcement, the city and neighborhood groups.

"At the heart of this is making neighborhoods safe," said Mayor Vincent C. Schoenheit Jr., who also attended the ceremony. "You can't have a viable neighborhood when you have a drug house openly operating."

"The best weapon the city has against a drug dealer is a committed neighborhood," Schoenheit said. "Drug dealers hate neighborhoods that care about what's happening next door and down the block. They hate neighbors who want to make their own streets safer."

Some neighbors and their children gathered around to watch the proceedings, while others played down the block in the Saturday sunshine.

Sybil Canada, 29, had her 3-month-old son in tow. Canada, who has seven children, said she welcomed any effort to rid the neighborhoods of drugs.

"There is so much violence out there, you don't know what's going to happen," she said. "I try to keep my eye on all" of the children.

John Webster, 37, a neighbor and father of two, sported a Bart Simpson T-shirt that said "CRACK KILLS, BLACK POWER."

Maivis Tessa Thompson, a board member of the ministry and a neighborhood resident, said crack houses such as the one on Pleasant breed fear and violence and provide terrible role models for children.

"Neighborhoods are saying we're not going to take it any more," she said. "You want your place safe. You don't want to feel like you're living behind bars and armor. You don't want to be afraid to go out of your house."

U.S. Marshal Willie Gresson said the program gives people in neighborhoods "the opportunity to take the power back one neighborhood at a time."

Sunday
9-6-92

9/5/92
SEP 25 1992 16:19
09-24-1992 16:01 FROM
U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL
83147512128 P.04P.5

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

COMMENTARY

A Powerful Weapon Against Drug Suspects

Residents Near Crack Houses Support Seizure Of Assets By Authorities

By Stephen R. Higgins

On Dec. 12 of last year, U.S. marshals and drug enforcement agents served seizure papers prepared by the U.S. attorney's office on seven dope houses in St. Louis. Part of Operation Crackdown — a program designed to save neighborhoods from the scourge of drug dealers — those seizures brought the total to one dozen crack and drug houses shut down and taken away in the past three months.

Even though it was early morning on a dull, rainy December day, neighbors on one street went outside to applaud as police officers and federal agents did their work. On other blocks, residents told TV reporters they were happy the houses had been seized. One man spoke of his 13-year-old daughter, about how he didn't want her to be around a crack house.

No parent does. The purpose of the program and the point of the asset-forfeiture laws is to punish drug dealers by taking away not only their profits, but anything that facilitates their work. Health and home are precious to everyone — you, me, even a man or woman trafficking in illegal drugs. But a person who persists in using his residence as a literal drug store runs the risk of losing that home. At the same time, the neighborhood gets a chance to be saved from the deterioration inherent in drug trafficking.

That is what happened on Dec. 12. On seven blocks in St. Louis, seven houses from which drugs were sold were seized under the provisions of the federal asset forfeiture laws. In a painstakingly slow process, we are trying to get drugs off our streets and out of our neighborhoods. The asset-forfeiture laws help.

And the program has been welcomed with widespread support. Operation Crackdown has the full backing and endorsement of the mayor of St. Louis, the St. Louis county executive, the St. Louis chief of police, the director of public safety, Operation Safe Street, Conservancy, Churches United for Community Action, civic and community groups

as well as cops on their beats, narcotics detectives, DEA and FBI agents.

These are not people who are "hooked on the drug war," but who are horrified by drugs — pure and simple. They don't want to see their neighborhoods destroyed. They would like to know that the investment they made in their house in the city was a sound one. These are people who feel their children should be able to ride their bikes and play outside on the sidewalks — and not run the risk of being murdered by warring drug dealers. These are people who are concerned about the fate of their families and our city.

The asset-forfeiture laws have been the subject of numerous articles — more than a dozen in this paper alone. Hundreds of columns inches have detailed the negative aspects of asset forfeiture and alleged abuses of various forfeiture programs, state and federal.

However, when an invitation for reporters to go with authorities on an actual seizure was extended, it was ignored. The next day, a short story based on a press release was buried in the back pages. Secularly, seizures and forfeitures that are warranted, welcomed by the community and well within the parameters of the laws get short shrift. They shouldn't.

There are entire blocks in our city that are being decimated by drugs. If taking that dealer's house away from him will put him out of business, then I say, take that house away. And take away his car. Take away his jewelry. Take away his cash. And destroy his stash of drugs.

And if taking that house away will deter others, will force them to realize that if they deal drugs in their homes they run the risk of losing those homes, I say, all the more reason for the program. Every day our neighborhoods are jeopardized by the presence of drug dealers. Children are put at constant risk.

If the seizure is unwarranted, the person is prosecuted — by law. He can file for return of the property; a hearing is held; a judge weighs the evidence and decides whether that home or car or jewelry or cash should be returned. In some cases, it is

in most cases, the owner of the property walks away and makes no attempt at retrieval. And, in most cases, it is not because the owner is too naive to hire an attorney. It is because the owner knows that challenging the seizure will result in subjecting him or her to the scrutiny of the legal process — scrutiny that will expose any illegal transactions going on at the residence.

For example, take the house we recently seized on Pleasant Avenue. In fact, when we announced the launching of Operation Crackdown, we held the press conference in the street in front of that residence. Detectives from the St. Louis Police Department put it under surveillance and watched a steady flow of quick visits to the front door. The callers left without actually entering the house. A search warrant was executed and eight bags of crack were discovered hidden in videogames.

We seized the house. And the owner said, "No. He didn't contest it. He didn't question it. He never filed for its return. He knew who was in the right — and who was doing wrong. The house at 4247 Pleasant is now federal government property.

Or take the time in 1989 when the police got a call from a woman who told them her 14-year-old son and his friends had

just bought a large amount of marijuana from the man who owned a house in the 4100 block of Wyoming, in the city of St. Louis. She found "some of the dope in a plastic bag in her son's pocket and when confronted, he confessed he was dealing. The man on Wyoming charged him \$300 for a quarter pound; her son pocketed any money over that.

The boy also told his mother how he and his friends watched the man on Wyoming weigh out about 10 pounds of marijuana and count out more than \$10,000 in cash. The police went to investigate and found a large quantity of marijuana hidden in a suitcase behind the freezer.

This man had all the tools of the trade: a wrist-beam balance scale, a lot of zip-lock sandwich bags, a 20-gauge shotgun, a .33-caliber bolt-action single-shot rifle and a 12-gauge shotgun.

The man who owned the house was unemployed, and selling guns to kids was how he made his living. He was 46 years old, 6 foot 2 inches tall, 270 pounds and had tattoos on both arms. One read: Born to Lose.

If we don't put people like him out of business, we all lose. Operation Crackdown and the asset-forfeiture laws are tools for federal and local authorities to put drug dealers out of business. Hopefully, the laws will work to deter young men and women who think they can make easy money from a trade in, say, cocaine. The profession is far less alluring if they realize that once they are discovered, their home will be taken away by federal authorities.

The mayor, county executive, police chief, community and civic leaders, local and federal law enforcement all agree we need to protect our children, our streets, our blocks and our neighborhoods. Asset-forfeiture laws help us do that. Contrary to what I fear is the prevailing media view, these laws are proving to be effective. I believe strongly that the laws are just.

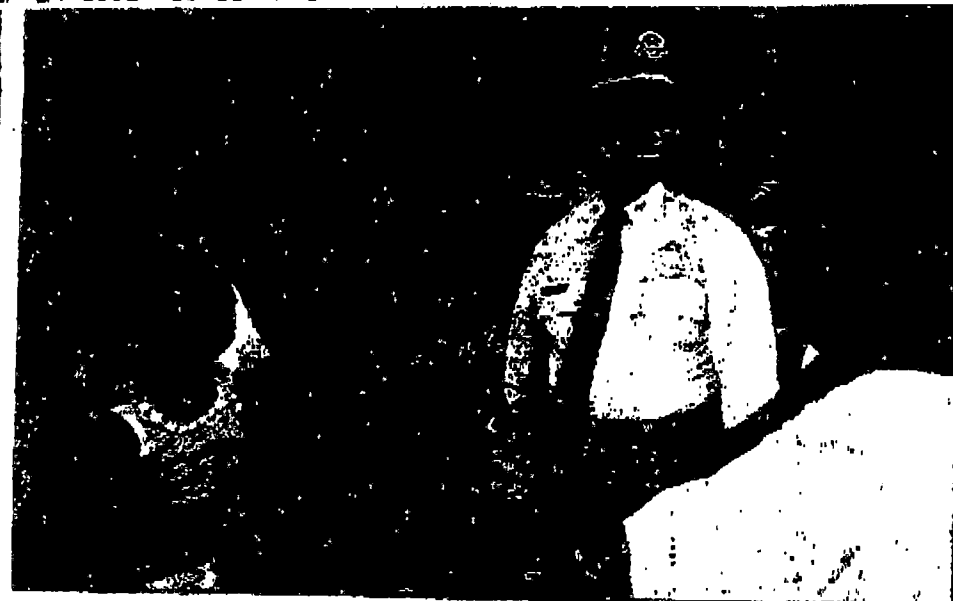
Asset forfeiture is not a game of cash and carry that the federal and local authorities are playing on innocent people. Asset forfeiture is one more way for law enforcement to learn the drug dealer, to deter those who choose the business of dealing drugs.

Asset-forfeiture laws are also a meaningful tool to save neighborhoods. This is fact, not merely my opinion. There were people out on their streets before 8 o'clock in the morning on a rainy and dreary December day, cheering as the officers served those seizure papers.

Ask them. Ask those St. Louis citizens if they would prefer that the local and federal government let those drug houses stand — and not shut them down. Ask those people living on Pleasant and Clara and Knox and Aldine and North Taylor and Geraldine and Terry and Belt and Helen and beyond. Quite honestly, we believe they should be heard.

Stephen R. Higgins is U.S. attorney for the eastern district of Missouri.





Police Chief Clarence Harmon talking with residents of the 4200 block of Pleasant Street on Friday after a press conference called to announce the closing of five reputed crack houses. Wayne Crossin/Post-Dispatch

City Moves To Seize Drug House

Government Will Give Sites To Good Citizens

By Tim Bryant
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

The mayor, the police chief and the U.S. attorney sized Friday outside a two-story residence with bars on the windows, called it a crack house and said they were shutting it down.

The house, at 4247 Pleasant Street, was one of five residences the government moved to seize Friday in what city and federal officials hope will be part of a program in which "dope houses" will be turned over to law-abiding people.

Speaking over loudspeakers set up in the street, Mayor Vincent C. Schoemehl Jr. called the program an "organized, focused partnership" See SEIZURES, Page 8

Seizures

From page one

in which city and federal authorities can "take our neighborhoods back from drug dealers."

"There is not going to be a safe corner in St. Louis to deal drugs," Schoemehl said. "St. Louis is tired of it. We're taking our streets back."

City and federal officials at the house, near Fairground Park, applauded. Most of the 50 or so neighborhood residents who had gathered there stood quietly.

Police Chief Clarence Harmon then stepped up to the microphone and told the crowd: "We're getting tough, folks. See what's happening."

U.S. Attorney Stephen B. Higgins said he planned for such seizures to be more than a gimmick. He said he had worked on the program for a year and hoped to persuade the Justice Department to make St. Louis a pilot project in which drug houses seized by the government would become the homes of good citizens.

"We hope this is the start of an ongoing program," Higgins said. "If the program ended with the seizure of these five houses, it would be little more than a publicity stunt."

Police made no arrests Friday. Higgins said the effort was to get the houses away from drug dealers, rather than put people in jail.

Suits were filed Friday in U.S. District Court to seize the house on Pleasant and residences at 8084 St. Terry Avenue, 4121 West Pearce Street, 1636 Helen Avenue and 2853 Belt Avenue. In at least two of the houses, police suspect tenants, rather than the owners of the house, of drug dealing.

Owners who are not suspected of dealing drugs are protected if they can show that they were unaware of the drug dealing, said Raymond Meyer, an assistant U.S. attorney.

Authorities said police raided the house on Pleasant in March and found crack, a potent form of cocaine, hidden in video games in the basement. Higgins said police had evidence of 18 drug deals in the 4200 block of Pleas-

Mayor Vincent C. Schoemehl Jr. called drug dealers and their accomplices human roaches.

and in the last two years. Drug raids were carried out recently at the other residences, authorities said.

In a statement, Schoemehl said: "Drug dealers and their accomplices are human roaches. We're going to chase them out of the places they hide, period."

Under the city and federal plan, called Operation Crackdown, drug houses seized through the federal asset forfeiture program could wind up in the hands of the city's Conservancy office.

That office could make the residences available to neighborhood organizations or individuals. Higgins said the details of the program had yet to be decided.

In forfeiture cases now, drug houses typically become the property of the U.S. Marshal, who sells them to the highest bidder.

In some cases, the buyers are the drug dealers who lived in the houses previously.

Meyer, the assistant U.S. attorney who filed the forfeiture suits Friday, said the residents could stay, for now. But the owners will be on notice that signs of drug dealing will mean immediate evictions.

As the officials, police cars and news crews left the neighborhood, Mary Doyle drove up to Eliot School, a block from the house on Pleasant. While waiting to pick up her two granddaughters from school, she said police should "just bust all these houses that are selling drugs."

But she said seizing houses could be carried too far.

"You shouldn't be able to take the home if the owner is innocent," she said. "A lot of people don't know what's going on in their houses."



U.S. Attorney Stephen B. Higgins (foreground) and St. Louis Mayor Vincent C. Schoemehl Jr. at a press conference called Friday to announce the closing of five reputed crack houses. Wayne Crossin/Post-Dispatch



Governor John Ashcroft

News Release

Executive Office, Jefferson City, MO 65102

For Immediate Release
January 2, 1992

Contact: Bob Ferguson
314/751-3222

ASHCROFT BACKS ST. LOUIS CRIME PREVENTION PROJECT

(St. Louis) -- Gov. John Ashcroft today announced a pilot project to reduce crime in St. Louis neighborhoods and schools.

The governor said violent crime in St. Louis City has increased dramatically, with the 1991 murder rate up 47.3 percent over 1990 and robbery up 11.6 percent. He said the two-pronged project involving Community-Oriented Policing (COPS) and a School Assistance Program can help return safety and civility to the city's neighborhoods.

"I believe the regular presence of the same assigned officers in specific neighborhoods and around our schools can instill the kind of community spirit and neighborly resolve that we need to renew," Ashcroft said. "Community Oriented Policing is an important program already supported by the St. Louis Police Board and its department leadership.

"The COPS program enables the police department to assign specified officers to walk a particular neighborhood or 'beat.' This concept from the past is regaining tremendous respect among criminal justice professionals across the country. The COPS program already has proven to be effective here in St. Louis in fostering a sense of community and partnership between the officer and the residents of a particular area," the governor said.

Ashcroft said the School Assistance Program places uniformed peace officers in the city's 14 high schools, 27 middle schools and 10 of the elementary schools that are located in high-crime areas, as well as in "safety zones" spanning 1000 feet in every direction from the specified schools. The officers will serve as a stabilizing force inside the school buildings at the beginning and end of each school day, he said.

"Under optimum conditions, we obviously wouldn't have police officers in our schools," Ashcroft said. "But we will do what we must to provide a safe environment for our students where real learning and achievement can occur."

Ashcroft made his announcement at Roosevelt High School, where 324 crimes occurred last year within the 1000-foot safety zone. He said during a six-month period in 1988 and 1989, more than 400,000 students nationally were victims of violent crimes at school, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

"Our Sixth National Education Goal states that by the year 2000 every school in America will be free of drugs and violence and will offer a disciplined environment conducive to learning," Ashcroft said.

-more-

AddOne

Attainment of the sixth goal essentially is a prerequisite to achieving the other five education goals. Students, parents and all taxpayers must be free from the fear of crime and drugs on our streets and in our schools."

Ashcroft said the project will cost \$700,000 a year and will be funded through the federal Narcotics Control Assistance Program administered by the Missouri Department of Public Safety. These funds are in addition to the nearly \$5 million made available for local drug enforcement and prevention programs, he said. Federal regulations limit pilot projects to four years.

"Allocating these funds to St. Louis still will allow us to strengthen state support for anti-drug initiatives in other parts of the state," Ashcroft said.

The governor said the U.S. Justice Department already is funding "Weed and Seed," a pilot project in Kansas City. Under that program, law enforcement officers "weed out" crime problems in high-crime areas and establish community partnerships to "seed" the affected neighborhoods with services and activities to prevent crime problems from recurring.

"It must be made clear that neither the COPS program nor the School Assistance Program represent a panacea to the multitude of challenges facing our inner-city neighborhoods," Ashcroft said. "But the presence of familiar officers should give residents assurance and confidence that they are not alone in their fight against violent crime."

St. Louis Police Chief Clarence Harmon and Police Board Chairman David Robbins joined Ashcroft at the news conference.

"This is an example of the strong commitment Governor Ashcroft has shown for both quality education and a safe learning environment," Harmon said. "We are likewise committed to providing the resources necessary to make the program a success."

In addition, Ashcroft announced an initiative to further protect students by amending the existing weapons law to extend present restrictions on weapons in schools to the school grounds and to any school bus. Current law makes it a misdemeanor to bring any firearm or other lethal weapon into school buildings, with appropriate exceptions. Current law, however, does not extend to school grounds or school buses.

"The unfortunate reality is that sometimes students and, frequently, non-students bring lethal weapons into the school environment," Ashcroft said. "In a 1990 National Center for Educational Statistics survey of 25,000 eighth-graders from 1,000 public and private schools, 21 percent of the students said they had witnessed weapons at school."

Under Ashcroft's proposal, appropriate exceptions would continue to apply, including weapons carried by law enforcement and other specifically designated individuals whose positions legitimately involve the possession of weapons.

"Lethal weapons have no place in the school environment," Ashcroft said. "Extending the restriction on lethal weapons to school grounds and school buses will be one more step toward ensuring that our schools can accomplish what we as citizens have a right to expect -- the education of our children."

Damm
Ken Schwartz
x 4892
for questions.

(Askew/Bunton)
September 25, 1992
12:00 p.m.
CRIME

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DeSALE CATHOLIC CHURCH
FOX PARK, MISSOURI
SEPTEMBER 28, 1992
10:00 A.M.

Thank you for that kind introduction, and good morning,
everybody.

It's delightful to be in St. Louis, such a friendly city.
It really warms my heart. So thank you for your wonderful
Missouri welcome.

And I'm afraid I have to apologize to everyone who was
counting on the usual Sunday-evening Bingo game last night. I
hear the Secret Service spoiled your fun when they had to check
out the building. Well, I'm sorry you missed the game, but
believe me, it was smart to stay away. You don't want to be
jumping up suddenly and yelling "Bingo" around these guys.//

I want to talk to you today about what I consider
government's most-basic and maybe its most-important function.

I know what you're thinking. You've been listening to that
other fellow... and all you can think about is taxes. Well, I'm
not going to talk about taxes today. But I think it's only fair
to warn you that for years down in Arkansas, my opponent has been
trying to declare April 15th a religious holiday.//

But what I do want to talk about is the fundamental duty of our government... to protect every American citizen from violence -- at home, on the streets, and abroad.

Now... that's nothing new. Security's one big reason government was created in the first place.

What's new... are the terrible forms violence has taken recently... beyond anything our founding fathers could've imagined.

A whole generation has grown up with the threat of nuclear terror hanging like a sword over its head. And it's been horrible. Our kids had nightmares. It seemed like it would never end.

Well, it did end. And today I can stand up here and say something no President could ever say before.

The Cold War is over. Freedom finished first.//

Now, we need to win the peace... right here at home and in the streets of Fox Park.//

What's the point, after all... of winning a Cold War if our grandparents and grandchildren lock themselves behind the bars on their windows, afraid to come out from a jail called home?

Now, I'm not saying we haven't made progress against violent crime. We certainly have. We've slowed it dramatically the past twelve years. And we're beginning to turn the tide on the drugs that often fuels it. ((Insert brief description of our greatest areas of progress.))

But the face of crime is changing fast, and we need our laws to react just as fast, if we're ever going to beat it.

Carjacking, for a timely example -- a brand-new word for a brand-new crime. Someone figured out it's easy to steal a car when it's already running, with the keys in the ignition. Of course, that means the owner's behind the wheel. So they use a gun.

It makes me sick to think about it... but just a few weeks ago, in a middle-class suburb of Washington. D.C., a Federal employee -- she worked at (?) -- was sitting in her car at a red light at (time of day). Two men stuck a gun in her face, pushed her out, and took off.

But she hung on to the car. And you know why? Because her baby was in the back seat.

She was dragged for miles. The thieves tried to knock her off by banging into a guard rail. And finally, they did. She fell off. Dead.

And you know what they did with her ((X-month-old)) baby? At forty miles an hour -- they threw her out the window like so much trash. Never even slowed down.

The miracle is, that baby survived.

And you know what? America's going to survive, too. We don't have to put up with this kind of depravity.//

These people have no place in a decent society. And as far as this President's concerned, they can go to jail... they can stay in jail... and they can stew in jail.//

But how do we do it? How do we respond to these horrible new forms of crime?

Well, we've had a comprehensive crime strategy in place for some time now... and it's effective. But criminals are working overtime. So it's time to dramatically step up our efforts and stare down the realities of crime in 1992.

And so today I'm challenging Congress to action.

Twelve-hundred and fifteen days ago, on June 15, 1989, back when ((notable occurrence on or around that day)), I sent a comprehensive Crime Bill to Congress.

It never came back.

I've followed up with new versions... tried to work something out with Congress... and still -- nothing.

You know, since I first sent that bill to the Hill in 1989, there have been ((X number of rapes, X number of murders, X number of assaults and X number of robberies)) in the United States. (X number) of those violent crimes took place right here in Fox Park.

I know the numbers are staggering. I know that Americans sit down in front of their TVs at night... watch the news and say... why doesn't somebody do something about this incredible mess? People are dying in the streets, for God's sake.

Well... you've heard me talk about the gridlock Congress. It's a truly amazing phenomenon. If they had an iceberg over there, they'd nickname it "Speedy."

And liberals in Congress like to say that George Bush won't bend on this, won't bend on that. And I admit that I do stick to my principles.

But it's still my job as President to get results.

So today I'm going to say something you don't hear very often from Washington. I'm going to bend a little, for the good of the country.

Congress wants the Brady Bill. I don't. It calls for a waiting period when someone wants to buy a gun... and I don't think that kind of stuff slows a criminal down one bit.

But I do know that some people in Congress genuinely believe the Brady Bill could save some innocent lives. And they won't support my Crime Bill unless I support their Brady Bill.

So today, I'm prepared to break that logjam.

Congress, I sent over to you this morning eight points of action I want included ⁱⁿ my Crime Bill. Some of them you've seen before, and some of them are new. But I want to make sure they all get into the Bill.

You agree to all of them... you pass the comprehensive Bill ~~within the next thirty days~~... you add the Brady Bill on to the end...

And I'll sign the whole package into law -- including Brady.

Fair enough? Thirty days doesn't seem too short a notice, in view of those twelve-hundred-and-fifteen that've gone by already. I'll give you the Brady Bill wrapped with a ribbon.

Now, folks, in case you're wondering about those eight points I sent over to Congress this morning... let me assure you I'm not asking for anything but common sense and reasonable justice. I want to offer Federal money and support to help States do the following things:

One, apprehend and severely punish carjackers, like the ones I just described. I want to make carjacking a Federal offense with harsh penalties. I want thugs who take cars at gunpoint to stay in a cell so long that when they get out -- they've forgotten how to drive.//

((Two, call deadbeat dads onto the carpet. Right now, a single mother here in Missouri can be struggling to keep the kids fed and clothed on her small salary... while their father's over in East St. Louis, picking out a new Chevy truck with terrycloth pom-poms and a gun rack. He could be six months behind in child-support, but no one can touch him because he's over state lines. Well, I think that's a disgrace, and it's about time the long arm of the law reaches out over that state line... taps that deadbeat dad on the shoulder... and says loud and clear -- time to pay up, buddy. Cough up the cash or go to jail.)) [Do we want to hold this section until Wednesday?]

Three, strengthen laws dealing with sexual and domestic violence. To start with, we need to protect the victim's privacy. It's cruel to put her in the spotlight. And I want repeat sex and domestic-violence offenders behind bars until trial. Today, even a repeat offender can get arrested and be out

Now in DOJ
Draft Bill, ok

NOT yet been checked
with Education Dept.
(Denial of deadbeat student
loans)

HMD/VA
(Montgomery loans)

on bond hours later... stalking his next victim... or beating his wife and kids for turning him in. I want him detained until trial, and I want the prosecution to be able to use past convictions against him. Right now, little details -- like the fact he's a three-time loser -- can't even be mentioned in court. And that's wrong. Let him pay for what he's done.//

Four, crack down on gang violence. I want gangs to be reclassified under the law as criminal enterprises, just like any other organized crime. That way, we can go after the leaders, and we can deal harshly with them, and we can untie the hands of good cops so they can clean up decent neighborhoods. I also want to toughen the penalties for using juveniles in crimes. Gangs right now can send underage kids out to do their dirty work, because they're minors and they'll get off if they're caught. I think the older gang members should be punished harshly for treating these little kids like personal slaves.//

Five, protection for the elderly. It's absurd that the folks who've contributed to this society all through their lives have to live in terror when they're old and frail, just because some young punks see them as an easy target. They're as low as the thugs who pick on children, and I want to beef up the laws that put them behind bars so they're not on the streets mugging grandmothers.//

Six, Habeas Corpus reform. Habeas Corpus is a fancy way of saying, if you're found guilty of something, you can appeal the decision to a higher court. It's supposed to protect the

innocent, but it's turned into a ridiculous perversion of the law. Criminal lawyers use it to postpone justice. A guilty verdict means an automatic appeal. It goes on and on, sometimes up to ((ten??)) appeals... keeping criminals on the streets and choking our courts. It's about time we put a stop to this travesty of justice. Let them appeal once and be done with it.//

Seven, a Federal death penalty. I think certain acts of violence deserve the ultimate penalty. I'm talking about assassinations, murder for hire, terrorism and other depraved acts. They're an outrage, and should be treated as such.

And eight, firearms. I want tougher penalties for any crime committed with a gun. Period.//

(Brief pause.)

Now, I'm not saying that tougher laws are going to fix everything. I'm a firm believer in justice, but I think punishment is only part of the solution.

The other part has a more human face.

Tomorrow's criminals are still just kids today. And while I believe in resources for law enforcement... and in reform for law enforcement... I also believe that at some point early in life, a youngster at a critical juncture can be steered to a life of right... or a life of terrible wrong. It all depends on the kind of soil you plant these kids in... and how you nourish them.

That's why I believe our weed-and-seed program is so very crucial. Weed-and-seed means going into a rough neighborhood... eradicating the 'weeds' of violent crime that can choke a young

life... and replacing them with 'seeds' of social opportunity and reform.

That's what Operation Crackdown is all about. Taking a crack house and giving it back to the community.

You know, just the other day, only a few blocks from here, police officers raided a crack house on Ohio Avenue. And as those officers came out of the old ((brownstone?)) with those drug-dealers handcuffed, the neighbors -- maybe some of you -- came out onto their porches and gave those police a standing ovation and a cheer.

That's what this country's hungry for. Americans want to take the hoods out of neighborhoods... and give 'em back to the neighbors. We've got to weed the poison growth from the soil... and in its place, plant the seeds of hope.

I know you want to just be able to walk down to Whaley's Five and Dime, or Mr. Grady's dry-cleaners, down to Fox Park for a stroll, or over to Peaches and Rufus' for a newspaper and a cup of coffee... and you want to do it knowing you're safe in your own neighborhood, that you've helped build and kept alive.

I think John Mirgaux said it best. He lives next to that old crack house over on Ohio. And he said he and his wife Eleanor had been thinking about selling their house and just moving away from the drugs and all the ugly crime.

But you know... he's lived in Fox Hill his whole life. It's his neighborhood.

And after the raid... he and Eleanor did some thinking. And he put it this way. He said:

"You know, I've been waiting for this to happen. Now... we're going to make a stand."

Congress -- do you hear me? It's time to make a stand.

Not next year. Not next month. Now.

Please join me... join John and Eleanor... and Ohio Avenue... and Fox Park... and St. Louis... and Missouri... and this whole United States... and make a stand against crime today.

Thank you... thank you all for listening... God bless Fox Park, Missouri... and God bless the United States of America.

(Askew/Bunton)
September 25, 1992
12:00 p.m.
CRIME

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DeSALE CATHOLIC CHURCH
FOX PARK, MISSOURI
SEPTEMBER 28, 1992
10:00 A.M.

Thank you for that kind introduction, and good morning,
everybody.

It's delightful to be in St. Louis, such a friendly city.
It really warms my heart. So thank you for your wonderful
Missouri welcome.

And I'm afraid I have to apologize to everyone who was
counting on the usual Sunday-evening Bingo game last night. I
hear the Secret Service spoiled your fun when they had to check
out the building. Well, I'm sorry you missed the game, but
believe me, it was smart to stay away. You don't want to be
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I want to talk to you today about what I consider
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I know what you're thinking. You've been listening to that
other fellow... and all you can think about is taxes. Well, I'm
not going to talk about taxes today. But I think it's only fair
to warn you that for years down in Arkansas, my opponent has been
trying to declare April 15th a religious holiday.//

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That's what Operation Crackdown is all about. Taking a crack house and giving it back to the community.

You know, just the other day, only a few blocks from here, police officers raided a crack house on Ohio Avenue. And as those officers came out of the old ((brownstone?)) with those drug-dealers handcuffed, the neighbors -- maybe some of you -- came out onto their porches and gave those police a standing ovation and a cheer.

That's what this country's hungry for. Americans want to take the hoods out of neighborhoods... and give 'em back to the neighbors. We've got to weed the poison growth from the soil... and in its place, plant the seeds of hope.

I know you want to just be able to walk down to Whaley's Five and Dime, or Mr. Grady's dry-cleaners, down to Fox Park for a stroll, or over to Peaches and Rufus' for a newspaper and a cup of coffee... and you want to do it knowing you're safe in your own neighborhood, that you've helped build and kept alive.

I think John Mirgoux said it best. He lives next to that old crack house over on Ohio. And he said he and his wife Eleanor had been thinking about selling their house and just moving away from the drugs and all the ugly crime.

But you know... he's lived in Fox Hill his whole life. It's his neighborhood.

And after the raid... he and Eleanor did some thinking. And he put it this way. He said:

"You know, I've been waiting for this to happen. Now... we're going to make a stand."

Congress -- do you hear me? It's time to make a stand.

Not next year. Not next month. Now.

Please join me... join John and Eleanor... and Ohio Avenue... and Fox Park... and St. Louis... and Missouri... and this whole United States... and make a stand against crime today.

Thank you... thank you all for listening... God bless Fox Park, Missouri... and God bless the United States of America.

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George Bush

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pendence in their daily lives. This tool also has great symbolic value, for it is a tangible reminder of the courage, determination, and achievements of persons with disabilities.

As we recognize the accomplishments of Americans who use the white cane, it is fitting that we also recognize the importance of promoting their safety. For Americans who are not blind or visually impaired, this means taking responsibility as careful, courteous drivers and pedestrians.

Americans who use the white cane deserve not only the respect and courtesy of others but also the right to equal opportunity. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) that I signed 2 years ago affirmed the rights of persons with disabilities and strengthened our Nation's commitment to eliminating the physical and attitudinal barriers that, in the past, prevented these individuals from participating fully in the mainstream of American life. Today the United States is providing a model for the world as we work toward full and harmonious implementation of the ADA.

In order to ensure that every American is prepared for the opportunities that life offers, we are also working through the AMERICA 2000 program to promote lifelong learning and achievement. The many Americans who have obtained training in use of the white cane have demonstrated their appreciation of the value of learning far beyond the traditional classroom, and their efforts should challenge and inspire others.

Recognizing the importance of the white cane to Americans with visual impairments, the Congress, in 1964, by Public Law 88-628, designated October 15 of each year as "White Cane Safety Day" and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation in observance of this day.

Now, Therefore, I, George Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 15, 1992, as White Cane Safety Day. I encourage all Americans to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities in recognition of the interests and achievements of persons who use the white cane.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-seventh day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hun-

dred and ninety-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and seventeenth.

George Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:54 a.m., September 28, 1992]

Note: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 28, and it was published in the Federal Register on September 29.

Remarks to the Community in
St. Louis, Missouri

September 28, 1992

Thank you very much for that kind introduction, Chief Harmon. Let me say that I've heard a good deal about the work of this chief and of this police force. And I salute every man and woman who's out there in the St. Louis police force laying their lives on the line for us every single day of their life. We ought to be grateful to those who wear the uniform, and I'm certainly grateful to this group.

And may I salute our great Governor, John Ashcroft, and fantastic Senator, Senator Jack Danforth. It's delightful to be in Fox Park, St. Louis, a friendly city. Actually, my mother grew up here. My brother lives here, cousin lives here. And I love that heartbeat of St. Louis. So thank you for this welcome.

A word to those in this parish. I want to apologize to everyone who was counting on the usual Sunday bingo game last night. I hear that the Secret Service spoiled your fun when they had to check out the building. I'm sorry you missed the game. It was smart, though, to stay away. Believe me, you don't want to be jumping up suddenly and yelling "Bingo!" around these Secret Service guys.

This has all the earmarks of a political gathering, but I really want to talk to you today about what I consider a foremost, a first and most basic function of Government: to protect every American citizen from violence, at home and on the streets. Now, there's nothing new about that. Security is one big reason Government was created in

the very first place. But what is new are the terrible forms that violence has taken recently, beyond anything our Founding Fathers could have imagined.

A whole generation has grown up with the threat of nuclear terror hanging like a sword over its head. And it's been horrible. Our kids had nightmares. It seemed like it would never end. Well, it did end. And today I can stand up here and say something that no other President could ever say before: the cold war is over. Freedom finished first.

Now, we must win the peace. Right here at home, in the streets of Fox Park. In too many places, our grandparents and grandchildren lock themselves behind the bars on their windows, afraid to come out from a jail called home. This simply must end.

We've made progress against violent crime. We've slowed it dramatically the past 12 years. And we're beginning to turn the tide on the drugs that so often fuel it. But we got soft on crime way back in the sixties, and we paid for it. Then by the time we cracked down again in the eighties, violent crime had gone up 400 percent in 20 years. Since we cracked down, it's gone up just 27 percent in a little over 10 years, and the overall crime index is actually down.

So we've stemmed the tide, in a sense, prevented millions of crimes. But of course, that is simply not enough. It's never enough. The face of crime is changing fast, and we need our laws to react just as quickly, so that we can beat it.

Let me give you a timely example. Carjacking: a brandnew word for a brandnew crime. Someone figured out it's easy to steal a car when it's already running, with the keys in the ignition. Of course, the owner's behind the wheel. So the criminal uses a gun. I want to tell you a story that literally sickens me, as I'm sure it will you, but describes what we're up against.

Just a few weeks ago, in a nice neighborhood near Baltimore, a woman was sitting in her car at a stop sign. In broad daylight, two men forced her out of her car and drove off. But she was tangled in the seatbelt, trying desperately to save her baby. The mother was dragged for almost 2 miles. The thieves tried to knock her off by banging into a fence, and tragically, she died. And you know what they

did with her little baby? They tossed her out of the car like a piece of trash. Miraculously, that baby survived.

And you know what? America is going to survive, too. We cannot put up with this kind of animal behavior. These people have no place in a decent society. And as far as this President's concerned, they can go to jail, and they can stay in jail, and they can rot in jail for crimes like that. For that to happen, we need tough laws that don't bend over backwards protecting the criminal while saying to the victim, "Tough luck, buddy."

Let's look for a minute at the Arkansas record and see where Governor Clinton stands. The average inmate in Arkansas served less than one-fifth of his sentence last year. Most Federal inmates serve at least 85 percent of their full sentence. Violent crimes in that State, in Arkansas, went up almost 60 percent in the eighties, over twice the national average. Arkansas had the Nation's biggest increase in overall crime and the third-biggest in violent crime.

This kind of record is not right for Arkansas, and it is not right for America. If you don't believe me, just ask the Fraternal Order of Police in Little Rock, Arkansas. They know Governor Clinton's record best, and they're endorsing me for President of the United States. The police know better than anyone that we're all vulnerable: men, women, children; white, black, brown; young, old; rich and poor. To a bullet or a blade we all look just the same.

Americans deserve a Government that goes after the problem, that prevents and punishes crime and helps the victims, lifts up the victims of crime. That's why I want to see America make a move at the Federal level to step forward and support State and local police around the country in real, concrete ways. We need to help them fight.

That's why 1,201 days ago, on June 5, 1989 [June 15, 1989]¹—the same day Mikhail Gorbachev first hinted that the Berlin Wall might someday fall—I sent a comprehensive crime bill to Capitol Hill. I offered the hand of partnership to Congress and asked it to help me fight crime on a national level.

¹ White House correction

George Bush, 1992

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Now, I know the numbers are staggering. I know that Americans sit down in front of their TV's at night, watch the news, and say: Why doesn't somebody do something about this incredible mess? People are dying in the streets, for heaven's sake. Well, 1,201 days later, Congress still has not acted on my crime bill. I think if they had a glacier on Capitol Hill, they'd name it Speedy. You ought to try and get something done there.

But frustrating as this crime bill has been, it's still my job as President to get results. There are good people on both sides of the issue, working in good faith for a compromise. And I will not rest until this matter is settled.

This very week, we are now finally close to an agreement on a bill the Congress could send me, and I'll sign. The compromise bill could include, for example, a workable death penalty for horrible murders, committed by terrorists, assassins, and drug lords. It should target the shocking violence we see on television: the drive-by shootings and gang turf wars. This deadly behavior deserves deadly punishment. It should include provisions recommended by former Supreme Court Justice Powell to short-circuit an endless process of appeals that make a mockery of justice. There are other items prompting strong feelings on all sides, but we're making a good faith effort to reach a compromise.

So I want you to know what's on my crime agenda. I'm not asking for anything but common sense and reasonable justice, especially for women, children, and the elderly victims of crime. I think I can get some of these items this year. Then, I'll come back to get more of them next year.

Let me click off about eight key points here. First, apprehend and severely punish these carjackers, like the ones I just de-

scribed. I want to make carjacking a Federal offense with harsh penalties. And I want thugs who take cars at gunpoint to stay in a cell so long that when they get out they're too old to drive.

Second, I keep talking about strengthening the family, well, here's one for you: Call the deadbeat dads onto the carpet. Right now, a single mother here in Missouri can be struggling to keep the kids fed and clothed on her small salary, while their father's up in Chicago somewhere, picking out a new Chevy truck with terrycloth pom-poms and a gunrack. Now, he could be way behind in child support, but no one can touch him because he's across the State lines. Well, I think that's a disgrace, and it's about time the long arm of the law reaches out over that State line, taps that deadbeat dad on the shoulder, and says loud and clear: time to pay up; cough up the cash or go to jail.

The third, strengthen the laws dealing with sexual and domestic violence. For starters, we need to protect the victim. It is bad enough a rape victim is attacked in the first place. Then she takes the stand, and then she gets worked over and attacked by the rapist's lawyers. I say that makes two too many attacks.

And I want repeat sex and domestic violence offenders behind bars until trial. Today, even a repeat offender can get arrested, be out on bond hours later, stalking his next victim or beating his wife and kids for turning him in. I want him detained until trial, and I want the prosecution to be able to use past convictions against him. Any of you law enforcement officers knows this, but right now, certain details can't even be mentioned in court, so-called little details like the fact that everyone and their dog within a country mile knows the guy acts this way regularly. And that's wrong. Let him pay for what he's done.

Fourth, crack down on gang violence. I want gangs to be treated like the criminal enterprises they are. That way, we can go after the leaders, and we can deal harshly with them, and we can untie the hands of good cops so they can clean up decent neighborhoods. I also want to toughen the penalties for using juveniles in crimes. Some of the gangs right now can send underage kids

out to do their dirty work because they're minors and they'll get off if they're caught. I think the older gang members should be punished harshly for treating these little kids like bullet fodder.

Fifth, protection for the elderly. It is absurd that the folks who have contributed to this society all through their lives have to live in terror when they're old and frail just because some young punks see them as an easy target. They're as low as the thugs who pick on children. I want to beef up the laws that put these thugs behind bars.

Sixth, the habeas corpus reform. Habeas corpus is supposed to protect the innocent, but it's turned into a ridiculous perversion of the law. Can you believe that a lot of these petitions drag on for more than a decade? Criminal lawyers use it to postpone justice. A guilty verdict can mean seemingly endless appeals that choke our courts and delay justice. It's about time we put a stop to this travesty. Let them have one habeas corpus petition and be done with it. And that's what I'm trying to do in that crime bill right now.

The seventh, a Federal death penalty. I think certain acts of violence deserve the ultimate penalty. I'm talking about assassinations, murder for hire, terrorism, and other depraved acts. Add to that the new urban violence we see with gangs, drive-by shootings, random violence, gang massacres. These people are merchants of death, who trade in death. The death penalty is warranted in these cases. And I wish Congress would move and do something about it.

And eighth—and this one's short—firearms. I want much tougher penalties for criminal use of firearms, period. Tighten up the law, and take the risk away from these law enforcement officers.

Now, I'm not saying that tougher laws are going to fix absolutely everything. I'm a firm believer in justice, but I think punishment is only part of the solution. The other part has a more human face. Tomorrow's criminals are still just kids today. And while I believe in resources for law enforcement and in reform for law enforcement, I also believe that at some point early in life, a youngster at a critical juncture can be steered to a life of right or a life of terrible wrong. It all depends on the kind of soil you plant these kids

in and how you nourish them. I just had a wonderful briefing upstairs by the chief and some of our community leaders, including the pastor of this church, and what impressed me is what the community is doing to help these kids before they get caught up in this wave of criminality.

All of this is why I believe that our "Weed and Seed" program, the Federal program, is so very crucial. "Weed and Seed", that means going into a rough neighborhood, eradicating the "weeds" of violent crime that can choke a young life and then replacing them with "seeds" of social opportunity and reform. That's what Operation Crackdown in St. Louis is all about: the Federal Government, working with local law enforcement, reclaiming crack houses and giving them back to the community. And that's what your—the chief talked about your COPS program, here in Fox Park, is all about, too, on a local level. Real people making real changes in your own neighborhood.

You know, just the other day, only a few blocks from here, police officers raided a crack house on Ohio Avenue. And as those officers came out of the house with those drug dealers handcuffed, the neighbors—maybe some of you all were there—came out to their porches and gave those police a standing ovation and a cheer. That's what this country is hungry for. Americans want to take crime out of their neighborhoods and put the neighbors back. And we've got to "weed" the poison growth from the soil, and in its place, plant the "seeds" of hope.

I know there's a craving. I know you just want to be able to walk down to Worth's Market or down to Fox Park here for a stroll or over to Bartlett's Grocery Store for a newspaper or Mary's Restaurant for a cup of coffee, even if she is a Democrat—[laughter]—and you want to do it knowing you're safe in your own neighborhood that you've helped build and kept alive.

I think John Mirgoux said it best. He lives in this neighborhood and knows about that old crack house over on Ohio. He said he and his wife, Eleanor, had been thinking about selling their house and just moving out, moving away from the drugs and all the ugly crime. But you know, he's lived in Fox Hill his whole life. It's his neighborhood. And

George Bush, 1992

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after the raid, he and Eleanor did some thinking. And he put it this way. He said, "You know, I've been waiting for this to happen. Now we're going to make a stand."

Please join us. Join John and Eleanor and Ohio Avenue and Fox Park and St. Louis and Missouri and this whole United States and make a stand against crime today, because the people deserve it.

Thank you all so very much for listening. May God bless Fox Park, Missouri. And God bless the United States of America. Thank you all very, very much.

Note: The President spoke at 10:21 a.m. in the parish hall of St. Francis de Sales Roman Catholic Church.

Remarks at the East Dallas Renaissance Neighborhood Project in Dallas, Texas September 28, 1992

The President. Thank you so much. I love what Michael Fells said about his house. That's the way we all ought to feel about our homes. And I was very proud of that.

Thanks to all of you for this great Dallas welcome. May I salute your wonderful Mayor, an old friend of mine and Barbara's, Steve Bartlett, doing an outstanding job for this wonderful area, this wonderful city. Also I want to salute Judge Lee Jackson and your Congressman—a Congressman—not this district, but right next door, Sam Johnson, doing a fine job for Dallas. May I salute our sheriff, Sheriff Bowles, and our new police chief from Dallas, been here a while, doing a great job with the law enforcement community, Chief Bill Rathburn over here.

While I'm in the neighborhood, I want to recognize Meadows Foundation for their work restoring homes, restoring hope in this community. I saw a little bit of that when Steven here and Dirk and Cheryl, Cheryl Harley, showed me around this house that they are fixing to restore. So I'm just delighted to be here. Also pleased to welcome a cross-town guest from west Dallas, Mr. Artrous Hill, who for 41 years ran the barber-shop on Puget Street. When the drug epi-

demie came to west Dallas, Mr. Hill's landlords were the local crack dealers until U.S. marshals and the Dallas police put them out of business.

Audience member. Chicken George, why don't you debate?

The President. [Laughter] Listen to this guy. There are going to be debates.

May I say a word about the chicken question? May I say a word about—you're talking about the draft record chicken or are you talking about the chicken in the Arkansas River? Which one are you talking about? Which one? Get out of here. Maybe it's the draft. Is that what's bothering you?

All right now. As I was saying before being so rudely interrupted, I was telling about Mr. Hill who owns his own barber shop. His west Dallas neighborhood is on the way back, on the way back just the way all of you here in east Dallas are on the move forward.

You know, I came here to talk about the progress we're making in our quest to make America more safe and secure. But first let me just say a word about the dominant issue in this campaign, and that's the economy.

The American voter this year is confronted with two choices, two candidates with two very different economic strategies. If Governor Clinton is elected, by next year we will have hundreds of billions of new Government spending, higher taxes on the middle class, and no restraints on Federal spending, and even more pressure on the Federal deficit.

So Governor Clinton claims he knows a way to reduce the budget deficit by increasing taxes on the middle class and giving Congress more of your money to spend. I believe the way to reduce the deficit is by making tough choices and cutting Government spending.

That's why we put forward a plan, a serious program to control the growth of spending with almost \$300 billion in savings over 5 years. I've gone on the record, targeted 246 programs, 4,000 wasteful projects that I want to eliminate altogether. I want to use these savings to reduce the deficit, to reduce the tax burden on the working men and women, and still do what's right by our neighborhoods.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(St. Louis, Missouri)

For Immediate Release

September 28, 1992

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT ST. FRANCIS DE SALES WELCOME

St. Francis De Sales Catholic Church Parish Hall
St. Louis, Missouri

10:21 A.M. CDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much for that kind introduction, Chief Harmon. Let me say that I've heard a good deal about the work of this chief and of this police force. And I salute every man and woman who's out there in the St. Louis police force laying their lives on the line for us every single day of their life. We ought to be grateful to those who wear the uniform, and I'm certainly grateful to this group. (Applause.)

And may I salute our great Governor, John Ashcroft, and fantastic Senator, Senator Danforth. (Applause.) It's delightful to be in Fox Park. St. Louis, a friendly city. (Applause.) Actually, my mother grew up here. My brother lives here, cousin lives here. And I love that heartbeat of St. Louis. So thank you for this welcome. (Applause.)

A word to those in this parish -- I want to apologize to everyone who was counting on the usual Sunday Bingo game last night. (Laughter.) I hear that the Secret Service spoiled your fun when they had to check out the building. (Laughter.) And I'm sorry you missed the game. It was smart, though, to stay away. Believe me, you don't want to be jumping up suddenly and yelling "Bingo!" around these Secret Service guys. (Applause.)

This has all the earmarks of a political gathering, but I really want to talk to you today about what I consider a foremost -- a first and most basic function of government: to protect every American citizen from violence -- at home and on the streets.

Now, there's nothing new about that. Security is one big reason government was created in the very first place. But what is new are the terrible forms that violence has taken recently -- beyond anything our founding fathers could have imagined.

A whole generation has grown up with the threat of nuclear terror hanging like a sword over its head. And it's been horrible. Our kids had nightmares. It seemed like it would never end. Well, it did end. And today I can stand up here and say something that no other President could ever say before: the Cold War is over. Freedom finished first. (Applause.)

Now, we must win the peace. Right here at home, in the streets of Fox Park. In too many places our grandparents and grandchildren lock themselves behind the bars on their windows, afraid to come out from a jail called home. This simply must end.

We've made progress against violent crime. We've slowed it dramatically the past 12 years. And we're beginning to turn the tide on the drugs that so often fuel it. But we got soft on crime way back in the '60s, and we paid for it. And then

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by the time we cracked down again in the '80s, violent crime had gone up 400 percent in 20 years. Since we cracked down, it's gone up just 27 percent in a little over 10 years, and the overall crime index is actually down:

So we've stemmed the tide, in a sense -- prevented millions of crimes. But, of course, that is simply not enough. It's never enough. The face of crime is changing fast, and we need our laws to react just as quickly, so that we can beat it.

Let me give you a timely example. Carjacking -- a brand-new word for a brand-new crime. Someone figured out it's easy to steal a car when it's already running, with the keys in the ignition. Of course, the owner's behind the wheel. So the criminal uses a gun. I want to tell you a story that literally sickens me, as I'm sure it will you -- but describes what we're up against.

Just a few weeks ago, in a nice neighborhood near Baltimore, a woman was sitting in her car at a stop sign. In broad daylight, two men forced her out of her car and drove off. But she was tangled in the seatbelt -- trying desperately to save her baby. The mother was dragged for almost two miles. The thieves tried to knock her off by banging into a fence. And tragically, she died.

And you know what they did with her little baby? They tossed her out of the car like a piece of trash. Miraculously, that baby survived.

And you know what? America is going to survive, too. We cannot put up with this kind of animal behavior. (Applause.) These people have no place in a decent society. And as far as this President's concerned, they can go to jail, and they can stay in jail, and they can rot in jail for crimes like that. (Applause.)

For that to happen, we need tough laws that don't bend over backwards protecting the criminal while saying to the victim, "tough luck, buddy."

Let's look for a minute at the Arkansas record and see where Governor Clinton stands. (Laughter.) The average inmate in Arkansas served less than one-fifth of his sentence last year. Most federal inmates serve at least 85 percent of their full sentence. Violent crimes in that state, in Arkansas, went up almost 60 percent in the '80s -- over twice the national average. Arkansas had the nation's biggest increase in overall crime -- and the third-biggest in violent crime.

This kind of record is not right for Arkansas -- and it is not right for America. If you don't believe me, just ask the Fraternal Order of Police in Little Rock, Arkansas. They know Governor Clinton's record best, and they're endorsing me for President of the United States. (Applause.) The police know better than anyone that we're all vulnerable: men, women, children; white, black, brown; young, old; rich and poor. To a bullet or a blade -- we all look just the same.

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June 15, 1989

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Think about that. Across America, that's enough assault victims to fill the city of St. Louis more than six times over. Victims brutalized while that bill languished on Capitol Hill.

Now, I know the numbers are staggering. I know that Americans sit down in front of their TVs at night, watch the news and say, why doesn't somebody do something about this incredible mess? People are dying in the streets, for heaven's sake. Well, 1,201 days later, Congress still has not acted on my crime bill. And I think if they had a glacier on Capitol Hill, they'd name it "Speedy." You ought to try and get something done there.

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So I want you to know what's on my crime agenda. I'm not asking for anything but common sense and reasonable justice, especially for women, children and the elderly victims of crime. I think I can get some of these items this year -- then, I'll come back to get more of them next year. (Applause.)

Let me click off about eight key points here. First, apprehend and severely punish these carjackers, like the ones I just described. I want to make carjacking a federal offense with harsh penalties. And I want thugs who take cars at gunpoint to stay in a cell so long that when they get out they're too old to drive. (Applause.)

Second -- I keep talking about strengthening the family -- well, here's one for you: call deadbeat dads onto the carpet. (Applause.) Right now, a single mother here in Missouri can be struggling to keep the kids fed and clothed on her small salary, while their father's up in Chicago somewhere, picking out a new Chevy truck with terrycloth pom-poms and a gun rack. Now, he could be way behind in child support, but no one can touch him because he's across the state lines. Well, I think that's a disgrace, and it's about time the long arm of the law reaches out over that state line, taps that deadbeat dad on the shoulder and says loud and clear -- time to pay up. Cough up the cash or go to jail. (Applause.)

And the third, strengthen the laws dealing with sexual and domestic violence. For starters, we need to protect the victim. It is bad enough a rape victim is attacked in the first place. Then she takes the stand and then she gets worked

over and attacked by the rapist's lawyers. I say that makes two too many attacks.

And I want repeat sex and domestic-violence offenders behind bars until trial. Today, even a repeat offender can get arrested, be out on bond hours later, stalking his next victim or beating his wife and kids for turning him in. I want him detained until trial, and I want the prosecution to be able to use past convictions against him. (Applause.)

Any law enforcement officer knows this, but right now, certain details can't even be mentioned in court. So-called little details -- like the fact that everyone and their dog within a country mile knows the guy acts this way pretty regularly. And that's wrong. Let him pay for what he's done.

Fourth, crack down on gang violence. I want gangs to be treated like the criminal enterprises they are. That way, we can go after the leaders, and we can deal harshly with them, and we can untie the hands of good cops so they can clean up decent neighborhoods. I also want to toughen the penalties for using juveniles in crimes. Some of the gangs right now can send under-age kids out to do their dirty work because they're minors and they'll get off if they're caught. And I think the older gang members should be punished harshly for treating these little kids like bullet fodder. (Applause.)

Fifth, protection for the elderly. It is absurd that the folks who have contributed to this society all through their lives have to live in terror when they're old and frail, just because some young punks see them as an easy target. They're as low as the thugs who pick on children. And I want to beef up the laws that put these thugs behind bars. (Applause.)

Sixth, the habeas corpus reform. Habeas corpus is supposed to protect the innocent, but it's turned into a ridiculous perversion of the law. Can you believe that a lot of these petitions drag on for more than a decade? Criminal lawyers use it to postpone justice. A guilty verdict can mean seemingly endless appeals that choke our courts and delay justice. It's about time we put a stop to this travesty. Let them have one habeas corpus petition and be done with it. (Applause.) And that's what I'm trying to do in that crime bill right now. (Applause.)

And the seventh, a federal death penalty. I think certain acts of violence deserve the ultimate penalty. I'm talking about assassinations, murder for hire, terrorism and other depraved acts. And add to that the new urban violence we see with gangs. Drive-by shootings, random violence, gang massacres -- these people are merchants of death, who trade in death. And the death penalty is warranted in these cases. And I wish Congress would move and do about it. (Applause.)

And eighth -- and this one's short -- firearms. I want much tougher penalties for criminal use of firearms, period. (Applause.) Tighten up the law and take the risk away from these law enforcement officers. (Applause.)

Now, I'm not saying that tougher laws are going to fix absolutely everything. I'm a firm believer in justice, but I think punishment is only part of the solution. And the other part has a more human face. Tomorrow's criminals are still just kids today. And while I believe in resources for law enforcement and in reform for law enforcement, I also believe that at some point early in life, a youngster at a critical juncture can be steered to a life of right or a life of terrible wrong. And it all depends on the kind of soil you plant these kids in and how you nourish them.

I just had a wonderful briefing upstairs by the Chief and some of our community leaders, including the Pastor of

this church, and what impressed me is what the community is doing to help these kids before they get caught up in this wave of criminality.

All of this is why I believe that our Weed and Seed program -- the federal program -- is so very crucial. Weed and Seed -- that means going into a rough neighborhood, eradicating the "weeds" of violent crime that can choke a young life, and replacing them with "seeds" of social opportunity and reform. And that's what Operation Crackdown in St. Louis is all about: the federal government, working with local law enforcement, reclaiming crack houses and giving them back to the community.

And that's what your -- the Chief talked about COPS program, here in Fox Park, is all about, too, on a local level. Real people making real changes in your own neighborhood.

You know, just the other day, only a few blocks from here, police officers raided a crack house on Ohio Avenue. And as those officers came out of the house with those drug dealers handcuffed, the neighbors -- maybe some of you all were there -- came out to their porches and gave those police a standing ovation and a cheer. And that's what this country is hungry for. Americans want to take crime out of their neighborhoods and put the neighbors back. And we've got to weed the poison growth from the soil, and in its place, plant the seeds of hope. (Applause.)

I know there's a craving. I know you just want to be able to walk down to Worth's Market, or down to Fox Park here for a stroll, or over to Bartlett's Grocery Store for a newspaper, or Mary's Restaurant for a cup of coffee even if she is a Democrat -- (laughter) -- and you want to do it knowing you're safe in your own neighborhood, that you've helped build and kept alive.

I think John Mirgoux said it best. He lives in this neighborhood and knows about that old crack house over on Ohio. And he said he and his wife, Eleanor, had been thinking about selling their house and just moving out -- moving away from the drugs and all the ugly crime. But you know, he's lived in Fox Hill his whole life. It's his neighborhood. And after the raid, he and Eleanor did some thinking. And he put it this way. He said, "You know, I've been waiting for this to happen. Now we're going to make a stand."

Please join us -- join John and Eleanor and Ohio Avenue and Fox Park and St. Louis and Missouri and this whole United States -- and make a stand against crime today, because the people deserve it.

Thank you all so very much for listening. (Applause.) And may God bless -- (applause) -- may God bless Fox Park, Missouri. And God bless the United States of America. Thank you all very, very much. (Applause.)

END

10:44 A.M. CDT