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Crime Bill - Executive Office, Treasury, Education, & HUD [Housing and Urban Development]
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E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E

13-Apr-1994 11:45am

TO: Jennifer M. O'Connor

FROM: Elizabeth A. Bernstein
 Office of Communications

SUBJECT: tech memo

April 12, 1994

MEMORANDUM TO CRIME TASK FORCE

April 20 -- 2:00 p.m. Crime and Technology Event With The Vice President

The purpose of this event is to illustrate how technological advancements already underway can benefit law enforcement efforts. Many of the programs began at the Defense Department or were designed for a specific agency's needs and have been modified for general use. In addition, as the crime bill winds its way through the House, this give us an opportunity to discuss elements of the bill that will support these technological advances.

New technologies complement the crime bill; they offer viable solution to merely increasing the police force by increasing productivity and effectiveness.

NEWS

We will be announcing two Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs); the first will ensure increased cooperation between Justice and Defense on dual use technology and the other highlights Treasury's cooperation with Justice on technology and issues surrounding wireless communications.

LOCATION

The Drug Enforcement Agency has an auditorium and adjacent training workroom at their command center in Pentagon City.

PROGRAM

Gore, Bentsen, Reno, Deutsch and Brown will observe various demonstrations in the training room for 30-35 minutes -- they will be given by both the experts who use these systems or gadgets as well as the cops who have been trained for current usage.

They will then move to the auditorium next door to give brief remarks on the two MOUs and the administration's commitment to the advancement

of technology for law enforcement purposes. In addition, the Vice

President will discuss how these MOUs relate to the overall reinventing government strategy.

PARTICIPANTS

For the demonstration:

DEA -- Automated Booking System

ATF -- Ceasefire

DOJ (NIJ) -- Magic Wand, electromagnetic footprint

Non-lethal weapons
Anne Arundel Police SmartCar

On the program (and walking through the demonstrations):

Vice President Gore
Attorney General Reno
Deputy Secretary Deutsch
Secretary Bentsen
Director Brown

AUDIENCE

The audience will be predominantly members of the law enforcement community; local police, DEA, ATF, FBI. In addition, we may want some members of the defense community.

DETAIL ON THE PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHTED

Automated Booking System: Now used only by DEA but in development stages for more universal use. Originally developed in 1990. This system revolutionizes current booking practices. ABS electronically captures fingerprints, mug shots, and case photos.

In the short-term:

Booking procedures will be dramatically streamlined. Currently, when a suspect is brought in, complete booking takes about an hour and a half. ABS reduces this time to 15 minutes.

Fingerprint rejections, with traditional ink blotting, now have about a 30% rejection rate due to inconsistencies. ABS reduces the rejection rate to 0%.

Traditionally hard to get information such as comparable fingerprints, case studies of similar crimes and photographs will now be easily retrieved.

In the long-term:

Eventually, this electronic database will identify people automatically as they are brought into the station. They are also hoping to develop the technology to such a degree that facial features and voice patterns will be used as comparable identifiers.

Magic Wand

Currently, fingerprints on the scene are difficult to obtain if they are

on non-porous surfaces. The Magic Wand, a portable/hand-held/single-step fuming device, was developed by NIJ for a relatively small amount of R&D money -- \$100,000. It dyes the fingerprints and unites them with superglue to produce a readable image. The ability to retrieve prints at the scene, without the need for a laboratory, thus substantially increasing the likelihood of early identification.

Ceasefire

Ceasefire is a bullet-identification system developed by a Canadian company for ATF. It is currently only in use at ATF headquarters and the Metropolitan police department in D.C. It provides investigative support to state and local law enforcement experiencing serious organized criminal gang and drug-related incidents.

Through laser-assisted computer imaging equipment, examination of ballistics becomes much more efficient and effective. In addition, Ceasefire utilizes investigative support from the National Tracing Center, Firearms Technology Branch, and the ATF forensic library.

Less-Than-Lethal (LTL) Weapon Technology

(These will be on a display board only)

Most of these projects began in 1992 or 1993 in attempt to give alternatives to officers in pursuit or having disciplinary problems with a suspect in custody. The display board will include diagrams and photos of: Airbag Restraint for Rear Seat of Patrol Vehicles; "Smart Guns" which only fire from authorized user; Retractable Spiked Barrier Strips for use on Fleeing Vehicles; Fleeing Vehicle Tagging System; and a Hands-Free Locator/Transmitter.

"Smart Car"

The "Smart Car" is a term coined by Chief Robert Russell of the Anne Arundel County (MD) Police Department to describe the Joint Test Program between his organization and Westinghouse to evaluate their Mobile Data system. Mobile Data provides officers access to more timely and accurate data resulting in a significant improvement in their effectiveness.

The officer has a terminal in the car that provides access to mainframe databases while he or she is away from the station. They have the ability to interface with a Motorola message switching system that links the communications with and among all stations and vehicles. Information relating to criminal record, traffic violations, and general information such as maps, etc are all available in the car. In addition, the officer is able to file a report without having to go back to the police station, thus enabling him or her to remain on the street.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/10/94 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: _____SUBJECT: CRIME BILL FORUM - REMARKS FOR 4/11/94

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☐	NUSSBAUM	☐	☐
McLARTY	☐	☐	QUINN	☐	☐
LADER	☐	☐	RASCO	☐	☐
ICKES	☐	☐	RUBIN	☐	☐
PANETTA	☐	☐	SEGAL	☐	☐
BAGGETT	☐	☐	SEIDMAN	☐	☐
EMANUEL	☐	☒	STEPHANOPOULOS	☐	☒
GEARAN	☐	☒	TYSON	☐	☐
GERGEN	☐	☒	VARNEY	☒	☒
GIBBONS	☐	☐	WATKINS	☐	☐
GRIFFIN	☐	☒	WILLIAMS	☐	☐
HALE	☐	☐	<u>DREYER</u>	☐	☒
HERMAN	☐	☐	<u>REED</u>	☐	☒
LAKE	☐	☐	<u>CERDA</u>	☐	☒
LINDSEY	☐	☐	_____	☐	☐
McGINTY	☐	☐	_____	☐	☐
MYERS	☐	☐	_____	☐	☐

REMARKS:

RESPONSE:

*To Jan O'Neil
FYI*

JOHN D. PODESTA
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
CRIME BILL FORUM
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
APRIL 11, 1994

[ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO; EDDIE CUTANDA, A YOUNG MAN WHO HAS MADE FRIENDS WITH OFFICERS THROUGH COMMUNITY POLICING; EARLINE WILLIAMS, A SENIOR CITIZEN INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY POLICING; AND, THE OFFICERS FROM ALBANY, GEORGIA.]

Like the Attorney General, I've used this Congressional recess to visit communities across America. I've had a chance to listen to the hopes -- and some of the fears -- of the American people. I'm here today because improving law enforcement and preserving the fabric of our society is probably more important to the American people -- and to our future -- than it has ever been in the history of America.

The fact is crime and violence don't take a recess. They continue to destroy our lives and communities. Generations of politicians -- of both parties -- have denounced crime. But that's a far cry from doing what's right and what needs to be done -- and the American people know it.

We've got to put more police on the street and more criminals in jail, and we've got to do it now. I've come here today to ask Congress to consider the crime bill immediately, and the Speaker has agreed.

The American people have waited on a solution long enough. Let's not waste their time and risk their safety with frivolous and political amendments. We don't need to take months on this. We can have this on my desk in weeks, and I will sign it in a minute -- and give the American people some of the solutions they want and deserve.

This has been a good year. We've reduced the deficit. The economy is growing. Twice as many private sector jobs have been produced in fourteen months than in the previous four years.

It took us 7 years and a change of Administrations, but we finally turned the Brady Bill into the Brady Law. It's already working to stop felons and fugitives from purchasing handguns. I'm proud that we passed it with the help of America's police officers.

But everything we do to move America forward will fail if we continue to let crime and violence tear us apart.

The number of murders each year has nearly tripled since 1960. So has the number of crimes per police officers. Death by gunfire will soon surpass death by car-accident. Almost one-

third of all Americans have had someone in their family victimized by crime, or been victimized themselves. And one in twenty children carry a weapon to school each day in this nation. It's surely time to act.

This crime bill is balanced. It's tough and it's smart. This is what it does.

First, it gives us a much stronger police presence in America. This bill adds 100,000 police officers over five years, for community policing, and community policing works.

In community policing the police know the neighbors, they know the children, they understand the problems and personalities that they are dealing with. 100,000 more police will make a big difference if they are in touch with their communities and deployed where the problems are greatest. The Mayor of Houston put another 655 police on the streets. Crime dropped 22 per cent and murders dropped 27 per cent in 15 months. Every town that the Attorney General and I just visited would like to do this. We must pass this bill and give them that chance.

Eddie Cutanda has a different attitude about the police because community policing gave him a chance to get to know Officers White and Platt as persons. These fine officers from Albany, Georgia -- who have already reduced crime in Albany because Congress wisely made a downpayment on community policing last year -- can now do the job they were trained to do and that the taxpayers of Albany want them to do. Community policing has engaged them as professionals and as citizens. Community policing is an American solution, based on community values and mutual respect and personal responsibility.

If Congress passes this bill soon to give the American people more officers, I'll make this commitment to the American people: I'll cut through the bureaucracy and red-tape in Washington so that within a year 20,000 of these new officers will already be hired and trained to make our streets safer.

The second thing the Crime Bill does is stiffen penalties. It does add capital punishment for a number of crimes. In my opinion when someone kills a law enforcement officer in the line of duty we need a completely clear and unambiguous deterrent, and it should be the death penalty.

We must also find a way to protect ourselves from repeat offenders, the relatively small number of criminals with no conscience who prey on us again and again. If they keep doing these things they've got to know that what's in store for them is certain and severe punishment, and not another parole. Ever. For us, baseball season just began. But for them it's going to be "three strikes and you're out at the old ball game."

Third, this is also a crime prevention bill. We know prevention programs work, especially for young people -- who have no greater advocate than the Attorney General. We want to invest a billion dollars in jobs for young people in high crime neighborhoods, and in recreation programs and summer programs. We've got to give them skills and something to say yes to, or the pressures of broken families and jobless communities will suck them into drugs and crime -- and then our work will be much more difficult and expensive. We can do better.

A big part of prevention is making our schools gun free, drug free, and violence free. If our kids can't go to school safely, we can't prepare America for the twenty-first century. We've got to make our schools safe, and this bill provides more resources to do just that.

That's our plan. More police. More punishment. Better prevention.

It is a big commitment in a time of very tight budget constraints. It is a lot more money for state and local governments. But we must do it, so the police and the courts can be tougher, and every American can be safer.

This Administration will use every resource it has to fight crime and violence -- from public schools to public housing.

Just a few days ago a Federal District Court declared the Chicago Housing Authority's policy of searching for guns in public housing to be unconstitutional. Within hours I asked the Attorney General and Secretary Cisneros to develop another policy that is constitutional and effective. Thirteen people died violently in Chicago the last weekend in March, three of them in the Robert Taylor Homes. More than 300 incidents were reported to police. There has to be a way to stop this madness, and we're going to find it.

The next few weeks are very important. Congress will soon consider health care and welfare reform and other very important matters. But we cannot be distracted. The American people have waited too long for a tough crime bill.

This is a Congress that hears the American people. In our first year we had the best cooperation in thirty years between a White House and Congress. I challenge Congress to meet the same standard, to forget politics and partisanship, and pass the crime bill now. We can put more police on the street. We can put more criminals in jail. We can keep more kids out of trouble. And we can start now. Let's do it.

Thank you very much.

The President of the United States
Robert Taylor Homes
Chicago, Illinois
June 17, 1985

Thank you, [resident]. I've always felt that if you really want to know what needs to be done in public housing, you ought to listen to the people who live there. Three years ago, before I even ran for President, I came here to Robert Taylor Homes with Vince Lane and I have never forgotten the affection I saw for him that day.

You ought to be proud of people like Chairman Vince Lane, and Mayor Daley and Secretary Cisneros, because they don't spend their time talking down to people in public housing. They spend their time trying to lift our people up.

I ran for President because I wanted to lift people up. To restore the bonds between our government and our people. To renew the sense that, together, we can help others make their lives better for themselves.

Everything I'm doing in Washington -- from the things Sec. Cisneros mentioned, to other work like welfare reform, job training, health care, our community investment strategy and community service -- everything is aimed at giving people more opportunity to take responsibility for the direction of their lives and life in their community.

I came here today because I wanted to show the rest of the country that there are plenty of decent, law-abiding people here at Robert Taylor Homes, and at other public housing in Chicago: Stateway Gardens, Ida B. Wells, Cabrini-Green, and others. There are plenty of people who just want to live in peace and who are desperate for someone to help them take control over their lives.

I know you're eager to do whatever you can. You've done a lot already, through your tenant patrols, your B.I.T.E. teams, and the youth programs that help make a community stable and secure. And I know you're counting on our help. Vince Lane and Mayor Daley are doing their part. Sec. Cisneros and I are doing our part, too. Everyone in America today has got to take responsibility for bringing our communities back together.

When I spoke to some of you by phone two months ago, I made it clear that I see the problem of crime in your community as a national crisis that demands nothing less than an emergency response and a wholesale change in how we go about making communities safe.

That is why the most important thing we can do right now is help people like Congressman Bobby Rush and Senator Carol Mosely Braun pass the Crime Bill, the most comprehensive anti-crime program in American history. This Crime Bill gives decent people like you the tools to join together, to join with us. As you've shown us here already, people are stronger as a team than they are alone.

The Crime Bill will put 100,000 more police in our communities, punish more criminals for what they do to people, and help prevent crime by giving young people summer jobs, and alternative activities that teach self-esteem, respect for others, and an appreciation for work at an early age.

Everybody needs someone they can rely upon, someone they can look up to, someplace where they feel they can belong: a family, a church, a job. These things give structure to our lives. But, let's face it, crime and drugs and violence now fill the vacuum where some of these things used to be. So, all of us have got to work to change that.

I want to help you change that, because I believe that nobody in America deserves to live in a place where bullets fly through the window. Nobody deserves to live in a place that's unsafe and rundown, where drug dealers chase the security guards away. None of you students deserve to live in a place where you have to dodge gunfire coming home from school, where you pray that some gang leader won't try to turn you against your family.

People don't deserve to live in places like that. They deserve to live in a home -- where their dignity and safety are respected.

That's why we found a way to continue the Chicago Housing Authority's sweeps. I know this was controversial, but we did it without stepping on anybody's constitutional rights. We are going to do everything we can under the Constitution to put public policy back on the side of public safety.

I wish all of the intelligent people out there who care deeply about civil liberties would see how hard it is to reinforce civility in public housing and the liberty of people who live here. It is hard to raise children in a place like Robert Taylor Homes. It is hard to be a child, or an adult for that matter, and live among bloodshed and terror every day. Gangsters aren't the only ones with rights. The people of this community have rights, too.

You have right to live in safety; the right to use the playground; the right to go to the store without walking in the line of gunfire; the right to sit by an open window; the right to tuck your baby into a safe bed instead of the bathtub where she won't get shot. The residents of Robert Taylor Homes have the right to live in peace.

And a community has the right to hold people accountable for their actions. We've got to stop making excuses for bad behavior. We will never solve our crime problem or our housing problem until people in this country start raising their expectations of one another, just as so many of you have rightfully come to expect more from life in this community.

What I ask of America today is to think about what kind of communities we want our children to raise their children in tomorrow. That's what Sec. Cisneros has done when he talks about giving people the option of moving out of these high rises and into a real working neighborhood, where people live closer to jobs and economic activity, alongside neighbors who work, where more people take care of their own places. We can build a better future for ourselves if we just keep working together.

The problems we see here didn't happen overnight. They were decades in the making. They may take decades to correct. There are no quick fixes; there are no easy answers; but Vince Lane and Sec. Cisneros have already pointed to a better way. It will take determination and patience to get us there. But we must do all we can to help lift each other up. For each of us has a responsibility to make things better, and all of us must try.

CRIME BILL MEETING IN GREAT HALL PROGRAM OUTLINE

PURPOSE:

To explain how the Crime Bill provides assistance in addressing a number of critical issues that affect communities and individuals across the country. To convey the need to work together to urge Congress to pass the bill quickly upon its return from recess.

FORMAT:

- Military Color Guard 2 minutes
- Eastern High School Choir 3 minutes
- Remarks by Attorney General 5-10 minutes
(describes her travels across the country, what she's heard about the needs of the people and of law enforcement who want the Crime Bill passed.)
- Brief Remarks by Individuals in support of the Crime Bill.
(ideally, people who have left an impression with the President or the AG in their travels).

E.G.

- Citizen Activist Against Crime 2 minutes
- Rural County Sheriff or Small Town Cop 2 minutes
(addresses community policing)
- Teen Helped Through Gang Prevention Efforts 2 minutes
(addresses prevention elements)

Crime Bill Supporters Via Remote:

- Big City Mayor 3 minutes
- Governor 3 minutes
- Small City Mayor 3 minutes
- AG Introduces President Clinton
- President speaks 15 minutes
- Choir Sings while all depart

OPTIONAL FORM 98 (7-90)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

of pages 4

To Jennifer O'Connor	From Julie Ambender
Dept./Agency	Phone # 616-2777
Fax # 456-6704	Fax #

NSN 7540-01. 317-7368

5099-101

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

REMOTE SITES

We can increase participation and media interest in the event by working to include remote locations via satellite. Governors and Mayors grappling with this issue and their constituents--cops and community leaders--can be called on to talk about the importance of the Crime Bill to them.

Possible interest:

Wellington Webb	Mayor, Denver	
Glenda Hood (R)	Mayor, Orlando	cp grant recipient
Dick Riordan	Mayor, Los Angeles	cp grant recipient
Richard Daley	Mayor, Chicago	cp grant recipient
Michael White	Mayor, Cleveland	cp grant recipient
	Mayor, San Antonio	cp grant recipient
	Mayor, Atlanta	
Roy Romer	Governor, CO	
Joan Finney	Governor, NE	

AUDIENCE

Law Enforcement, reps of mayors, governors, county associations,

May want to ask Cabinet agencies that play a role in fight against crime to invite representatives: HUD invites individuals working to prevent crime in public housing, Education invites leaders in Safe Schools efforts.

FIRST STEPS TO DO :

- determine who will sponsor remote locations
- determine role of Members of Congress
- determine role of other Cabinet members
- determine audience

DRAFT

For Immediate Release

March 30, 1994

STATEMENT BY (THE PRESIDENT/THE PRESS SECRETARY)

The United States is a major consumer nation in the world for firearms and ammunition covered as defense articles on the United States Munitions List. Firearms imports into the United States have totalled almost six million in the last two years, compared to a historical mean of approximately 700,000 per year. There is every reason to believe that these numbers will continue to increase.

This Administration is committed to taking action to stem crime and violence in the United States. Throughout the Executive Branch, we have been reviewing this problem and considering solutions. Today I am pleased to announce to you that **(I have/the President has)** accepted recommendations from the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of State to take measures within their Departments and under relevant statutory and regulatory authorities.

Accordingly, in order to address this problem, **(I have/The President has)** today directed the Secretaries of the Treasury and State to take a series of actions designed to deal more effectively with the increasingly dangerous flow of firearms into the United States.

The Secretary of the Treasury will:

- (o) Proceed with the steps necessary to amend regulations concerning importations of firearms classified as "curios and relics," which is necessary because current regulations allow imports of far more firearms than true collectors' items under this category.
- o Take such administrative and regulatory action as warranted to strengthen import controls on firearms which are authorized under the general rubric of "a type...generally recognized as particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes" under the Gun Control Act.)

(Or such similar language as Treasury may recommend.)

DRAFT

DRAFT

In addition, **(I have/the President has)** directed the Secretary of State, pursuant to his authority under the Arms Export Control Act, to strengthen State Department policies concerning review of arms imports, including firearms, based on foreign policy and security considerations.

Specifically, **(I have/the President has)** directed the Secretary to:

- o Establish policy guidelines for foreign policy and national security review of permanent or temporary import applications, with a presumption of denial, for arms imports from, or originating in, all countries to which we would not export or transfer arms;
- o Establish policy guidelines requiring review of all requests, with presumption of denial, for permanent or temporary reimportation of United States Munitions List (USML) articles previously exported from the United States.
- o Implement changes to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations to exclude all firearms, rather than just fully-automatic firearms, from the temporary import license exemption to and from Canada, and to exclude firearms from the "repair and return" exemption from the temporary import license requirement.

Finally, since our preliminary review has revealed a real need for changes to the statutes governing firearms imports, **(I have/the President has)** further directed the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of State to complete their review of these statutes and to provide **(me/the President)** their legislative proposals within 60 days.

(My/The President's) decision was based on fundamental U.S. domestic and national security concerns. A basic cause of this influx of firearms is the inadequacy of current statutory authority for the Executive Branch to control firearms imports. After **(I receive/the President receives)** the report from Secretaries Bentsen and Christopher, we will be consulting with Congress on legislation necessary to correct this situation. I look forward to working closely with the Congress on this important initiative.

For further information, I refer you to the Treasury and State Departments. **(Delete if the President makes the announcement.)**

DRAFT

DRAFT

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
THE SECRETARY OF STATE

SUBJECT: Restrictions on the Import of Firearms

I hereby direct the Secretary of the Treasury to take all appropriate actions regarding controlling the import of firearms including but not limited to the following:

- o Proceed with the steps necessary to amend regulations concerning the importation of firearms classified as "curios and relics"; and
- o Take such administrative and regulatory action as warranted to strengthen import controls on firearms which are authorized under the general rubric of "a type ... generally recognized as particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes" under the Gun Control Act.

(or such similar language as Treasury may recommend)

I further direct the Secretary of State to take all appropriate actions including but not limited to the following:

- o Establish policy guidelines for foreign policy and national security review of permanent or temporary import applications, with a presumption of denial for imports from, or originating in, all countries to which we would not transfer or allow to be transferred firearms;
- o Establish policy guidelines requiring review of all requests, with presumption of denial, for permanent or temporary reimportation of United States Munitions List (USML) articles previously exported from the United States.
- o Implement a change to the ITAR to exclude all firearms, rather than just fully-automatic firearms, from the ITAR temporary import license exemption to and from Canada;
- o Implement a change to the ITAR to exclude firearms from the "repair and return" exemption from the temporary import license requirement.

Finally, I direct the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of State to review existing legislation governing import of firearms and recommend any changes which they deem appropriate to better control these imports to me within 60 days.

In discharging these responsibilities, you are directed to consult with the heads of other Executive departments and agencies as may be appropriate.

DRAFT

Christine Varney
Office of the First Lady
2nd Floor West Wing

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

Immediate Release

March 29, 1994

PRESS BRIEFING

BY

ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO,
SECRETARY OF HUD HENRY CISNEROS,
DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY LEE BROWN,
AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF TREASURY RON NOBLE

The Briefing Room

10:00 A.M. EST

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Our National Violent Crime Initiative is underway with a federal prosecutor now designated to coordinate our efforts in every one of the 94 districts in the country, with joint local, federal strategies for attacking violent crime already underway in many of the districts. I have had an opportunity to visit districts, to talk with state and local law enforcement, to talk with federal officials who are working with them. And I'm advised that we have not seen such cooperation in many years.

We have further to go, however. Our Weed and Seed program is reaching more communities now, up to 20 sites from 10 last year, apprehending more criminals, and developing more prevention programs that have proven to be successful. Our PAC program is working with local officials to bring new direction and energy to community crime prevention efforts.

As I travel across the country I hear real enthusiasm for these combined state and federal efforts that bring a focus on law enforcement, on the violent criminals, on what the federal government can do to assist local government in terms of law enforcement. I also see us coming together with cities and communities across this nation in crime prevention efforts, using the Office of Justice Programs, the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Weed and Seed to work with them as true partners in providing monies that are truly needed.

But I'm not here to be a Pollyanna or to pretend that the crime problem is being solved. We've made some headway, but we've got more to do. The crime bill is now pending in the House and it has many helpful provisions. One of the refrains I hear as I travel across this nation is the need for more support for state prison systems to make sure that they are able to house the violent criminals for the length of time the judges are sentencing them. The bill will provide \$3 billion in grant money to state and local governments to operate prisons and to make sure that we have truth in sentencing for violent offenders.

Programs to deal with youthful and drug offenders are in the crime bill, and they are critically important. Community after community have had the chance to visit our local drug court in Miami and want to replicate it but don't have the resources. Those resources would be provided in the crime bill.

And prevention programs that give kids something to say yes to. Our youth employment skills program, keeping schools open later are all in the crime bill and I think are critical provisions.

MORE

We have announced a plan to restore funding for burn grant* multijurisdictional task forces, which so many sheriffs have pointed out is so critical to their efforts.

But the one aspect of our crime bill that I think is so critically important is the provision for the \$100,000 police officers for community policing. In every community I have been to police departments either want to start it or have started it on a very small scale and want to expand it. Right now at the Department of Justice we are halfway through our police hiring grants program, a program designed to make a down payment on the 100,000 police officers. Four months ago we gave out our first grant; to date we have passed out \$75 million for over 100 cities and towns to hire 1,000 new police officers. And those that got the first grants tell me they're making a difference. By the end of April when the program is complete we will have put 2,000 police officers on the streets in about 200 communities.

But for each jurisdiction we will have been able to help under this program, 15 more have applied. Three thousand cities, towns, counties and states have applied for this program. Some came in late and are not eligible, which brings the total to more. And we will only be able to assist approximately 200.

Everywhere I travel local officials say they need this help. The crime bill presents an unprecedented effort to tackle this problem. Its 100,000-use street-level police officers -- a 40-percent increase in the current national force of 250,000 street-level law enforcement officers -- is a vital effort.

We have much to do. I think the American people want us all to work together in a nonpartisan, thoughtful way to get this crime bill passed, that focuses on punishment that's fair and that fits the crime and that provides prevention alternatives that can make a difference.

I'd now like to introduce Secretary Henry Cisneros of HUD to talk about the work -- the really excellent work that's being done in Safe Home.

SECRETARY CISNEROS: Thank you very much, General. I was pleased to be here a month ago with the Attorney General, with Secretary Bentsen, and with Dr. Brown to discuss the initiation of an administrative initiative announced by the Vice President entitled Operation Safe Home. The thrust is to bring together the resources of multiple federal agencies and focus on those environments where people live with federal assistance; that is to say, public housing environments -- which, unfortunately, are seed beds for much crime in our central cities -- and assisted housing.

There was some skepticism raised at that time as to whether this was just an announcement or whether we intended to really put muscle behind it. I'm pleased to be here today to give you a sense of what the first month's results are on Operation Safe Home.

Our interagency approach to Operation Safe Home has led to 24 arrests and 14 indictments and the recovery of more than 25 weapons and \$300,000 in drugs and cash. The white collar portion of Operation Safe Home, which deals with equity skimming and diversion of funds destined for housing repairs or other housing needs, has yielded six indictments and a guilty plea. The multifamily skimming effort has led to four civil settlements, with \$9.9 million in repayments to multifamily projects, and \$2.1 million to HUD, a double damages judgment of \$1.6 million.

Let me give you an example of how Operation Safe Home works on the ground. On March 16th, as part of a task force effort

in the city of New Haven, Connecticut, a team of 60 federal agents and police officers, DEA, FBI, HUD Office of Inspector General, and state and local law enforcement agencies arrested 12 individuals and seized drugs and firearms at and near public housing developments. The individuals were charged with selling and distributing drugs, firearms and risking injury to children.

Today HUD is announcing the availability of \$232 million under a program known as Drug Elimination grants, the public housing drug elimination program, which will be available to local housing authorities to control and prevent drug use, drug trafficking and drug-related crime in these communities. Since 1989, when this program began, over 1,700 grants, totaling over \$500 million, have been awarded to housing authorities. So you can see if we've awarded over \$500 million from 1989 to the present, and this year, today, we're making available \$232 million, almost half of the total, we have increased the amount of money available for this program. It goes directly to housing authorities for their use in attempting to get a handle on these problems.

HUD has also made available \$75 million for what are called family assistance centers. These are family living environments in public housing where young people can have access to educational opportunities, recreational opportunities, and employment opportunities. And we tie those carefully into our anticrime strategies.

All of this will tie into the President's \$6 billion anticrime initiative. One step in which HUD is involved is the encouragement of police residency in public housing and in central city settings, and I'm very pleased to say we're having tremendous success in persuading housing authorities to give up units so that police officers can come in at discounted or no rents and live in public housing development. It does seem to make a substantial difference.

So my message today is, in summary, threefold: First, when we work together this way we can produce results. And the last month has proven results already in public housing and housing settings. Secondly, a key is that the federal agencies work together in unprecedented ways. I want to thank the Attorney General because of the Justice Department entities involved in this effort -- DEA and the FBI, the U.S. Attorneys -- and the Treasury because of the role of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; and the Secret Service, which gets involved in money laundering investigations -- all of which have collaborated to produce these successes and many more that we believe will be coming. It is reinventing government at its best when agencies can cross territorial lines, jurisdictional lines, and work together for results.

Finally, I pledge to join the Attorney General in her efforts over the next month -- over the next several weeks, I should say -- to do everything we can to pass the crime bill. That means going around the country talking to citizens who, in turn, can express their opinions to their legislators, and working as part of the White House team to pass this important measure which will build upon the successes as additional funds are available for both prevention and enforcement and punishment phases.

It's my pleasure now to introduce my esteemed colleague, Dr. Lee Brown, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

DR. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

I also appreciate the opportunity to be here this morning to participate in the update on the administration's efforts to combat crime and violence and drug abuse.

MORE

The Office of National Drug Control Policy supports this nation's criminal justice efforts by coordinating and overseeing both the international and domestic antidrug abuse programs for all executive branch agencies. Additionally, the office serves to ensure that federal antidrug efforts support those of state and local governments through collaborative initiatives.

While the results of these initiatives may overlap with those of my colleagues here with me today, it is a coordination and a funding role played by ONDCP which is so very vital to success. The office has made some major inroads toward advancing President Clinton's goal to institute a sustained, organized, disciplined approach to combat crime, drugs, and violence. I want to briefly describe some of the initiatives that highlight the ONDCP's efforts toward achieving that goal.

ONDCP fosters collaborative federal, state and local antidrug efforts through its high-intensity drug trafficking area, or a program we call the HIDA program. During the past year, ONDCP provided funding to five HIDA regions around the country. This funding supports over 150 federal, state and local initiatives which include multiagency task force operations, intelligence-sharing networks, and investigative support centers. These HIDA programs target what we call gateway areas for drugs entering this country by working toward dismantling significant drug trafficking or money laundering organizations in Los Angeles, New York, Miami, Houston, and along the southwest border.

Last year, these major task force operations seized more than 17 tons of cocaine and over \$241 million in drug-related assets. While these statistics may reflect the outstanding efforts of several law enforcement agencies, it's significant to stress that it was through the HIDA program that federal, state and local agencies came together to conduct these joint operations.

I have been involved in law enforcement over 30 years at the local level, and during that time I've seen the conflict and the lack of cooperation between state and -- particularly state and local and the federal agencies. That is not the case today. Never in the history of my career have I seen a better working relationship between federal, state and local agencies than is the case now.

This year this administration has taken another important step in combatting drug abuse by integrating treatment services into the HIDA program. Last month I designated the Washington-Baltimore region a high-intensity drug trafficking area. The primary focus of this HIDA, which is expected to be a prototype for future initiatives, will be to reduce hardcore drug use through the region by coordinating treatment services with law enforcement programs.

I think we all know that jails around the country are filled with nonviolent criminals who commit minor crimes so they can buy their daily doses of crack or heroin. This HIDA will not only work to reduce the amount of drugs available to those chronic hardcore drug users, but it will also work to minimize the impact of the heroin addict who steals the carton of cigarettes from the 7-11 by treating the cause or the problem of his addiction. The logic is quite clear. We have to not only deal with the problem itself, that is the crime; but also try to stop the problem by dealing with the addiction. And that's consistent with the strategy the President released, the national drug control strategy the President released a few weeks ago.

This will, in turn, free up jail space and other law enforcement resources which can be used to investigate and also incarcerate violent offenders. To be successful, this program will

require the coordination of not only federal, state and local law enforcement, but also the treatment community and the courts. I've allocated \$3 million in initial funding for this year toward the development and implementation of specific programs which will facilitate this coordination.

Through its role as a policy development and coordination office, ONDCP serves to integrate the many functions of the more than 50 federal agencies involved in the nation's antidrug efforts with those of state and local governments. We feel very strongly that this coordination, this working together, will be the process by which we can take back the streets of our cities block by block. And that's the objective; to make sure that this country is a safer country.

I also join the Attorney General and Secretary Cisneros in saying that the passage of the crime bill is extremely important. I'm particularly interested in seeing the 100,000 more police officers be made available to the police departments throughout this country, primarily to implement the concept of community policing. I know community policing works. It worked when I served as police chief in Houston, Texas. It worked when I was the police commissioner of New York City. In fact, in New York City, after only one year we saw crime go down in every major index category, and that had not occurred in the 36-year history of that department.

So it's important that we get about the business of passing the crime bill, working together as partners with state and local and federal agencies and the American public in order to make a difference.

Now I'm pleased to introduce the Assistant Secretary of Treasury Ron Noble.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: Good morning. This Thursday, March 31st, is the 13th anniversary of the attempted assassination of President Reagan and the wounding of former White House Press Secretary James Brady, someone who many of you knew. And therefore, in our view, it is fitting to discuss the impact of the Brady Law.

We all recall the challenges and the complaints many people had about how ineffective Brady would be. But if we look at this chart, we see the impact it's already had. In Houston, there were 2,183 forms processed and 199 denials. In Dallas, we see 48 denials. In Ohio, we see 41 denials and 8 were for fugitives. So we see the impact Brady is having. We're making it more costly, more expensive for people to purchase firearms. Convicted felons are trying to do it; fugitives are trying to do it; it's having a very real impact. And but for the work of the Attorney General and my colleagues up here and the President, Brady probably -- would not have been passed.

Also in the area of federal firearms licensing reform, prior to this year, there were only 240 inspectors at ATF processing federal firearms license applications. And the process was so rubber-stampish, if you will, that even dogs were receiving federal firearms licenses. And early this last year the New York City Police Department, in conjunction with ATF, embarked on a pilot project that, during last year, resulted in a 94-percent reduction of those people who received federal firearms licenses.

Now, why is that important? It's important because with 284,000 federal firearms license holders, which we currently have, it's impossible to regulate; it's impossible to do the sort of tracing that you need to go. Again, this will cost money, and the Secretary and the President are supporting an increase in licensing cost to cover the cost of doing the background inspections that you

and I would want before giving someone the privilege of selling firearms.

Also, in conjunction with the Department of Justice, we continue to pursue what Treasury calls Achilles Project, where we target armed career criminals -- people who have had three serious violent felony convictions or drug trafficking convictions -- where if they're convicted of being in possession of a firearm after having these three violent felony convictions on their record or drug trafficking convictions, they go away for a minimum of 15 years -- in another important initiative that we're working in conjunction with the Department of Justice as well as the initiatives with HUD and with ONDCP.

So while I agree with the Attorney General and everyone else who says it's difficult to highlight in a very brief period what differences we've made, we are making differences. The cooperation which has been referred to is more difficult to quantify, but it's a spirit that makes all the difference in successful investigations versus unsuccessful turf battles.

One other area that I'd like to highlight is the Treasury Department has the ability to reclassify certain weapons as destructive devices if they don't satisfy any legitimate sporting purpose. The Secretary did that on February 28th; he reclassified an item called the Street Sweeper, which looks like the old tommy gun, but discharges shotgun shells instead of bullets, and discharges 12 shotgun shells within three seconds. The same weapon was found fully loaded and operational at the residence of one of the people who is suspected to have been involved in the shooting of the Hasidic Jews on the Brooklyn Bridge this year.

So in conjunction with the Department of Justice, HUD and with ONDCP, we at Treasury are committed to a coordinated effort to try to make a difference in the crime problem confronting this country. Thank you.

Q Is there any hang-up in passage of the crime bill? Are you running into a problem?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I don't see any hang-up in the passage of it. I think it's just important that we focus on it as soon as Congress returns and that we all work together to fashion a balanced bill that punishes the dangerous and that does -- develops prevention programs with our communities that can keep kids from crime.

Q General Reno, you might say that this briefing may have been called because the administration wants to present this united front. You may have seen this report, report out of U.S. News and World Report in particular, which says that the working group report on crime which is not being released by the White House suggests that that report is, in a sense, too soft compared with what the public mood might be right now. Could you respond to that?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I don't know -- I didn't see the article so I can't respond to the article.

Q It says that the --

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: One of the things I learned never to do is to respond to articles that I haven't read. But I'll be happy to read it and have Carl give you a response.

Q Well, have you seen the working group report?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: No, I haven't.

Q It's like an 89-page report.

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: No, I haven't.

Q Are you advocating the truth in sentencing as part of the prison grants?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I think what we've got to do is to work with states to get dollars to them in ways that count so that they can begin to achieve truth in sentencing. I think it's important that we have -- work with them to set standards that they can meet and that end up ultimately making sure that these dangerous offenders get the sentence they deserve, and then actually serve it. Nothing is so frustrating for the American people than to see somebody out in 20 to 30 percent of the sentence when they were dangerous offenders.

Q You were using the figure, 100,000 new cops. In New York, Mayor Giuliani says that doesn't meet the truth in packaging provisions and that actually it's funding of 20,000 cops for five years and only 75 percent funding. So it's really only 15,000 cops. Is that accurate or is that unfair?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I haven't heard his comment. What we have tried to do is to work with mayors throughout the country to make sure that what is provided for is something that is actually delivered. As a prosecutor on the streets of Miami, I used to get frustrated when I would hear federal promises that didn't materialize. And we want to make sure that there's funding in the crime bill to provide support for 100,000 police officers. We've always talked about developing a match. For those communities that can't provide the match there would be waiver programs. But we're dead-set and determined to make sure that when we promise something we deliver it.

Q But is it 20,000 times five years, or is it 100,000 for a period?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: It's 100,000 cops developed within the next five years.

Q So it is 20,000 -- funding for 20,000 each year?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: We would hire 100,000 over the next five years. Whether it was 20,000 for five years -- I'm not sure where he's coming from. But I'll be happy to contact his office and --

Q What I'm trying to understand is whether -- is it 100,000 different people or 20,000 people --

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: It would be 100,000 different people is the aim.

Q I understand you said that you put the money out for the first 1,000 --

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Yes.

Q -- and you've had good results. What were the good results?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I am told -- I visited in Orlando, for example, and I am told in their community policing initiative that they are having an impact. I have not gotten the statistics from them, but in all those that have received the grants and have had time to see them begin to be implemented or enhanced, I am told that they are making a difference.

Q Ms. Reno, at one point months ago you said that just having more police officers may not be the answer for all police departments, that some police chiefs felt that they really couldn't absorb more police officers. Are you certain that these 100,000 new officers will be utilized properly?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I have never been so certain of it after talking with police chiefs around the country, visiting community policing initiatives, talking to citizens in the community. The desperate need that police departments have around the country to have police officers and this additional support that will permit them to transition to community policing is echoed everywhere I go. It's gotten so if I go to a community that's applied for a grant I can barely get out of the community without everybody saying, where is my money; why haven't you given me a grant?

I am absolutely convinced that the monies will be used wisely. I am absolutely convinced that just money for policing won't work, but money for sound community policing that focuses on targets in the community where priorities are developed with citizens in the community, where citizens are involved, and prevention efforts are implemented again with citizens can make a difference.

Q If I might follow, you paid some attention to the crime problem here in Washington. And the District has about 50 percent more police officers per capita than the next largest city, yet clearly it's got a big crime problem nonetheless. What is the problem here, do you suppose, if it's not -- obviously it's not just more police officers -- I mean, not more police officers certainly the sole answer.

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Well, as I have suggested, I don't think just more police officers. I think they have to be used the right way. I've obviously not made a close analysis of the District's issues, but I have asked Eric Colder*, the United States Attorney, to work with the Chief of Police and work with public officials to do what is -- anything the federal government can appropriately do to address the problem of focusing on the bad guys, the career criminals, taking steps to identify them and proactively go after them and make the arrest, apprehend the fugitives, get them sentenced to appropriate sentences, while at the same time developing appropriate prevention programs.

SECRETARY CISNEROS: General, if I may say a quick word on the District, because I think that sometimes that's trotted out as -- and it's not exactly a good comparison. And Lee Brown, as a police chief, may want to add a word.

The District of Columbia bears a different burden than any other city of 650,000 people, or so, as a result of the fact that it's the Nation's Capital. So it must allocate police officers to everything from traffic control to coordination with Executive Protective Services in the embassy areas and so forth; unusual number of parades and other civic gatherings and so forth. My guess is that while that number stands out, 50 percent more per capita, it really is because it's the District, because it's the Nation's Capital. And those police officers are not assigned to -- the presumption in the question is not as accurate as one might think.

Q Secretary Cisneros, do you have any idea how many police officers have taken up this offer to move into the public housing?

SECRETARY CISNEROS: I don't have an exact number for you, but it's happening in more communities and faster than I might have imagined. And if you are interested, I could actually take you to people who are doing that right here in the District of Columbia.

We have several police officers who have now moved into housing developments.

But I would say, in many communities across the country it is happening. We're also now taking the next logical step which is to find ways to provide discounted housing for officers who want to live in central city neighborhoods, not public housing but in neighborhoods, by making HUD-owned homes, the so-called HUD homes that we take by foreclosure, available on some discounted basis to police departments for officers who want to live in the city.

Q Are they told if they move in there with these discounts that if trouble breaks out it's assumed that they'll try to do something about it?

SECRETARY CISNEROS: A police officer, of course, is never truly off duty, carry weapons even when they're off duty in most jurisdictions. And so the assumption is, first of all, that their very presence, the fact that they drive a cruiser home, the fact that -- in many communities -- that they arrive in a uniform, that people know that they're there makes a difference.

Now, will they come out in the middle of a disturbance? Many will do that because it's their perception of their role as a police officer.

Lee, you might want to say a word on this concept -- in his role as a former police chief.

DR. BROWN: It's very consistent with the concept of community policing. It gives the police officer an ownership of a geographical area. I visited those locations myself, particularly one in Elgin, Illinois, and talked to the residents of the public housing community there. And they told the story of a dramatic and drastic and significantly important change for the better in the living conditions there as a result of having the police officers there.

And that is one of the reasons that the administration is so high, the President is so high on the concept of community policing, because it represents, if you would, a new way of thinking about police work, a new way of delivering police services. It involves a partnership between the police and the people to identify problems that are of concern to the residents -- not so much how the police see the problems but how the people see the problems -- and then jointly coming together to determine what are the best solutions to address the problem. And then using the resources of the police, other governmental agencies, the private sector and individuals to solve the problem.

And that's what's exciting about seeing this really quiet revolution take place in law enforcement today, supported by -- will be supported by the resources provided by the crime bill when passed by the Congress.

The additional police officers are important for community policing. An example being when I went to New York as the police commissioner -- the police officers spend 95, 96, 97 percent of their time just answering 911 calls. You can imagine that you can't really take the time to know the problems, to know the people to solve the problems if you're spending your eight-hour tour of duty just running 911 calls. You can also imagine there's not much job satisfaction in doing that.

In the community policing, officers will have the time to work on solving problems; thus, having a better utilization of the resource of the police department. So it's important to have the police officers, the bodies, to do community policing. And as I

said, you can't solve problems if you have no time to do so. And you end up going back to the same locations over and over again. And so that's the reason you find that there's such great support throughout the policing field as well as the administration for the concept of community policing.

Q Is the death penalty posing an obstacle --

Q Could I -- I'm sorry, I have a question about the Treasury chart. These numbers -- are they handguns? In other words, in Houston, do we read that 199 people were told they could not buy a handgun?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: Yes.

Q So that means that 2,183 people were told that, yes, they could buy a handgun. Does that mean the sale went ahead necessarily, probably?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: If forms were processed, assuming they had the money, the sales went ahead.

Q Does that -- I mean, if you look at that, since February 28th, which is -- what -- three or four weeks ago, 2,183 handguns were bought in Houston. I mean, looking at these numbers another way, do you feel like maybe -- to me that's kind of stunning, to think --

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: To me it's stunning that there are over 200 million handguns in the U.S. That's stunning, but what's more stunning is that there are people with records trying to buy these handguns and that we're able to catch them and stop them.

Q Clearly, that's a good thing, but I just wondered if it makes you think about taking this a step farther, to banning handguns or --

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: No. No.

Q Why not?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: Because the problem that we're trying to address with Brady and that we have addressed with Brady is we're trying to address the problem of the wrong people having handguns. Now, a law-abiding American citizen who wishes to own a firearm should not be prevented from owning a firearm. That's a --

Q Why should they have one?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: First of all, there's a constitutional right to bear arms we hear about time and time again.

Q There is?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: I think there's a constitutional right to bear arms. And I also think there's a right, an individual right to protect himself or herself or one's family. So from my perspective, I don't do anything and wouldn't suggest anything that would impinge upon a U.S. citizen's right to purchase a firearm.

Q Are you a member of the NRA?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: One might think so in light of my answer, right?

Q Are you?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: I am not.

Q Under Brady, the local law enforcement --

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: I just want to respond. I am a college professor, law professor on leave. I may be returning more quickly than I'd like but -- (laughter.) That's my individual position. That's my individual position, just for the record.

Q You have not at this point ruled on --

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: Okay. It's my individual position, please.

Q Brady requires the local law enforcement establishment to make a reasonable effort. There are more and more reports that many of these law enforcement agencies don't have the resources to make that reasonable effort, and that some even disagree with having to do it under Brady. My question is, has Treasury tried to force and follow up, and do you have the authority?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: We've tried to work cooperatively with state and local law enforcement officers. The starting point -- we worked very closely with the Justice Department -- was deciding who ought to be the chief law enforcement officer for each state. Ought it be one central locale like a state police department where they might have the resources to do the kind of comprehensive check? Or ought it be a local police chief who would know when an application came through with a false address that it was a false address? We try to work cooperatively with state and local law enforcement officers.

We believe one of the biggest controls or checks to make sure that Brady is followed is if that chief of police in some town in the U.S. doesn't do a Brady check, and that convicted felon purchases a firearm and hurts someone you know or someone in the town or someone in the community, that's a tremendous chilling effect, a tremendous check, a tremendous encouragement to make sure that people follow Brady. But beyond that, the law, as I understand it -- and I've just been reading memos recently; there's a question as to what action, if any, can be taken if a law enforcement officer in a particular state says I just don't want to do a check, I don't want to take reasonable steps or reasonable efforts --

Q You mean you don't have the authority?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: Authority in terms of we have authority at Treasury over the federal firearms licence dealer. That's who we have control over. So at Treasury we don't have authority over the particular chief of police requiring him or requiring her to do it. But you can see that a lot of people are doing it. So if there's a possibility that one police officer or one county isn't doing it, I guess that's theoretically possible.

Q Does Justice have any authority over that?

Q Is the death penalty posing an obstacle to passage of the crime bill? That has been true traditionally. I guess the death penalty is in the Senate bill. There's opposition to it in the House.

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: No, I don't think so. I think everybody understands that there are provisions that they may oppose, but we are trying to work together to fashion a balanced bill that meets both the desires and appropriate aims for punishment and prevention.

In answer to your question, we are working -- want to work with state and local law enforcement to make sure that the Brady Bill is enforced as appropriate. And I think working together, explaining what can be done when you identify the number of people who are denied weapons, we can have an impact.

Q Will expansion of the death penalty, though, wind up being part of this compromise? What will happen to it?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Yes, I believe it will.

Q Can you just explain -- there were 50 denied in Dallas for reasons other than criminal history. What are the reasons? Are these all drug addicts?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: No, there are a number of reasons. You can be mentally unstable. You could have been --

Q I know, but you don't know what they are?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: I don't have it for you, but I can provide it to you later, okay. Thank you.

Q General, in view of yesterday's action by the Supreme Court on the insanity defense, what's your position on that?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: One thing I learned long ago is to never comment on a Supreme Court opinion until I've read it, and I haven't had a chance to read it.

Q -- it wasn't even a statement, it was just they wouldn't take the case. They let the Montana court ruling stand.

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Again, the dumbest thing anybody can do is comment on a case when they haven't read it.

Q Is the Justice Department involved in the Colosio investigation at all? Can you answer that?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: No, I can't.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

10:40 A.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

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March 29, 1994

PRESS BRIEFING
BY
UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE MICKEY KANTOR

The Briefing Room

3:33 P.M. EST

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: Let me begin by reiterating on behalf of the United States government what the President and Ambassador Mondale indicated in the last two days -- that we are deeply saddened at the tragic murder of two students in Los Angeles this past weekend, one a Japanese American and the other a Japanese citizen. Our hearts go out to their families. We deplore the continuing violence in our cities that have taken the lives of so many of our people.

The government of Japan issued a package of economic reform measures yesterday -- macroeconomics, sectoral and structural. We have reviewed these measures and they do not meet the concerns the President raised on February 11 during his meeting with Prime Minister Hosokawa. We agree with Japan's Chamber of Commerce, the Japanese Federation of Bankers, and the Japanese press, that the package of measures is of limited substance and appears to be half-finished work. There appears to be agreement in Japan that the plan does not present concrete steps toward resolving the issues raised by President Clinton.

We are not discouraged. The government of Japan has described this as a first step, and we see it as a work in progress. We had indicated that an enhanced package would be a necessary step to reopening discussions under the framework. This was not that package.

However, as the President has said, our door remains open. We will continue to work closely with Japan at the GATT and in APEC and on other economic issues. We also look forward to continuing close cooperation on security and strategic issues.

I'd be happy to take questions.

Q Did the President express his views directly to the Prime Minister?

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: They spoke, and the President indicated, of course, that at that point we had not reviewed the package and that, of course, we would review it carefully and closely.

Q How are you getting word back to Japan? And what -- does that mean, is the ball still in Japan's court to move forward?

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: I think the Japanese government itself has indicated that the ball remains in that court by saying this is just a first step. As I said, we're not discouraged. Our door remains open. However, I would only indicate that the Japanese press and business community seems to be united in believing that this step is not enough to reopen these talks.

MORE

Q There was a speech at the Chamber of Commerce today by Assistant Secretary Len Moy* in which he suggested that the administration was looking at the possibility of selective MFN sanctions, only on state-owned industries, to try to hold harmless private enterprises and Taiwan and Hong Kong. Is there any way of sorting out what would be state-owned industries and what would not? Is there any --

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: There are a number of approaches that could be taken in that regard. In the main, we're trying to make sure that, of course, obligations under the President's executive order are met by the due date, meaning June 3rd. And we're continuing to look at that process.

Q What do you now think is the likelihood that the sanctions can be avoided, given the lack of any kind --

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: I'd be unable to speak to that at this point. Obviously, you have to look at it at the time the executive order calls for a review.

Q Can you say what would be sufficient to start the talks again?

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: Well, let me mention four or five things: First of all, there needs to be a commitment to the framework agreement itself. The goal of substantially increasing market access of foreign competitive goods and services. Tangible progress towards that goal, including opening up key sectors. Using objective criteria, quantitative or qualitative or both, in order to measure the success or failure of the deregulation efforts. A movement in regulatory reform. And a significant new commitment towards macroeconomic stimulus. That would be an outline of what we're looking for.

Q Could you comment on the commitments by the Japanese auto companies this week to increase more parts -- increase their purchase of foreign-made parts? Is that the kind of thing that the United States is looking for? And could you describe, if we're looking for something else, what it is that --

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: It's a step, but much of it, of course, was already committed to in the 1992 plan. Therefore, it is not as large as we might have expected. And, of course, we are concerned that the government of Japan is not involved in these so-called voluntary efforts.

Q When you say the door is open, would you accept any sort of Japanese official as negotiator to sort of sort out the difference between the two elements until or before June?

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: Well, it depends what happens. And, of course, we're always open for new proposals and the steps beyond step one. The Japanese government has made it clear there are other steps to come, and we will look at those and review those carefully when and if they are offered.

Q What about the negotiator? If they so wish to send negotiators to talk to your government --

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: Well, they have not indicated that and we will meet that when, of course, that occurs, if and when it does occur. But we have no indication from the Japanese government in that regard.

Q Do you have any comment on the Japanese decision to lift -- to remove the -- further strains on oil exports --

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: Well, this is, of course, a unilateral decision, as it always has been, on the part of Japan. Therefore, it's been up to Japan each year to either reinitiate what we call VERs, voluntary restraints on automobile and truck imports into the United States or not. As I understand at least the public statements by Mr. Kumagai, they've decided not to do that. I would only indicate that, of course, their sales -- our imports into the United States have been much lower than the VER over the past two years.

Q What did you find most promising? Is there anything -- the deregulation insurance that's promising, or can you give us some --

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: There were some steps forward in the government procurement area. However, other than reiterating some of the positions that were taken just prior to February 11, and up to 4:00 a.m. in the morning on February 11 in the auto insurance sectors, there was no movement.

Q And what about the stimulus package? Is that still to iffy and still too based on political developments yet to come?

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: There were no significant new commitments in the stimulus area.

Q What about on regulatory reform? You mentioned that as one of the criteria. There's a lot of mention of regulatory reform in what's in the package that was put out in Tokyo.

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: It's broad and general and doesn't come down to the specific areas in which we have as you know initial concern; that is, in the government procurement area, medical technology and telecommunications, auto and auto parts and insurance in other areas. So we look forward to more specifics.

And as has been stated, frankly, the Japan Chamber of Commerce who said -- and industry chairman, Mr. Anaba, who said the program contains little substance. And the Federation of Bankers Association Chairman Akuto, said that the package just set out the directions for further steps and must be fleshed out quickly.

So this is something where I think there's general agreement that the package falls short.

Q Ambassador Kantor, aren't you worried that -- this is only a first step for Japan -- and aren't you worried you're going to discourage the Japanese government from trying anything else?

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: No, we're not discouraged, and we said our door is open and we're prepared to work with our ally on this.

Q You didn't mention any redeeming qualities of the package. Do the Japanese get any points for trying, or does this just fall so flat that you don't even feel they deserve that much?

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: I think we welcome any step towards trying to address these issues. However, this does not address our concerns. It's not a matter of points, this is not about winning or losing. It's about trying to address a mutually difficult issue which has been the subject of conversations for a long time between these two countries. We, of course, are determined that both countries should live up to their obligations under the framework agreement, and that's what we're going to insist upon.

Q If they can't come up with some new initiatives in the areas that you outlined, would you welcome other types of

measures like strong yen policy, interest rate changes, other types of fiscal stimulus or the extension of the tax --

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: Well, on that, let me just say, we welcome significant new commitments in the macroeconomic area which were not forthcoming. Second, of course, we are, of course, serious and committed in terms of opening up the Japanese economy to foreign competitive goods and services -- not just U.S. goods and services. So we're looking for both, and that's what the framework, of course, calls upon both countries to accomplish.

Q You don't want any window dressing with foreign exchange --

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: As the President said on February 11, we don't want cosmetic agreements. We're not going to paper over our differences. We want to have agreements that are going to make real difference.

Q Have you made any arrangement with the Japanese to go back and do you expect the Japanese to make another proposal? Are there any negotiations scheduled? Can you give us any sense of --

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: No.

Q -- what the next step is?

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: No.

Q I want to make sure I understand. Are you convinced that the Japanese put forward this package believing that it would be acceptable?

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: You'd have to ask the Japanese government. Obviously, I can't speak for them in this regard, I can only speak for the government of the United States. But it's clear that this package is not acceptable to the five leading newspapers in the Japanese area -- in the Tokyo area -- as well as the Japanese business community, and it has not met our concerns here in the United States as well.

Q But Mr. Hosokawa has known through negotiations what would be acceptable. So --

AMBASSADOR KANTOR: As I said, I would be not qualified to speak for the Japanese government on this subject. I would suggest you ask the Japanese government that question.

Thank you very much.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

3:45 P.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Dallas, Texas)

For Immediate Release

March 26, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE POOL

Scottish Rites Hospital
Dallas, Texas

8:22 A.M. CST

Q Mr. President, what's the message from this part of the visit?

THE PRESIDENT: Did you see the people we saw outside?

Q Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: The people we saw outside either don't have coverage, or they're afraid of losing it. These children got this care because this hospital is open to all children, and gives all children great care, without regard to their income. But not all children have access to hospitals like this.

So the message is that all families with children should have some insurance coverage so they can get health care; and so they can be well like this. It was great.

Q How are the wedding preparations going?

THE PRESIDENT: Fine. We're excited.

END

8:25 A.M. CST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Dallas, Texas)

For Immediate Release

March 26, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN RADIO ADDRESS TO THE NATION

Scottish Rite Hospital
Dallas, Texas

9:06 A.M. CST

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. This morning I'm speaking to you from Dallas, Texas, courtesy of station KRLD in Dallas, and from the Scottish Rite Hospital for Children -- one of the finest pediatric medical centers in America. Today in the audience we have parents and children who have been patients here. I want to thank the president of the hospital, J.C. Montgomery, and Dr. Tony Herring and all the others who gave Hillary and me such a wonderful tour today.

Places like Scottish Rite don't ask children with severe disabilities or serious illnesses, can you pay? They just ask, how can I help? The wonderful team of doctors, nurses and other hospital workers here take all children in need. That's what we want for all of America.

Last Wednesday at the White House, Sister Bernice Corell, a member of the Sisters of Charity -- the religious order that runs the largest nonprofit hospital system in America -- spoke about health care in a way seldom heard in the nation's capital. She pushed all the politics and complex arguments aside and said health care is about basic human values, about honoring the intrinsic value of every person.

She knows, as so many health professionals do, that if we don't do something now, the future of health care is in trouble in America, because more Americans are losing their health coverage or can't get it because someone in their family has been sick; because more people with coverage are losing the right to choose their doctors or their health plans; because more of our hospitals are in trouble.

Without change, the future of health care will include less choice and bigger bills and maybe lower quality, too. Instead of health care being available to all Americans, more Americans are losing their health coverage every month.

How can we change? How can we keep what's best about our system -- our wonderful caregivers, our wonderful medical research system -- and fix what's wrong -- the fact that there aren't enough places like this Scottish Rite Hospital, that too many people are losing their coverage, that the financing system is a bureaucratic nightmare full of unfairness? I think we can do better simply by building on what works in the current system -- using the workplace to guarantee private insurance for every American. It is the foundation of our plan.

Just a few days ago, the first of many committees considering health care reform in Congress approved a plan like ours, covering every American. In spite of all the special interest and t.v. ads, the committee made an important statement. After 60 years of gridlock, the American people are being heard. They want us to take care of their important business, like health care reform; and now we're beginning to do that.

MORE

- 2 -

The administration's approach to health care reform is straightforward -- guarantee private insurance for every American that can never be taken away. And we want to be careful to base our approach on the best of American values. Guaranteed private insurance, making sure everyone has good health care -- not only those who can pay whatever it costs -- is the ticket to opportunity.

When our plan passes, and your health care can never be taken away, that means you'll be able to change jobs, move, start a small business without worrying that your health care or your family's health will be threatened. Just this morning I met a fine couple here with twin boys. The boys have some undiagnosed medical difficulties, but they cannot get any health insurance because of that. The father and the mother have been under great stress and great difficulty. If it weren't for this hospital, and others like it, I don't know what families like that would do. We can do better.

In addition to guaranteed private insurance, we want the freedom for all Americans to make choices in the American tradition -- guaranteeing the right to choose a doctor and an insurance plan. We trust the American people with the freedom to choose every year rather than leaving that choice to an employer or an insurance company.

Third, health reform in our plan is about fairness, correcting abuses in the insurance practices today. No more denying people insurance because they are sick; no more lifetime limits that cut off coverage when you need it the most; no more higher rates for the elderly, or for small employers, or self-employed people and farmers. These things aren't fair, and Americans deserve fairness.

Fourth, health care reform is about keeping faith with those who came before us. We preserve and protect Medicare without reservation or exception. Older Americans simply must be able to continue to rely on Medicare and to choose their own doctor. We do want to cover prescription drugs under Medicare for the first time, and provide the elderly and chronically ill children or disabled Americans of all ages the chance to get some long-term care in their home or in their community if they need it.

Finally, health care is about responsibility, about rewarding those who work. Under our approach, you get your insurance through work. Most jobs already have health care, why shouldn't all of them? Eight out of ten Americans without insurance belong to working families. We should always reward work in America, and the right to health care should be part of that reward. Opportunity, freedom and fairness; honoring the senior citizens and those who take responsibility -- these are the values that have helped to build America, and they are at the heart of our health care proposal.

This weekend marks the arrival of Palm Sunday and Passover. It's a special week of reflection for everyone of the Jewish and Christian faiths. A time when we step back from the concerns of daily life and think more deeply about our religious traditions and the values they teach us.

Sitting in this wonderful hospital for children, I'm reminded that providing health care and the peace of mind that comes with it is also a practical expression of our deepest faith and ideals. The wonderful doctors and nurses and volunteers here at Scottish Rite Hospital for Children take in every child. No family has been charged; they live our best values. But they'd be the first to tell you that more than 9 million American children have no health insurance and most don't have access to a hospital like this.

That's not right, and health care reform is about doing what's right; about having compassion and bestowing dignity

- 3 -

on each of us as God's children. These are enduring values, the source of the moral authority that has made our nation great. And they are the lessons each of us, in our own way, can take from Easter and Passover. With these values to guide us, I know we'll succeed.

Thank you for listening.

END

9:12 A.M. CST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

March 26, 1994

INTERVIEW OF GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS
BY PAUL COHEN OF CNN

The Roosevelt Room

Q You wake up this morning, you open your newspaper and there's your name splashed along the headlines. What was your reaction?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, I mean, it wasn't pleasant. I would have preferred to sleep in this morning and maybe go out and just relax this afternoon. But, you know, it's part of the game.

Q Are you concerned?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Not particularly. I mean, I'm just going to do my job. That's what I was sent here to do and that's what I'm doing.

Q Let's go through just a few of the charges that were listed in a few news magazines and the newspaper. Did you or Mr. Ickes ever try to influence the RTC to get rid of Jay Stevens?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Let me tell you what happened that day. First of all, it was a very busy day here at the White House. I don't know if you remember, but it was the day of the Hebron massacre, and we were having congressional meetings on Aldrich Ames and congressional meetings on health care. I was in many meetings that day. I had lots of phone calls on the fly. It was very hectic.

What I do remember is that at some point during that afternoon I had a conversation with Josh Steiner. In the course of that conversation he told me that Roger Altman had decided to recuse himself from the RTC matter and had told that to The New York Times. During the course of that conversation I also asked Josh Steiner how Jay Stevens, a political opponent of the President, had come to be retained by the RTC. I was very puzzled by this decision and I blew off steam because I thought it was unfair. Jay Stevens was an outspoken political opponent of the President. He was considering running for the Republican Senate nomination in Virginia. But once I got the facts from Josh about the retention, that ended the matter as far as I was concerned.

All I remember about the conversation with Mr. Altman was that we asked Mr. Altman to explain his decision to recuse himself from all of the matters, and I suggested that as a courtesy to the President he write the President a note explaining the decision. That's all I remember about the conversation.

Q You say you talked to Mr. Steiner about Mr. Stevens. Did you also talk to Mr. Altman about Mr. Stevens?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't remember talking to Mr. Altman about Mr. Stevens. It was, as I said, a very hectic day. That's what I remember about the conversation.

Q You know, you're quoted saying that Stevens was an outrageous choice and asking whether -- quote -- "anything can be done about that." Is that accurate?

MORE

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't know if I'm quoted saying that. What I remember about the conversations is what I told you.

Q Did you initiate the calls yourself or did the President ask you to make the calls?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: The President did not ask me to make any phone calls. As far as initiating the phone calls, I really don't remember who called who.

Q Weren't you concerned, though, that they might appear to be improper even if the President didn't authorize them?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Again, I was called -- or was talking, first of all, about Mr. Altman's recusal, which had already been conveyed to The New York Times. In the course of that conversation I asked how Jay Stevens had been retained. Do I wish now that I hadn't have gotten angry, that I hadn't blown off steam? Of course, I do. I wish I hadn't gotten angry. But I was just trying to get information.

Q What do you believe is behind all of this? Why are these reports surfacing now?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I wish I knew. That's a question for you to find out. I'm just going to go on and do my job.

Q Is it possible that Republican holdovers at the RTC are somehow trying to damage the President by either leaking information or by hiring somebody like Mr. Stevens?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Again, that's a good question for investigative reporters, for you to go answer. I think you should. And we'll see what happens.

Q Have they informed you that you're part of an investigation?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: No.

Q So you learned of this when -- of these reports?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: When I got the press calls yesterday.

Q Any possibility that you might consider stepping down?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: No.

Q That's basically all I had to ask. Anything else you want to add?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: No. Thanks a lot.

Q Thanks for your time. Appreciate it.

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Thanks, Paul.

END

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 25, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
UPON DEPARTURE

The South Lawn

11:30 A.M. EST

Q Mr. President, why are you going to Fort Bragg?

THE PRESIDENT: I'm going down there because it was a very, very serious accident. A lot of our servicepeople lost their lives; many, many others were quite seriously injured. And I just want to go down there and visit the hospital and express my concerns to the people who are still hospitalized and to their families and all the people at Fort Bragg for the losses they suffered. I think it's an appropriate thing to do.

Q How do you feel about last night, Mr. President? Do you think you put some of this Whitewater business behind you?

THE PRESIDENT: I just tried to answer the questions, and I felt good about it. I did my best to answer the questions. I feel good about it.

Q -- Mr. President, how you could have forgotten about a \$20,000 loan and check to your mother to buy a --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think what happened was -- keep in mind, all this happened in the heat of the '92 campaign. And they just said is there any way any of these checks from Madison could have come from some -- been about something else. I said, I don't think so. And what happened was, when I read my mother's autobiography, I said, you know, that's right, I did help her buy that place. And then -- so Hillary and I were talking, so we asked for the checks. And when I saw the check, then I realized that that's where it had come from.

But when Jim McDougal said that, that he was sure that it didn't have anything to do with Madison, that's what got me to thinking about it. Then I saw it in the book. Then we asked for the check stub; that's how we verified it. So it just happened that way.

You know, keep in mind, keep in mind, when I was first asked about this back in '92, just off the top of my head, I said we lost money, but I don't think it was a great deal. I thought -- I think I'm quoted in '92 saying I thought we'd lost about \$25,000, just from memory. So apparently, we lost quite a bit more than that.

Q Are you positive the tax returns that are being released today will clear the air on this matter?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, they certainly ought to. Like I said, I always did what I think most Americans do, I gave all my records every year to my accountant. They were normally very simple returns. I didn't have a lot of complicated things on them. And we've given them out, all the way back to '77 now. So you guys have got them; you can do what you want to with them.

MORE

President? Q Why were you so reluctant to release them, Mr.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

11:35 A.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Air Force One)

For Immediate Release

March 25, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
UPON DEPARTURE

Womack Army Medical Center
Fort Bragg, North Carolina

2:36 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: First of all, I'd like to thank General Shelton and General Steele and General Davis for welcoming me here and for giving me an opportunity, not only to review the site of the crash, but also to go into this hospital and to see, not only a good number of the soldiers who were injured, but also the people who have been up virtually non-stop for the last two days caring for them.

I found it deeply moving. In the first place, the morale of the people who have been burned and injured is high. Their pride in their work and in their country is very strong. And what everybody said about the quality of care they've gotten and the outpouring of effort that has been made to help them deal with their problems has been very moving. Person after person after person said, you know, I just can't wait to get back to my work. I'm ready to serve again.

It was a deeply moving thing. I'm very grateful to them for their service, and to all of those who have cared so well for them.

Q Mr. President, can you tell us what you talked about, or what you said to some of those who you saw today?

MR. PRESIDENT: A lot of times we just made small talk. I asked them where they were from, how long they had been in the army, what happened. They talked about it a little bit.

I was especially moved -- I met a man and his wife who were both in the incident, both in the service, both injured. The man was injured because he was putting the fire out on his wife. And a lot of these young people were injured because they,

instead of taking themselves to safety, were trying to help others who were being burned.

It was a very -- I wish everyone in America could have seen the faces, the eyes, the spirit of these people, they would realize how fortunate we are to be served by men and women like this who are both brave and selfless, and with no concern other than just to get back to their lives and to their duty. I mean, it is very, very moving. I'm very glad I came; I'm glad I had the opportunity to see this, and again, profoundly grateful to the people in this fine hospital who are taking such good care of them.

Q Is this one of the worst incidents you've seen?

MR. PRESIDENT: It was a serious problem, but they've handled it magnificently, I think.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

2:39 P.M. EST

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release:

March 25, 1994

The President signed the following Passover message today.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

PASSOVER, 1994

Heartfelt greetings to all who are gathered to celebrate Passover.

This joyous festival of liberation reminds all of us of the importance of freedom. The Passover seder, filled with its symbols of confinement and liberty, of pain and joy, has served as a means of teaching each new generation the story of the Jews' liberation from slavery in Egypt. As children learn the ancient account, they understand that freedom is something for which we must continuously struggle and that we must always cherish.

Human history is filled with chronicles of peoples throwing off the shackles of their oppressors to embrace the causes of justice and equality. As new nations begin their journeys to a "promised land," the lessons of Passover echo in every corner of the Earth. They teach us that while we must be thankful for the freedom we have, we must also remember all those in the world who still yearn to know its many gifts. This year, let us rededicate ourselves to extending the blessings of liberty to all who seek it.

During this historic season of renewal and peace, Hillary and I extend warm wishes for a memorable and meaningful Passover.

Bill Clinton

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 25, 1994

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY: A NATIONAL DAY OF CELEBRATION
OF GREEK AND AMERICAN DEMOCRACY, 1994

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BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

In voicing support of the Greek battle for independence, President Monroe expressed the American sense of fellowship that endures to this day, "A strong hope has been entertained, founded on the heroic struggle of the Greeks . . . that Greece will become again an independent nation. That she may obtain that rank is the object of our most ardent wishes."

Throughout the history of our sovereign nations, the unique bond that exists between the peoples of the United States and Greece has grown from the knowledge that we share a common cause -- our profound devotion to advancing the ideals of democracy. Drawing on the wisdom of Hellenic philosophy, America's Founding Fathers crafted a Nation that realizes the early promise of representative government. From the gleaming white columns of ancient Athens to the shining monuments of Washington, D.C., the spirits and symbols of our capital cities reflect our deeply-held commitment to promoting individual freedom and human dignity.

This year, as Americans and Greeks rejoice in witnessing the formation of new democracies where old adversaries once stood, the traditional celebration of Greek Independence Day reveals the true legacy of Greek and American liberty. To mark both the triumph of freedom and the coming of spring in their rich land, one custom prescribes that Greek children remove the "March-thread" they have worn on their wrists throughout the month. As the swallows return from their winter in the South, the children hang the threads on a tree, an offering to the birds for their nests. These ties, once a reminder of the bleakness of winter, become the seeds of springtime's rebirth.

In much the same way, brave young nations around the world are throwing off the last vestiges of authoritarian rule and awakening to the rich possibilities of freedom's spring. They are emerging from their own fierce campaigns for independence and modeling their governments on the steady examples we have set. Encouraged by the triumphs of our histories and the continuity of our friendship, Greeks and Americans everywhere join today in wishing the world's newest democracies a future worthy of our past -- one of great prosperity and lasting peace.

In recognition of the close bond that has been forged between the nations of the United States and Greece, and to reaffirm the democratic principles from which they draw their strength, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 162, has designated March 25, 1994, as "Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this day.

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(OVER)

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim March 25, 1994, as Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy. I call upon all Americans to observe this day, the 173rd anniversary of the beginning of the Greek revolution against the Ottoman Empire, with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities in honor of the Greek people and Greek independence.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighteenth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 25, 1994

EXECUTIVE ORDER

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TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.), and section 135(c)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2155(c)(1)) ("Act"), it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Establishment. There is established in the Office of the United States Trade Representative ("Trade Representative") the "Trade and Environment Policy Advisory Committee" ("Committee").

Sec. 2. Membership. (a) The Committee shall consist of not more than 35 members, including, but not limited to, representatives from environmental interest groups, industry (including the environmental technology and environmental services industries), agriculture, services, non-Federal government, and consumer interests. The Committee should be broadly representative of the key sectors and groups of the economy with an interest in trade and environmental policy issues.

(b) The Chairman of the Committee shall be elected by the Committee from among its members. Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Trade Representative, in consultation with the Cabinet secretaries described in section 2155(c)(1) of title 19, United States Code, for a term of 2 years and may be reappointed for any number of terms. Appointments to the Committee shall be made without regard to political affiliation. Any member may be removed at the discretion of the Trade Representative.

Sec. 3. Functions. (a) The Committee shall provide the Trade Representative with policy advice on issues involving trade and the environment.

(b) The Committee shall submit a report to the President, to the Congress, and to the Trade Representative at the conclusion of negotiations for each trade agreement referred to in section 102 of the Act. The report shall include an advisory opinion on whether and to what extent the agreement promotes the interests of the United States.

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(OVER)

(c) The Committee may establish such subcommittees of its members as it deems necessary, subject to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act and the approval of the Trade Representative, or his designee.

(d) The Committee shall report its activities to the Trade Representative, or his designee.

Sec. 4. Administration. (a) The Trade Representative, or his designee, with the advice of the Chairman, shall be responsible for prior approval of the agendas for all Committee meetings.

(b) The Trade Representative, or his designee, shall be responsible for determinations, filings, and other administrative requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

(c) (1) The Trade Representative shall provide funding and administrative and staff support for the Committee.

(2) The Committee shall have an Executive Director who shall be a Federal officer or employee designated by the Trade Representative.

(d) Members of the Committee shall serve without either compensation or reimbursement of expenses.

(e) The Committee shall meet as needed at the call of the Trade Representative or his designee, depending on various factors such as the level of activity of trade negotiations and the needs of the Trade Representative, or at the call of two-thirds of the members of the Committee.

Sec. 5. General. The Committee shall function for such period as may be necessary. In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Committee shall terminate after 2 years from the date of this order unless otherwise extended.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

THE WHITE HOUSE,
March 25, 1994.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 25, 1994

PRESIDENT NOMINATES THREE U.S. DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

The President has nominated three individuals to serve on the U.S. District Court. They are: R. Samuel Paz for the Central District of California; Paul D. Borman for the Eastern District of Michigan; and Denny Chin for the Southern District of New York.

"I am pleased to nominate these distinguished individuals to serve on the federal bench," the President said. "Each has demonstrated a strong commitment to equal justice for all Americans."

R. Samuel Paz, 51, has been in private practice under the firm name of Law Offices of R. Samuel Paz since 1987. Prior to the formation of that firm, he was a partner with the law firm of Romero, Paz, Rodriguez & Sanora. He has also been an Adjunct Professor at Loyola Law School since 1990. Paz received a B.A. degree from the University of California at Los Angeles and a J.D. degree from the University of Southern California. He resides in Alhambra, California, with his wife Angela Weimer.

Paul D. Borman, 55, has served as the Chief Federal Defender with the Legal Aid & Defender Association of Detroit since 1979. Previously, he was an Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor, a Professor of Law and Assistant Dean at Wayne State University Law School, and an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan. He has also served as an Adjunct Lecturer at the University of Michigan Law School since 1981. Borman received a B.A. degree from the University of Michigan, a J.D. degree from the University of Michigan Law School, and an LL.M. degree from Yale Law School. He resides in West Bloomfield, Michigan, with his wife Carolyn Fried Borman.

Denny Chin, 39, has been in the practice of law with the firm of Valdeck, Waldman, Elias & Engelhard since 1990. Prior to joining that firm, he was a partner in the law firm of Campbell, Patrick & Chin and worked as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York. He has also served as an Adjunct Professor of Law at Fordham University School of Law since 1986. Chin received a B.A. degree from Princeton University and a J.D. degree from Fordham University School of Law. He resides in Brooklyn, New York, with his wife Kathy Hirata Chin.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 25, 1994

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

In light of a decision of the United States Court of Appeals that the recordkeeping status of the National Security Council (NSC) must now, for the first time, be addressed, the Justice Department today filed a brief in federal district court demonstrating that the NSC is a Presidential entity not appropriately considered an "agency" subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). At the same time, the President directed the NSC to establish procedures for access by the public to appropriate NSC records.

The brief was filed in federal district court in the District of Columbia in the case Armstrong v. Executive Office of the President. In August 1993, the Court of Appeals remanded the case to the district court to determine the NSC's status under federal records statutes. The Court of Appeals noted that this question had not been determined by the courts.

As explained in the government's brief, the answer to this question is straightforward. The structure and functions of the NSC as set forth in the National Security Act of 1947, and the duties that every President has assigned to the Council through Presidential Directives and Executive Orders, demonstrate that the NSC and its staff exist solely to advise and assist the President in the discharge of his core constitutional responsibilities.

The President directed Anthony Lake, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, and William Itoh, Executive Secretary of the NSC, to continue voluntarily the practice of making appropriate NSC documents available to the public. The President noted that he "strongly support(s) the policy of past Administrations of permitting public access to certain NSC records, and of leaving certain NSC records to the incoming Administration in order to ensure a smooth transition on national security matters".

The Administration's actions today will thus permit the NSC to continue the tradition of treating most NSC records as Presidential, while at the same time permitting the NSC to subject other records to public access requests under standards similar to the FOIA.

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The White House

Office of The Press Secretary

For Immediate Release
Contact:

March 25, 1994
Lorrie McHugh
202-456-2566

Cabinet-level Health Care Activity
March 25 -- April 9

The following Cabinet-level officials will be traveling across the country to discuss the President's approach to health care reform.

As of March 24, thirty-five senior Administration officials will participate in more than seventy Health Care Events during the Congressional recess. This list will be updated as information becomes available.

Attached, please find a comprehensive Health Care travel schedule for the Cabinet and other senior Administration officials.

Reporters wishing to cover these events should call the respective contacts and confirm event times and sites. This schedule is subject to change and is not meant to be comprehensive.

DAYBOOK EDITORS NOTE: Please list the contact name and number for each event separately.

Friday, March 25

WHO: U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary
Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell

WHAT: Health Care Event with Older Americans

WHERE: Metro Manor
1523 Quitman Street
Denver, CO

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

CONTACT: Mark Doyle
202/586-7161

-more-

Cabinet Health Care Travel Schedule
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Saturday, March 26

WHO: U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Secretary Jesse Brown
Congressman Mike Synar

WHAT: Oklahoma Veterans Leaders Conference

WHERE: Oklahoma Veterans Center
3001 W. Bluestar
Claremore, Oklahoma

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

CONTACT: Kathy Jurado
202/535-8159

Monday, March 28

WHO: U. S. Department of Labor Secretary Robert Reich
Representative Robert Andrews

WHAT: Health Care Town Hall Meeting

WHERE: Seminar Room
Chandler County Community College
Little Gloucester Road
Blackwood, NJ

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

CONTACT: Beverly Barnes
202/219-8211

WHO: U.S. Department of Education
Secretary Richard Riley
Congressman Dale E. Kildee

WHAT: Tour of Childrens Health Care Center

WHERE: AJA Stepanski Early Childhood Center
6010 Hatchery Road
Waterford, MI

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

CONTACT: Kay Kahler
202/401-2571

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Cabinet Health Care Travel Schedule
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Tuesday, March 29

WHO: Small Business Administration
Administrator Erskine Bowles
Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard

WHAT: Health Care Town Hall Meeting
"The Impact of The President's Health Plan on Small
Business"

WHERE: City of Commerce Council Chamber
5655 Jillson Street
Commerce, CA 90040

TIME: 7:30 a.m.

CONTACT: Nicole Elkon
202/205-6905

WHO: Department of Health and Human Services
Secretary Donna Shalala
Senator Herbert H. Kohl, Cong. Gerald Kleczka

WHAT: Health Care Forum

WHERE: 16th Street Community Health Center
16th Street
Milwaukee, WI

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

CONTACT: Avis Lavelle
202/690-7850

-more-

Cabinet Health Care Travel Schedule
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Tuesday, March 29

WHO: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Secretary Jesse Brown
Congresswoman Lynn Schenk

WHAT: Health Care Forum With Veterans and Veterans Service
Organizations

Tour of VA Medical Center

WHERE: San Diego VAMC
3350 La Jolla Village Drive
San Diego, CA 92161

TIME: 8:30 a.m.

CONTACT: Kathy Jurado
202/535-8159

WHO: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Secretary Jesse Brown
Congressman Robert Filner

WHAT: Veterans Health Care Event

WHERE: Veterans Memorial Center Balboa Park
San Diego, CA

TIME: 1:15 p.m.

CONTACT: Kathy Jurado
202/535-8159

WHO: U.S. Department of Treasury Secretary Bentsen
Senator Harris Wofford

WHAT: Visit to Community Health Clinic

WHERE: TBD, Pennsylvania

TIME: Morning Event

CONTACT: Howard Schloss
202/622-0136

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Cabinet Health Care Travel Schedule
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Tuesday, March 29

WHO: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Secretary Mike Espy

WHAT: Visit to nutrition feeding center

WHERE: TBD

TIME: TBD, Missouri

CONTACT: Steve Kinsella
202/720-4623

Wednesday, March 30

WHO: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Secretary Jesse Brown
Congressman J.J. Pickle

WHAT: Health Care Reform Speech to Veterans

WHERE: VFW Post 8787
500 VFW Drive
Austin, TX

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

CONTACT: Kathy Jurado
202/535-8159

WHO: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Secretary Donna Shalala
Congressman Jim Slattery

WHAT: Tour of Onaga Community Hospital

WHERE: Onaga Community Hospital
120 West 8th Street
Onaga, KS

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

CONTACT: Avis Lavelle
202/690-7850

-more-

Health Care Travel Schedule
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Thursday, March 31

WHO: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Secretary Donna Shalala
Congressman Dan Glickman

WHAT: Health Care Reform Town Hall Meeting

WHERE: Winfield High School Auditorium
Winfield, KS

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

CONTACT: Avis Lavelle
202/690-7850

WHO: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Secretary Donna Shalala
Senator Barbara Feinstein

WHAT: Tour and Health Care Reform Discussion

WHERE: San Francisco General Hospital
San Francisco, CA

TIME: 9:45 a.m.

CONTACT: Avis Lavelle
202/690-7850

- o Also on March 31, Vice President Al Gore will travel to Philadelphia, PA and participate in a Health Care Reform Event with older Americans.
- o Small Business Administration Administrator Erskine Bowles - Congresswoman Blanche Lambert. Health Care Event in Arkansas.

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Cabinet Health Care Travel Schedule
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Friday, April 1

WHO: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Secretary Donna Shalala
Congressman Vick Fazio

WHAT: Rural Health Care Town Hall Meeting

WHERE: Woodland Opera House
Maine Street
Woodland, CA

TIME: 12:55 p.m.

CONTACT: Avis Lavelle
202/690-7850

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Cabinet Health Care Travel Schedule
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The following is a list of Cabinet-level officials who are scheduled to travel from April 1 to April 9 on Health Care Reform. Further detail on the events will be available at a later date.

Friday, April 1

- o Transportation Secretary Federico Pena - Congressman Barcia. Health Care Discussion with Employees at the GM Plant in Saginaw, Michigan.

Monday, April 4

- o Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala - Congressman Mike Synar. Health Care Event in Oklahoma.
- o Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala - Congressman Ralph Hall. Health Care Event in Texas.

Tuesday, April 5

- o Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala - Congressman William Jefferson & Congressman Cleo Fields. Health Care Event in Louisiana.

Wednesday, April 6

- o Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt - Congressman Sam Farr. Health Care Event in California.
- o Veterans Affairs Secretary Jesse Brown - Senator Paul Wellstone. Tour a Veteran Affairs Medical Center and Health Care Discussion with Veteran Service Organizations in Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- o Labor Secretary Robert Reich - Congressman Gerald Kleczka. Health Care Event in Wisconsin.
- o Deputy Secretary Roger Altman - Congressman Jake Pickle. Health Care Event in Austin, Texas.

Thursday, April 7

- o Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala - Congressman Frank Pallone. Health Care Event in New Jersey.

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Cabinet Health Care Travel Schedule
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Friday, April 8, 1994

- o Veterans Affairs Secretary Jesse Brown - Congressman Paul Kanjorski. Tour Wilkes-Barre Veteran Affairs Medical Facility and Health Care Discussion with Veteran Service Organizations in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.
- o Veterans Affairs Secretary Jesse Brown - Senator Harris Wofford. Tour Scranton New Veterans Home and Health Care Discussion with Local Veteran Service Organizations in Scranton, Pennsylvania.
- o Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros. Health Care Event to be determined.
- o Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary. Health Care Event in Los Angeles, California.
- o Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala. Health Care Reform Speech at Hunter College in New York, NY.
- o Transportation Secretary Federico Pena - Congresswoman Maria Cantwell. Health Care Discussion with Fisherman in Seattle, Washington.
- o Education Secretary Richard Riley - Senator Jeff Bingaman. Health Care Event in New Mexico.

Saturday, April 9

- o Commerce Secretary Ron Brown - Congressman Xavier Becerra. Health Care Event in California.

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Health Care Travel Schedule
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The following senior Administration officials will be traveling across the country to discuss the President's approach to health care reform.

Monday, March 28, 1994

- o Dena Puskin - Congressman Larry LaRocco. Satellite Health Care reform event on telemedicine: Boise, Idaho.

Tuesday, March 29, 1994

- o Richard Veloz - Congressman Esteban Torres. Health Care Town Hall Meeting.
- o Marilyn Yeager - Massachusetts Hospital Association. Addressing this years annual New England Chapter's Healthcare Financial Management Association.
- o Walter Zelman - Participating Hospitals of Long Island Physicians Forum at Franklin General Hospital: New York.
- o Bruce Vladek - HRSA Colloquium. Speaking on Health Care Reform from the perspective of HCFA. Audience consists of Physicians, nurses, psychologists, sociologists and public health administrators: Rockville, MD.

Wednesday, March 30, 1994

- o Ira Magaziner - Senator David Boren. Health Care Reform Town Hall Meeting: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
- o Bo Cutter. Joint Labor Management Executive Committee of the Retail Food Industry: Washington, DC.
- o Risa Lavisso-Mourey - Odessa Brown Children's Clinic: Seattle, Washington.
- o Elaine Weiss - WBEZ FM radio station. Live media presentation on Health Care: Chicago, IL.
- o Larry Levitt - San Francisco AIDS Foundation. Conference on HIV/AIDS and Health Care Reform.
- o Arnie Epstein - Health Care Forum with Congressman Ron Klink: Jeanette, Pennsylvania.

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Health Care Travel Schedule
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Thursday, March 31, 1994

- o Glenn Hutchins - Congressman Clay Shaw. Health Care Reform Discussion with 100 business, community and health care leaders: Miami, Florida.
- o Fernando Torres Gill - Congressman Esteban Torres. Health Care Town Hall Meeting: La Puente, California.
- o Dr. Phil Lee - Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey. Attending a business community Health Care Forum: Petaluma, California.
- o Bob Van Hook - Congressman Stenholm. Speaking at a forum sponsored also by Joe Barton and John Bryant. Health Care Reform event: Dallas, Texas
- o Walter Zelman - Chesapeake General Hospital, The Virginian-Pilot and The Ledger-Star, WTKR-TV 3. Speaking at a Healthcare Reform Town Meeting: Norfolk, Virginia.
- o Bruce Vladek - New England Healthcare Assembly. Speaking on HCFA's agenda and health care reform. Audience consists of executives and managers from six New England states.
- o Bruce Vladek - Massachusetts Health Data Consortium. Speaking on HCFA's data capabilities and health care reform. Audience consists of Board members. 5:00-6:00 pm: Boston, Massachusetts.
- o Judy Feder - Senator Murray. Roundtable discussion with leaders on Washington State health care reform at Senator Murray's office. 8:45-10:45 am: Seattle, Washington.

Friday, April 1, 1994

- o Bob Van Hook - Congressman Green. Health Care Forum: Houston, Texas.

Monday, April 4, 1994

- o Veterans Affairs Deputy Secretary Hershel Gober - Congressman Gibbons. Visit the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital. Health Care Reform Forum for Local Veteran Service Organizations: Tampa, Florida.

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Health Care Travel Schedule
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- o Veterans Affairs Deputy Secretary Hershel Gober - Congresswoman Thurman. Veterans Health Care Forum: Tampa, FL.
- o Jonathan Silver - Congressman Jim Chapman. Town Hall meeting: East Texas.
- o Judy Feder - Brookings Institution seminar on US policymaking and issues in national and international affairs for 40 senior executives enrolled in advanced management program at MIT.

Tuesday, April 5, 1994

- o Judy Feder - Senator Daschle. Charles Hall Dillon Lecture at the University of South Dakota Law School.
- o Judy Feder - Senator Daschle. Health Care Reform Town Hall Meeting (site TBD).

Wednesday, April 6, 1994

- o Deputy Treasury Secretary Roger Altman - Congressman Pickle. Health Care Reform Event: Austin, Texas.

Thursday, April 7, 1994

- o Christine Heenan - MCET The Mass Learn Pike. Satellite program to participate in a live broadcast consisting in 5 sessions which familiarize students with the federal legislative process through participation in testifying, researching, interviewing, debating, lobbying and amending: Washington, DC.
- o Susan Blumenthal - Congressman Kleczka's. Health Care Town Hall Meeting: Wisconsin.
- o Fernando Torres Gill - Congressman Bilirakis. Health Care Reform Forum: Tampa. Florida.

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Health Care Travel Schedule
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Friday, April 8, 1994

- o Bob Hattoy - Women of Color AIDS Council. Speaking for the first annual summit called, "Breaking the Silence: Voices of HIV Positive Women of Color Living the Reality"
- o Jocelyn Elders - Women of Color AIDS Council.
- o Bruce Vladek - Congressman Amo Houghton. Health Care Reform Forum: Corning, New York.

Saturday, April 9, 1994

- o Arnie Epstein. Northern Neck Health Action Group. Forum on National Health Care Reform: Kilmarnock, Virginia.

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