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Republican  
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| Post-it Fax Note 7671 |                    | Date 8/16 | # of pages |
| To Marcia Hale        | From Reggie Judd   |           |            |
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August 16, 1994

# MEMORANDUM TO REPUBLICAN LEADERS

FROM: HALEY BARBOUR

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON CRIME BILL

Today provides us another opportunity to get our message out on the crime bill. Yesterday you should have received a draft press release to send out to your local press. I hope you are taking advantage of the momentum since last week's House vote which sent the bill back to conference by a vote of 225-210 (with 58 Democrats voting with Republicans). With another House vote possible as early as Thursday, it is critical that you continue to get the message out this week.

Attached is another set of talking points which addresses the latest round of rhetoric out of the White House. Use them as you continue to make news in your state. RNC Communications is prepared to assist you this week in those efforts through radio actualities and other resources. To inquire about radio actualities, call Scott Hogenson at 202/863-8869.

If you have any additional questions, please contact the Communications Division at 202/863-8614.

## Crime Bill Fact Sheet

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The House of Representatives took a bi-partisan stand on Thursday and refused to accept a crime bill that was bloated with "election year goodies" and ineffective, soft-on-crime provisions. House members voted 225-210 to defeat a procedural rule that would have allowed the crime bill to come to the floor for final passage.

The issue is not whether there will be a crime bill. The issue is whether Bill Clinton and the Democratic Congressional leadership will force the American taxpayers to pay over \$9 billion for additional social welfare spending as its price for passing a crime bill.

After months of intra-party wrangling among Democrat members of the conference committee — with no leadership from President Clinton — a handful of members comprising the liberal Democrat leadership decided that the bill was ready. They had successfully watered down the tough anti-crime initiatives and managed to stuff the bill with nearly \$10 billion in social welfare spending. And then — in an election year — they *dared* Republicans and other responsible members of Congress to vote against this bill.

In a cynical ploy to try to rescue his faltering presidency, Clinton has fallen back on his oldest gambit: say anything, muddle the facts, and hope the truth doesn't catch up. He is exploiting the American public's legitimate fear about crime in an attempt to stampede members of Congress into voting for anything that has the label "anti-crime." The following five statements are particularly in need of correction:

***False Statement #1 — There is nothing in the bill that is different from the version the House passed last spring.***

***Facts:***

- The House bill originally contained \$13.5 billion in fully funded prison grants that would have taken violent, repeat offenders off the street and required them to serve a greater portion of their sentences. The conference report contains only \$6.5 billion in fully funded prison grants and includes provisions that permit states to use this money for other programs.
- The prison grants language changed dramatically in the House-Senate conference. While ostensibly calling for longer prison terms by making truth-in-sentencing a condition of federal funding, conferees actually inserted easy-to-find loopholes for states to avoid that requirement.
- The House instructed the conference by a vote of 407 to 13 to include a provision that would require that neighbors be notified if violent sexual predators move into their communities. But Democrat Judiciary Chairman Jack Brooks — one of the 13 who voted "no" — rewrote the provision. Putting the rights of predators over the rights of victims, Brooks changed the provision originally titled "community notification" to "privacy of data" and weakened the provision beyond recognition.
- Several House Republicans voted for the bill the first time in hopes of pairing up the bloated, weak House crime bill with the much stronger and less expensive Senate bill. But liberal House-Senate conferees weakened the Senate's tough provisions, kept all of the social spending and even added additional pork including handouts directed exclusively to their home-town. Most notable among these hand-outs was \$10 million for Democrat Judiciary Chairman Jack Brooks's alma mater, Lamar University.
- The Democrat-controlled conference committee had the opportunity to cut social spending by \$3.6 billion; enact real truth in sentencing, making violent offenders serve at least 85 percent of their sentences; and include the more effective "three-strikes-and-you're-out" provision found in the Senate bill. They could have incorporated the tough mandatory penalties for those who use a gun in the commission of a crime and gotten rid of a provision that will retroactively end mandatory minimum sentences for up to 10,000 drug offenders thus releasing them back onto the streets. The conference rejected all of these improvements.

***False Statement #2 — The vote was a "procedural trick" that allowed Congress to sidestep the vote on the bill itself.***

***Facts:***

The vote on the rule is part of the process in Congress that dates back 200 years. It is a legitimate, procedural vote on whether or not to bring up a bill. It is the only opportunity members have to fix a bad bill coming out of conference. The vote last week on the crime bill rule was a clear statement from the members to the Democratic leadership to cut the pork and bring back a good bill.

***False Statement #3 — The defeat of the rule lies at the feet of Republicans.***

***Facts:***

- Nearly 1 in 4 Democrats voted with Republicans. Democrats in the House have a *79 member majority* over Republicans. Democrats do not need the support of a single Republican to pass any legislation they please. In fact, Republicans would need at least 40 Democrats to side with them in order to defeat or pass any bill.
- In the face of a "stinging defeat" President Clinton would like to shift the blame. What Bill Clinton will not admit is that the liberal Democratic leadership crafted a "crime bill" that it could not even sell to its *own* Democrat members.

***False Statement #4 — Republicans never opposed the "pork" in the crime bill originally — now it is hypocritical for them to do so.***

***Facts:***

Republicans tried to reduce social spending both on the floor and in conference only to be rebuffed by Democrat big spenders. We offered instructions to the conferees to cut unnecessary social welfare programs. On the very first day of the House-Senate Conference, a successful Republican amendment transferred \$3.6 billion for pork-barrel spending into effective law enforcement grants. A mere 24 hours later, Democrat conferees stripped the law enforcement grant funding and transferred it back into pork-barrel spending.

***False Statement #5 — Republicans are more interested in gaining political advantage than passing a crime bill.***

***Facts:***

Nothing could be further from the truth. The day after the vote, Republican leaders in the House and Senate and Republicans on the crime bill conference committee faxed a letter to the President aboard Air Force One requesting a meeting as soon as possible to "discuss how we can work together to pass a strong crime bill as soon as possible."

Republicans are willing to work with the Democrats leadership to revise the crime bill in the following ways:

- Restore \$13.5 billion in prison funding based on *real* truth-in-sentencing
- Remove \$9 billion in social welfare spending
- Restore the provisions passed by the House to strengthen the death penalty procedures.
- Restore the Dole-Molinari-Kyl provision on the admissibility of evidence of similar crime in sex offenses.
- Remove the hiring quotas and other bureaucratic conditions on receiving grants to hire police.

If the bill were correctly outlined as above, there would be overwhelming Republican support, and this would be truly tough anti-crime legislation that would sail through with a huge bi-partisan majority.

***Cut the pork and pass the bill!***



AUG 16 '94 02:40PM N A CO

# KINC NEWS RELEASE

Haley Barbour  
Chairman

Jeanie Austin  
Co-Chairman

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, August 15, 1994

CONTACT: ANNE GAVIN  
(202) 863-8550

**STATEMENT BY REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HALEY BARBOUR**

President Clinton again today claimed last week's vote on the crime bill was a "procedural trick." The real trick is Bill Clinton and the Democratic leadership's sleight of hand to force the American taxpayers to pay over \$9 billion for additional social welfare spending as the price for passing a crime bill.

Here are the "procedural tricks" in the House-Senate conference crime bill the President didn't talk about:

- The bill costs \$11 billion more than the bill that left the Senate and \$7 billion more than the bill that left the House. Included in this additional spending are such pork items as \$10 million for Democrat Judiciary Chairman Jack Brooks's alma mater, Lamar University. This is not the same bill that passed the House last spring.
- At the instruction of Rep. Jack Brooks, House Judiciary Committee Chairman, the House-Senate conference rewrote the provision requiring that neighbors be notified when violent sexual predators move into their communities — effectively gutting it. Putting the rights of predators over the rights of victims, Brooks changed the provision originally titled "community notification" to "privacy of data" and weakened the provision beyond recognition.
- The House-Senate conference dropped effective truth-in-sentencing requirements for prison funding and then cut funding for prisons. The House bill originally contained \$13.5 billion in fully funded prison grants that would have taken violent, repeat offenders off the street and required them to serve a greater portion of their sentence. The conference report contains only \$6.5 billion in fully funded prison grants but includes provisions that permit states to use the money for other programs.
- The House-Senate conference dropped provisions for tough mandatory penalties for those who use a gun in the commission of a crime.

Last week's vote on the crime bill rule was the only opportunity members had to express their opposition to actions taken by the House-Senate conference committee. Outrageously, this 972-page conference report was presented to House members less than 24 hours before the Democrat leadership demanded a vote on the rule. When the Democrat leadership and their White House allies try to get away with tricks like these, they shouldn't be surprised when the House - Republicans and Democrats alike - calls their hand. American taxpayers should not be forced to pay over \$9 billion in added social welfare spending as the price for passing a crime bill.

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