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Folder #9 - Alexis Herman [Memo from Rahm Emanuel re Ongoing Crime Bill Strategy]

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June 30, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

FROM:

RAHM EMANUEL ^{2.9.}

Subject:

On-Going Crime Bill Strategy

Our Crime Bill strategy, in my view, has two main goals: communications and legislative outreach. The following is a breakdown of what I think is necessary in both of those areas to getting a Crime Bill passed.

I. LEGISLATIVE OUTREACH

A. Targeting Specific Member Groups

- **Congressional Black Caucus:** The Vice President and Attorney General Reno should call targeted CBC members -- those members who may vote for the rule (see attached list.) Justice is preparing call sheets for these members. This should occur during recess.
- **Democratic House Members who voted for the Crime Bill, but against the ban on assault weapons:** Secretary Bentsen, AG Reno, Secretary Espy, Mack, and Leon should make calls to those members who voted for the Crime Bill, but against the ban on assault weapons (see attached list). Justice will provide talking points for these calls. This should occur during recess.
- **Hispanic Caucus:** Secretary Cisneros, Secretary Pena, and Mack should call members of the Hispanic caucus (see attached list) to express to them that we need their support. This should occur during recess.

B. Stroking Specific Members

Certain key members have recently had their feathers ruffled, and need reassurance that they and their particular interests are appreciated and supported. Following are the members who I feel need some stroking at this time.

- **Schumer:** We need to solve Schumer's policing problem to his satisfaction, as well as to the satisfaction of Biden and Brooks. Schumer currently feels abandoned, and we need to demonstrate to him that we are fighting for his program. To this end, Leon should call Schumer and express to him how important Schumer is to our success. This should occur as soon as possible.
- **Biden:** Biden also feels snubbed. He feels as though he went out on a limb for us on Racial Justice, and now he is getting cut out of the loop. To address this, and

to express to Biden how important the administration thinks he is to the Crime Bill effort, the President should call Biden to lay out the administration's strategy. This should occur this weekend.

- **Conyers:** Reno and Mayor Dennis Archer of Detroit should call Conyers to express to him how important this bill is for his district. In addition, I have spoken to his political consultants, Paul Maselin and Richard Schlachman, to talk to them about how critical passing this Crime Bill is to Conyers' re-election.
- **Edwards:** Vic Fazio should call Edwards to express to him how crucial he is to getting this bill passed. Depending on how that conversation goes, Leon should place a follow-up call to Edwards, appealing to him as a former California colleague.

II. COMMUNICATIONS

Following is a list of communications actions that should occur during and after the congressional recess.

- **Major Mailing to Ed Boards:** Justice is preparing a detailed comparison between the Republican bill, which was announced on Thursday, and the conference bill. We should mail this document, with a cover letter from the President, to the editorial boards of every major paper in the country as well as to papers in targeted swing districts.
- **Reno's Travel:** The Attorney General will continue to have a travel schedule that includes numerous crime-related events. In particular, she will attend a major domestic violence event in Baltimore sponsored by police and DAs. She will also go to Petaluma, CA, the home of Polly Klaas.
- **Articles:** We should work to get national articles written (i.e. Seib, Brownstein) analyzing where the bill is.
- **Public Outreach:** Public Liaison should mail the Justice's comparison of the GOP and conference bills to every Crime Leadership Day participant.
- **Presidential Involvement:** When the Congress returns, the President should make a statement on where the Crime Bill is and what he wants to see happen to it as the conference resumes. In addition, the President will be involved in a number of events to highlight the Crime Bill and issues related to crime and violence. The presidential schedule for crime needs to be developed further.

Updated List 6/27/94

10:00am

Major Cities

✓Sanford Bishop	Albany, Columbus, GA
✓Lucien Blackwell	Philadelphia, PA
Corrine Brown	Jacksonville, Dayton Beach, Gainesville, Orlando, FL
✓Eva Clayton	Greensville, Warrenton, NC
James Clyburn	Columbia, Florence, Norht Charleston, SC
✓John Conyers	Detroit, MI
Cleo Fields	Baton Rouge, Opelousas, Shreveport LA
Floyd Flake	St. Albans, Far Rockaway, NY
✓Harold Ford	Memphis, TN
✓William Jefferson	New Orleans, LA
E.B. Johnson	Dallas, TX
✓Cynthia McKinney	Decatur, Augusta, Savannah, GA
✓Carrie Meek	Miami, FL
Kweisi Mfume	Baltimore, MD
✓Mel Reynolds	Chicago, Homewood IL
Bennie Thompson	Bolton, Greenwood, Greenville, MS
✓Edolphus Towns	Brooklyn, NY
✓Alan Wheat	Kansas City, Independence, MO
Albert Wynn	Landover, Silver Spring, MD

VOTED FOR CRIME BILL PASSAGE, BUT AGAINST ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

DEMOCRATS		REPUBLICANS
Browder (D-AL)	Hefner (D-NC)	Gallegly (R-CA)
Bevill (D-AL)	Hinchey (D-NY)	Royce (R-CA)
Cramer (D-AL)	Strickland (D-OH)	Calvert (R-CA)
Thornton (D-AR)	Brewster (D-OK)	McCandless (R-CA)
Hutto (D-FL)	DeFazio (D-OR)	Cunningham (R-CA)
Peterson (D-FL)	Klink (D-PA)	Hunter (R-CA)
Darden (D-GA)	Holden (D-PA)	Franks (R-CT)
Rowland (D-GA)	Kanjorski (D-PA)	Fowler (R-FL)
LaRocco (D-ID)	Murtha (D-PA)	Mica (R-FL)
Costello (D-IL)	Murphy (D-PA)	Bilirakis (R-FL)
Poshard (D-IL)	Johnson (D-SD)	Canaday (R-FL)
Long (D-IN)- announced against	Cooper (D-TN)	Diaz-Balart (R-FL)
McCloskey (D-IN)	Clement (D-TN)	Hastert (R-IL)
Hamilton (D-IN)	Gordon (D-TN)	Ewing (R-IL)
Smith (D-IA)	Tanner (D-TN)	Buyer (R-IN)
Barlow (D-KY)	Chapman (D-TX)	Snowe (R-ME)
Hayes (D-LA)	Wilson (D-TX)	Bentley (R-MD)
Stupak (D-MI)	Brooks (D-TX)	Torkildsen (R-MA)
Dingell (D-MI)	Laughlin (D-TX)	Camp (R-MI)
Peterson (D-MN)	de la Garza (D-TX)	Barcia (R-MI)
Whitten (D-MS)	Frost (D-TX)	Upton (R-MI)
Montgomery (D-MS)	Ortiz (D-TX)	Ramstad (R-MN)
Parker (D-MS)	Tejeda (D-TX)	Talent (R-MO)
Taylor (D-MS)	Green (D-TX)	Gilman (R-NY)
Skelton (D-MO)	Orton (D-UT)	McHugh (R-NY)
Danner (D-MO)	Pickett (D-VA)	Walsh (R-NY)
Volkmer (D-MO)	Sisisky (D-VA)	Gillmor (R-OH)
Williams (D-MT)	Payne (D-VA)	Hobson (R-OH)
Bilbray (D-NV)	Boucher (D-VA)	Regula (R-OH)
Richardson (D-NM)	Unsoeld (D-WA)	Weldon (R-PA)
Lancaster (D-NC)	Wise (D-WV)	Santorum (R-PA)
Rose (D-NC)	Rahall (D-WV)	Ravenel (R-SC)
	Barca (D-WI)	Spence (R-SC)
	Obey (D-WI)	Quillen (R-TN)
		Sundquist (R-TN)
		Roth (R-WI)



WASHINGTON BUREAU
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
1025 VERMONT AVENUE, N.W. • SUITE 1120 • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005
(202) 638-2269 FAX (202) 638-5938

REQUIRED BY TELEVISION STATION

DATE: 7-1-94

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING FAX IMMEDIATELY

TO: Ben Johnson

FAX #: 456-6218

FROM: Wade Henderson

SUBJECT: -- RSA --

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING FAX SHEET: 13

COMMENTS: _____

Please contact Lisa Jones at 202/638-2269 if there are any problems with this fax.

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- NAACP LEGAL DEFENSE EDUCATIONAL FUND, INC. • AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION •
 - NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE • SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE •
 - NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE •
 - BLACK LEADERSHIP FORUM • NATIONAL RAINBOW COALITION •
-

June 22, 1994

The Honorable Thomas S. Foley
Speaker
House of Representatives
H204 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510-7010

The Honorable George Mitchell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S221 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510-7010

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. Leader :

We write to express our concern about one aspect of the current crime proposal pending in the Congress-- The Racial Justice Act. Both H.R. 4092, the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 and its counterpart H.R. 3355 would authorize the broadest ever expansion of the federal death penalty to over 50 crimes. While we have different views on the morality and utility of capital punishment, we are united in the belief that race should play no role in the decision to seek or impose a death sentence.

Moreover, the mounting evidence that race plays a significant role in capital prosecutions and sentences demands a federal response. In February 1990, the General Accounting Office released a report which found that racial considerations influence death sentences at every stage of the process. That report found overwhelmingly that death sentences are reserved for those who kill white victims, particularly when the defendant is black.

A recent staff report by the House Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights raises additional questions. That report found that nearly 90% of the 37 prosecutions under the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, 21 U.S.C. 848(e)-(q) have been against African Americans or Hispanic defendants. It is our understanding that all ten of the prosecutions approved by this Administration have been against African American defendants.

In light of these disturbing facts, the minimum response from the Congress must be the inclusion of the Racial Justice Act provision in the crime bill that is finally approved by the House and Senate.

The Racial Justice Act would simply allow the use of evidence showing a consistent pattern of racially biased sentences in death penalty cases to raise an inference of discrimination in a

given case. It would extend the same civil rights protections that we have relied upon in employment, voting rights and housing to begin to undo the tragic legacy of racism and sexism in our country. The Racial Justice Act would provide modest protection against the unthinkable-- that racial considerations would govern decisions of life and death in our nation's courts.

We understand that there is mounting pressure to remove the Racial Justice Act from the crime bill or to severely weaken it so that it is no more than an empty shell. We want you to know that we believe that strong protections against race discrimination in the application of the death penalty are essential to providing a measure of balance to the crime bill.

Sincerely,

Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

Executive Director, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Elaine R. Jones

Elaine R. Jones

Director-Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.

Joseph Lowery

Joseph Lowery

Chair, Black Leadership Forum

President, Southern Christian Leadership Conference

Jesse L. Jackson

Jesse L. Jackson

President, National Rainbow Coalition

Ira Glasser

Ira Glasser

Executive Director, American Civil Liberties Union

Robert McAlpine

Robert McAlpine

Director, Policy and Government Relations

National Urban League