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Crime Tour (Proposed) [1]

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Violence issues/targets/anecdotes

law enforcement	teens
community policing	gangs
prosecutors/judges	urban/rural
social services	repeat offenders
public housing projects	prisoners
schools	illegal aliens
prisons	

crime is causing poverty. Businesses are driven from crime-ridden neighborhoods, taking jobs and opportunities with them. Potential investors and would-be employers are scared away. Existing owners are deterred from making improvements on their poverty, and as property values go down, owners disinvest in their property.

Marquette University

In Milwaukee, Marquette University is addressing its security and image problem by launching one of the largest urban renewal projects in the country. Planners say the **Campus Circle project** will cost at least \$ 100 million

According to the National Association of College and University Attorneys, a growing number of families are suing schools for failing to protect students. Marquette say it's never been taken to court but decided to address the security problem because of a 6 percent drop in enrollment. Officials attribute the decline, in part, to the perception that urban universities are no longer safe. After the crimes of serial killer Jeffery Dahmer were discovered within a mile of campus last year, Marquette and local business partners unveiled the Campus Circle project. It's designed to make the 100 square block area surrounding the university a safe, attractive place to live, work and attend school. Director Pat Lasage says the project has already begun **purchasing and razing buildings near campus considered blighted or trouble spots and replacing them with new student housing and commercial space.**

Pat Lasage (Campus Circle Director): A little further off campus we're engaged in acquisition of some drug houses, buildings that have been burned out and damaged by fires and vandalism and we're beginning to turn them around and put them back into productive use with affordable housing projects for people who live in the neighborhood. This is not for students.

Guns and Schools

Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith is assistant dean at the Harvard School of Public

Health and former Massachusetts commissioner for public health. She's co-author of "Deadly Consequences: How Violence is Destroying our Teen-age Population and a Plan to Begin Solving the Problem." We reached her at her office. She says the transformation of high schools into fortresses guarded by metal detectors is a limited solution.

Prothrow-Stith: There are a number of things. We do have to look at the issues of gun availability, not so much just in the schools but as a society at large. What are we doing with handguns? Why do we have so many? And why do children have access to these guns? **We've got to look at the issues of anger and how you handle it. And I think this is probably the most important thing that a school system can do.** There are curricular materials available on this subject, teaching children to recognize anger and to handle it in some constructive ways.

Hansen: How would you respond to **Baltimore Mayor Kurt Schmoke's proposal that there be a--a middle school for troubled kids, for violent kids?** I mean, we're not just talking about dealing with it in the classroom. We're talking about all these targeted kids being in the--in one school.

But over the past few years, some things have gotten better in Austin. A bank that's devoted to reviving neighborhoods, called the **South Shore Bank, moved into Austin and, with local community groups, started fixing up hundreds of apartments in the neighborhood, spending millions of dollars and drawing private developers into the market.**

They talk about new kinds of government policy that would give incentives to companies that invest and train and create jobs in communities like Austin. But mostly, they say, the many community organizations in Austin will have to rebuild all the institutions of an old-fashioned neighborhood: responsive schools, churches, employers, families, neighbors who look out for each other. And the federal government, they say, has hindered this process with regulations that ignore the reality of communities like Austin.

Drugs and Kids

Although recent national statistics indicate a slight decline in drug use among teens, the number of school-age children using drugs is still alarming. Compounding the problem is the fact the average age at which children begin experimenting with drugs is now going down as well.

In May of 1990, **Milwaukee Mayor John O. Norquist, co-chairman of the Task Force for a Drug-Free Milwaukee**, enlisted the help of PR firm Frankenberry, Laughlin & Constable FL&C, Milwaukee, Wisc., to develop a new strategy for a year-long drug education and prevention campaign focusing on area children. The resulting program used members of the target audience, Milwaukee area youths, to communicate the anti-drug theme to their peers. This positive peer pressure resulted in a new understanding of the freedom of individual choice when making decisions about drug use.

Throughout the focus group procedure, kids continually referred to the fact that it was "tough" to handle such pressure, and to do so, they must "hang tough." "Hang Tough" was chosen as the name of the campaign, and a unique method of tackling the drug problem emerged. This would be a campaign in which kids would be targeted with positive anti-drug messages delivered by their own peers.

A \$1.25 million private donation enabled FL&C to launch an integrated marketing communications campaign including **public service announcements, advertising, special events and other PR activities.** In order to generate extensive editorial coverage and involvement, as well as to kick-off the campaign with a strong focus, the decision was made to produce a half-hour television special written by and starring the children of Milwaukee.

The next step was to hire a community outreach coordinator to coordinate and supervise the startup of 13 "Hang Tough" Clubs throughout the city. These clubs would give Milwaukee youths a place to engage in creative activities as an alternative to turning to drugs.

In addition to radio and TV promotions created and organized by FL&C, a column in the city's largest daily newspaper, The Milwaukee Journal, was initiated to feature cartoons and essays by children. A "Hang Tough Congress" also was formed for area youths to discuss solutions to the city's drug problem before the Milwaukee Common Council.

Honor House

Some teenage drug dealers and armed robbers are being sentenced to an unorthodox alternative to juvenile hall in Eatonville, Fla. (Blumenstyk, CHRONICLE OF HIGHER ED). "Inmates" at Honor House perform household chores that teach them responsibility and receive tutoring and family counseling to help them "stay straight" when they leave.

Honor House is directed by Wilbert Danner, a professor of criminal justice at Valencia Community College. He opened the facility in May 1990 with help from the state. Danner was a federal probation officer from 1980 to 1990 and he says that "he grew frustrated seeing how many offenders had started committing crimes as kids," writes the CHRONICLE. Honor House now has 16 employees and a handful of volunteers from the U-Central Fla. and Valencia Community College.

BOOT CAMPS

Jessup, MD

Of the 722 people who have completed the program, 237 -- about 33% -- have either had parole revoked or had warrants issued for their arrests. The recidivism rate for all inmates paroled from all Maryland is about 47 percent. [Rep. Steny H. Hoyer (D-MD/5)]

Rikers Island, NY

High Impact Incarceration Program (HIIP) established in October 1990. New York has the most extensive boot camp program. It has saved the State \$55.6 million in construction costs and shortened sentences. Recidivism rate is about 5% better than for the parole population. [Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY/8)]

Summit, NY

Shock Incarceration Correctional Facility. Noted in that it accepts women. 250 inmates. [Rep. Hamilton Fish (R-NY/19)]

Riley, KS

U.S. Army Correctional Facility, Established in 1868. 600 residents. Offenders do not return to active duty, but are returned to the community. Rep. Jim Slattery (D-KA02).

Orleans Parish, LA

Intensive Motivational Program of Alternative Correctional Treatment (IMPACT), in 1987. Officials estimate they save \$750,000 for every 100 inmates who attend boot camp instead of being incarcerated. [Rep. William J. Jefferson (D-LA/2)]

- ✓ During the first 6 months 6.9% of the shock parolees, 6.0% of the parolees, 2.8% of the probationers, and 12.1% of the dropouts failed on community supervision.
- ✓ There were no significant differences in the groups in percent arrested during the first six months of community supervision: 14.3% of the shock parolees; 15.4% of the parolees; 14.2% of the probationers; and, 23.0% of the dropouts.
- ✓ Initial studies placed the recidivism rate at less than 9% for those that complete the program.

Wrightsville, AR

Forty percent of the inmates serving time in Arkansas's traditional prisons return to the system, while only 14 percent do so from boot camps. [Rep. Ray Thornton (D-AR/2)]

Crime Tour - Potential Site List

(as of 11/15/93)

COMMUNITY POLICING

Police Stations (in order of preference):

San Diego, CA

Portland, OR

Boston, MA

New York, NY

Chicago, IL

PUBLIC HOUSING

Police/Public Housing

Chicago, IL

Vincent Lane, head of the Chicago Housing Authority has faced consistent opposition from various city agencies, civil libertarians, and even some of his own employees in Chicago, most recently over his plans to refashion parts of the Cabrini-Green complex into mixed-income housing.

"It is this craving for a new urban approach, emphasizing personal responsibility as the key to public benefits, that attracted Clinton to Lane; Lane's policy of "weeding and seeding" is Clinton's welfare philosophy played out on a large scale."

On the same day as police sweep a building, social workers visit tenants and check for signs of child abuse or neglect; maintenance crews inspect for needed repairs; public-works employees meet to map out renovations; and organizers work with tenant leaders to pull together crime watches and plan youth activities.

[note: For more than two months, HUD officials threatened to seize the CHA because of past mismanagement, political meddling and financial irregularities. The conflict was resolved under a complex agreement that included the appointment of Jerome Van Gorkum as CHA executive director. However, Van Gorkum quit less than five months later, complaining that he was being undercut by the CHA chairman, Rev. B. Herbert Martin, for political reasons.]

Residents/Public Safety

Cleveland, OH

The Cleveland area's public housing will be one of three places nationwide for development of new programs designed to help children cope with violence. The Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority has been awarded a \$2.5 million grant by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development to create community-based programs to aid children who witness violence. Similar awards were made to Washington, D.C., and Saginaw, Mich. [October 1993]

Georgia Ave

CMHA already sponsors or participates in several programs designed to curb youth violence, including the Midnight Basketball League and Mayor Michael R. White's Black on Black Crime Task Force.

SCHOOLS

Systems with high success rates in combating drugs and violence:

Miami, FL

San Diego, CA

Philadelphia, PA

New York, NY

Recent Violence/Guns

Atlanta, GA

A ninth-grade student died after being shot by another student in a crowded lunchroom at Harper High School. Another tenth-grader was wounded in the shooting. About 150 students were in the cafeteria at the time. This was the first student homicide at a metro school since 1989 when a Harper High student was fatally beaten. (September, 1993)

A recent poll by the Journal/Constitution found that one out of every three children in metro Atlanta knows someone who has brought a gun to school.

Dallas, TX

A 15-year-old student at Roosevelt High School was fatally shot by fellow student in a crowded hallway. The student was shot at point-blank range. While the school has two walk-through metal detectors and several hand-held scanning wands, they were not working the day of the shooting. (September, 1993)

In August, a Colony High School student was shot in the shoulder at a school orientation program.

Junction City, KS

A 14-year-old freshman girl eating lunch at the Junction City Senior High School cafeteria was accidentally shot once in the head after an argument between two boys resulted in gunfire. (September, 1993)

Chicago, IL

In a study of 8th-graders in Chicago, it was found that 73% had seen someone shot, stabbed, robbed or killed.

Project Smart

(School Management and Resource Teams - DOE and DOJ)

Designed to help schools collect and analyze data on incidents of school crime, drug use, and disciplinary infractions. School areas include projects in **Virginia,**

California, Maryland, Illinois and Wisconsin.

Safety

Portland, OR

The Portland Public School system has a comprehensive gang violence reduction plan in place. One part of their strategy includes having all students who were suspended for fighting, weapons violations, gang violence or assaults attend special classes in non-violence training before returning to their regular schools.

The district has reported positive results when the student returns to their regular classroom.

New York City, NY

In 1985, the NYC Board of Education and Educators For Social Responsibility Metropolitan Area founded an effort called the Resolving Conflict Creatively Program (RCCP). The teacher-designed curriculum focuses on showing young people alternatives to violent behavior and increasing their understanding and appreciation of their own and other cultures. They also train "peer mediators".

The program has grown from 20 teachers in three schools in 1985 to 1,200 teachers and more than 35,000 students from 120 schools throughout NYC. Today over 4,000 teachers and more than 120,000 students are involved in RCCP nationwide.

Miami, FL

Miami schools initiated a school-based crime prevention program, the Youth Crime Watch, in 1984. The program is led by students who work to promote awareness of the problems of crime. School groups work with local businesses, law enforcement officials, and other community members.

Dade County also has implemented a "Gun Safety Awareness" curriculum, which began in 1988. In January, 1993, Dade County became the nation's first school district to have a mandatory "gun awareness" program for all of its K-12 students.

Apopka, FL

DOJ and Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services sponsor the Ebony Knights, an after-school mentoring program for black males between the ages of 11 and 14.

Roxbury, MA

Timility Middle School (inner-city Boston) was selected as a pilot for "Project Promise" in 1985. Students organized activities centered around strategies to end violence among teenagers. Today they host anti-violence forums at least three times a year - participants include all 8 district middle schools, the Mayor, officials from the justice system, social service representatives, and some leading non-violence curriculum specialists as guest speakers.

Sumter County, FL

The recidivism rate has been around 10 percent, but the Sumter County facility accepts a narrow class of criminal --first time male offenders between the ages of 16 and 24. [Rep. Karen L. Thurman (D-FL/5)]

NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAMS

Baton Rouge, LA

Zion Terrace used to have the highest crime rate among the city's 16 public housing projects. In the past few years, however, they have developed a program organized by residents and housing officials to provide a safe environment for kids by keeping them away from drugs and violence. Police patrols have increased, the crime rate has sharply decreased and residents are now regularly reporting crimes and cleaning up the complex.

In addition, eleven VISTA volunteers uniformly address the total community and its problems in an effort to stamp out drugs and drug-related crimes through information and referral, increased resident participation in community programs, and resident association activities.

Chicago, IL

Chicaco Alliance for Neighborhood Safety was founded in 1981 as the Urban Crime Prevention Program. It provides community organizations and residents with training and technical assistance, research and safety-related public policy advice.

Utilizing VISTA volunteers in 1986-89, CANS developed and provided training to over 1400 block groups in the Chicago area. Voluteers are now being trained in community policing efforts.

Jonesboro, AR

Volunteers are working on a shelter for victims of domestic violence.

DRUG COURTS

Oakland, CA

Miami, FL

Washington, D.C.

MIDNIGHT BASKETBALL

San Francisco, CA

Modeled after the National Midnight Basketball League, San Francisco's program, headquartered at the Ella Hill Hutch Community Center in the Western Addition, uses basketball as a hook to encourage inner city young adults into a comprehensive service program. They have support and cooperation from police

officers, corporate sponsors, program administrators, local government, universities and the youth population.

One key corporate sponsor is Nestle Beverage Co., which provided a \$ 47,000 donation to help fund Midnight Basketball for the fall 1993-94 season. Nestle has also established an internship program in order to provide disadvantaged inner-city youths an opportunity for employment.

Glen Arden, MD

G. Van Standifer created the first Midnight Basketball League seven years ago in Glen Arden, Md., the Washington suburb where he had been town manager.

Chicago, IL

Chicago Midnight Basketball League is the most successful in the country.

GUN STORES

Chicago, IL

Gun store across from elementary school.

"SOCIAL CONTRACT" AREAS

Charleston, SC

EMERGENCY ROOMS/HOSPITALS

Washington, DC

At Children's Hospital National Medical Center, the rate of penetrating trauma caused by violence seen in the emergency department *increased 1,740% between 1986 and 1989.*



Washington, D.C. 20410-5000

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
FOR PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

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NAME: Julie FaganDrug-Free Neighborhoods Division - Room 4116
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FROM: SINA SANDNE
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COMMENTS: THE NEXT 2 PAGES ARE A CHICAGO VISTA
PROJECT & THE LAST 3 PAGES DESCRIBE
A VISTA PROJECT IN ARKANSAS.

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IF THERE IS ANY PROBLEM WITH THIS TRANSMISSION, PLEASE CALL
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ARKANSAS

NE Arkansas Council on Family Violence Jonesboro, AR (Family Violence)

Fifteen (15) summer associates are working with one (1) full-year VISTA at the Northeast Arkansas Council on Family Violence. Volunteers have been preparing for the opening of a shelter (July 26) for victims of domestic violence that will house 10 adults and 20 children.

Associates have recruited and trained volunteers to staff the shelter 7 days a week, solicited donations of furniture to provide a comfortable setting for the clients, established contacts with local businesses for donations and in-kind services and designed and published a training manual for volunteers about shelter policies, as well as parenting and children's manuals. Volunteers

Associates are ensuring that the shelter has a Children's Program which is fully staffed by volunteers by: planning supervised play times during the daytime hours; implementing educational programs that could include speakers such as policemen, firemen, zoo tours, library tours; developing children's advocate training manual; developing a written agreement with children's counseling groups throughout the 5 county service area to counsel a set number of children per month at no charge to the family; developing a parenting group for mothers to improve their parenting skills and work on alternative forms of discipline.

Volunteers established a food, nutrition and health program at the shelter by: developing menu's for the residents on weekly basis; purchasing food through the area food banks, commodities, churches and grocery stores; contacting area restaurants and bakeries about donating food that is left at the end of each day; developing a written contract for these businesses to sign; arranging for volunteers to pick up these items on a regular basis; educating victims of domestic violence on healthy eating habits for themselves and their children.

Volunteers have written a grant that will be funded by the Department of Human Services beginning in September. The shelter will be reimbursed \$5 for every meal that they serve.

Volunteers are also planning and developing an annual fundraising program capable of generating \$25,000 per year by: developing a corporate solicitation program aimed at raising \$2,000 per corporation per year; contacting public relations and business departments at Arkansas State University to assist in the development of the fundraising strategy and the event itself; recruiting a corporate sponsor for an annual fundraising raffle who will match a set amount, provide printing for tickets and advertising; contacting 10 civic clubs to include the Council on their budget on an annual basis.

Associates have secured K2 100 Radio, a local radio station, as this years sponsor. The station has donated a trip to Florida and has paid for printing costs for tickets. Volunteers have also solicited five other trips and over 100 other gift certificates and prizes.

VSA's are networking with businesses, schools and civic organizations to ensure that the community is educated on issues surrounding domestic violence. Volunteers are increasing the publication of newsletter, "The Advocate," from a quarterly to a monthly basis with the assistance of Arkansas State University computer services and journalism departments, as well as fostering a relationship with the departments of social work, master's on rehabilitative counseling and psychology at ASU for placement of interns with the Council.

The mission of the Northeast Arkansas Council on Family Violence is to empower individuals who are experiencing domestic violence, to break the cycle of violence by providing safety, shelter, support services, public education, and social and legal advocacy. From 1987, the Council has grown from one part-time staff person and 12 volunteers to 4 full-time staff and over 100 volunteers. The Council serves a 5 county area in Northeast Arkansas.

Cathy Mackey
Director
P.O. Box 721
Jonesboro, AR 72403
(501) 933-9449

Shelter for women is cited by Rep. Lambert

By **STAN GRAY**
Sun Staff

First District Rep. Blanche Lambert cited the Northeast Arkansas Council on Family Violence and its newly-opened shelter for battered women as an excellent example of people putting federal funding to its maximum use.

And, Lambert said during a tour of the shelter Thursday afternoon, success stories are greatly needed to be used as examples in Washington D.C., to convince both skeptical congressmen and the public that federal dollars placed in the hands of dedicated volunteers can make a difference in communities.

Lambert noted that Congress recently approved the National Services Act, which establishes seven job service corps for students to serve in exchange for college tuition funds.

She said many of her colleagues

were reluctant to approve funding for yet another human services-type program.

"Many in Congress are afraid of new programs. They don't want to reinvent the wheel... the key is selling legislators that an old program can work," said Lambert.

The NEACFV is an example of Volunteers In Service To America (VISTA) truly reaching out to make a difference in people's lives, she said.

Cathy Mackey, NEACFV director, said the council has had two VISTA volunteers since the council's inception in 1986, but this summer was able to participate in VISTA's Summer Associates Program, which provided the council the services of 15 professionals to help establish the new shelter.

Bob Torvestad, state director for ACTION, the federal agency that

SEE SHELTER-158



Staff photo - Stan Gray

SERVICE PRAISED

Cathy Mackey (right), director of the Northeast Arkansas Council on Family Violence, Thursday leads First District Rep. Blanche Lambert on a tour of the council's newly-opened shelter. Lambert praised the council's effort as an example of putting federal funding to good use.

Shelter—

sponsors the VISTA program, praised NEACFV's use of the Summer Associates Program, which is the first such summer program to receive federal funding since the 1960s.

Mackey said the 15 volunteers, who were paid a monthly stipend of \$589, included a college professor, college students, teachers and others. "It was a wide scope of people."

Among the tasks the volunteers accomplished was to contact professional counselors to establish counseling services for NEACFV clients; writing a manual for a children's program and a manual for the adults in the shelter; wrote a policy guideline for the shelter; helped to work on the refurbishing of the house for the shelter; and, perhaps most importantly, made numerous contacts with civic groups, businesses, individuals and others to secure financial support from the community.

"To engage as many people as you did... it was a very well organized, intense effort. It has broadened the (NEACFV's) influence in the community," said Torvestad.

Mackey noted that NEACFV's chief source of funding is contributions from the community.

Lambert said the volunteers are the vital link between the federal government and the persons in need. "I'm a big believer that all of the federal dollars in the world are not going to solve our problems. It's going to take people and a good example of that is you people here," she said.

Lambert said the volunteer work not only helps the persons in need but provides invaluable experience to the young person who volunteers.

NEACFV will now have four VISTA volunteers working in the program, said Mackey.

With the sounds of sheltered children laughing and singing along

with a Walt Disney videotape drifting in from the shelter's family room, Mackey said there is a tremendous need for a safe shelter in the five-county area served by NEACFV. The council provided shelter and other services to more than 2,000 women and children in Craighead, Mississippi, Poinsett, Lawrence and Greene counties in 1992, she noted.

The shelter was filled to capacity with 17 women and children the day it opened on July 26 and has remained at capacity, said Mackey. The council is working toward opening the third floor of the shelter, which will increase the shelter's capacity to 25.

For more information on the NEACFV, call 933-9449.

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3 PAGES

MEMORANDUM TO LIZ BERNSTEIN

From: Jina Sanone

Subject:  Public Safety Sites for the Crime Tour

I just spoke with Rana. There are two ways to approach the site recommendation. If you have the option of picking the city to visit for a community policing project, the best, in order, are: San Diego (Rana lives there and could help to organize), Portland, Boston, New York and Chicago. However, there is a community policing effort in almost every state if you do not have the luxury of deciding where the President travels. Rana said she has given you a good description of what community policing entails. Also, Jose Cerda will probably give you the same cities if you have already or are going to ask him.

Below is a description of the VISTA project in Baton Rouge Louisiana. Attached is a recent article describing the project in more detail.

Project Description: Eleven VISTA volunteers uniformly address the total community and its problems in an effort to stamp out drugs and drug-related crimes through information and referral, increased resident participation in community programs and resident association activities.

As far as public safety models in existing service projects, (outside of VISTA) I have no good examples. I will try and uncover something over the weekend. Call me with questions at 606-5000.

'Go with a positive attitude'

A program in the Zion Terrace housing complex provides children with a safe place to play, help with their homework and a chance to meet people they might not otherwise see. But more importantly, the program's supporters say, it helps them learn to...



At the Zion Terrace after-school program, counselor Stacy Sholes, left, offers homework help, along with counselor Robin Turner, to Crystal Scott, 8, as counselor Rosalind Carter, right, helps Monyisha McCray, 8, far right.

Advocate staff photo by Earl Wesschhut

By **PETER SHINKLE**
Advocate staff writer

Kids play outside now at the Zion Terrace housing complex.

A few years ago, Zion Terrace had the highest crime rate among Baton Rouge's 16 public housing complexes. Often, it wasn't safe for kids to play outside.

Zion Terrace, in the poor Zion City area northeast of the intersection of Airline Highway and Plank Road, still has its problems. But in the past few years police patrols increased, the crime rate plummeted and Zion Terrace residents made significant strides in reporting crime and cleaning up the complex.

Now, children at Zion Terrace gather daily after school to do their homework, hear a visiting speaker or just do what kids everywhere like to do best — play.

The after-school activities are part of a modest but unique program organized by residents and housing officials to provide a safe environment for kids and to steer them away from drugs and violence.

The program gets help from paid counselors and federal VISTA volunteers provided by the East Baton Rouge Parish Housing Authority.

But housing officials say the success of the program is due mostly to the efforts of Gloria McCray, a Zion Terrace resident.

McCray, who gives the program 2½ hours of her time each day, has worked hard to interest the 267 parents and children there in the program, said Larry Cole, executive director of the Housing Authority.

It has been a challenge.

The first thing these kids need to learn, she said, is to take a positive approach to whatever they do, in school or elsewhere.

"If you go there with a positive attitude, you'll come back with a positive," she said. "What you put in is what you get out."

The program is held in the manager's office at Zion Terrace and McCray said she tries to make it a place where children can find friendship when they have troubles at home.

"This is a place where kids can run away to from home," she said.

McCray took charge of the program in January, when she was elected president of the tenant organization at Zion Terrace.

In the summer months, the program turned into a day camp that drew as many as 80 children daily. Now that the kids are back in school, the after-school program has resumed, and attendance is down to about 20 a day.

On school days, children 2 to 15 fill a room at the complex manager's office or play under supervision just outside.

Gwendolyn Edwards, a 23-year-old single mother of six, said she brings her 8-year-old son and his siblings to the program because she wants to keep them safe.

"Being a single mother, I've got to take the responsibility to keep him off the streets," she said. The program helps her reach that goal and she appreciates it, she said.

Edwards also volunteers her time to the complex.

"People are now trying to give something back to the community," McCray said.

This new community spirit stands out against a backdrop of poverty. Nearly all heads of households in Zion Terrace are single mothers, and the average annual household income is



Advocate staff photos by Lori Wasselchuk

Gloria McCray keeps order before a dance contest, one of many after-school programs at Zion Terrace.

\$3,200. McCray is a single mother who receives public assistance as well as a stipend for her volunteer work at Merrydale Elementary School.

The Zion Terrace program has few books or toys, and the children spend much of their time playing outside, where they throw horseshoes or kick a ball.

But most of all, the program offers children help with homework and gives them access to counselors.

Eleven-year-old Chad Smith likes the after-school program because he can play games and because there's no fighting. McCray sees to that.

"If it happens here, she'll send you home," he said.

For 8-year-old Chris Edwards, it's a chance to kick a ball and play games he can't play when he's stuck inside his apartment.

"We get to play a lot of games," he said.

McCray had another motive for organizing the program: Her daughter Monyisha. The 8-year-old attends Merrydale with many of the other children in the housing complex and McCray is concerned about her daughter's safety as well as the safety of the other children at Zion Terrace.

"You can be minding your own business and get shot," she said.

McCray and other parents in the complex say the crime rate is going down. They've heard of only

a few shootings in recent years, they say.

Indeed, the number of serious felonies at Zion Terrace — homicide, rape and robbery — dropped from 79 in 1989 to 1 in 1992, according to Baton Rouge Police Department figures.

The rate in 1989 was by far the highest of the parish's 16 public housing complexes.

The Housing Authority won a \$250,000 federal grant in 1990 to pay for patrols to help clear the complex of drug dealers. In January, the grant — which also pays the salaries of drug counselors who work in the after-school program — was extended for two more years.

McCray has received strong support for her program from the Housing Authority and its director, Larry Cole.

The authority arranged for the counselors and a federal VISTA volunteer to work with the program.

McCray is seeking donations of books and materials, and she hopes a company will adopt the program and help pay for bus rides for children's outings.

Cole said McCray is doing a "terrific job" of giving children alternatives.

"The long-range solution to criminal activity is through education and training, and it starts with the children," Cole said.

With assistance from the authority, tenant groups at the parish's other public housing complexes are operating similar programs, but McCray in particular has gotten "great participation" from residents, said Donna Collins, resident initiatives coordinator for the authority.

Until the programs were begun, "tenants were leery of each other. Now we see a joint trust," Cole said. "The key is folks like Gloria McCray who live there and work with the residents."

McCray's struggle sometimes resembles a propaganda war to win the hearts and minds of a new generation. One way she fights the battle is to introduce the children to authority figures, like Metro Councilman Wilson Fields and state Sen. John Guidry, Housing Authority officials and police. She wants the kids to see them, not as their enemies, but as people who can help.

In September, Sgt. Lester David and another officer in the police department's K-9 unit brought a German shepherd to Zion Terrace and showed him off to about 20 of McCray's kids.

McCray said Zion City children tend to fear police and associate them with threatening events.

"Most kids think when the police come it's because someone has called or someone is in trouble," she said. "They don't even stop by just to be friendly."

McCray said the K-9 unit's visit gives kids the message that "a policeman can be your friend. A policeman can be someone who, if you're in trouble, you can run to."

If children absorb that lesson, they'll be more likely to turn to the police if they're threatened or if they see a crime take place, McCray said.

In fact, the mostly male police force can serve Zion Terrace families in another way.

Most of the families are headed by single mothers, and officers "can be a male role model to the boys," she said.

WHEN KILLERS COME TO CLASS

VIOLENCE IN SCHOOLS

School violence is on the rise—and not just in inner cities. Behind it lies a chilling shift in adolescent attitudes: a sharp drop in respect for life

Security guards were unnecessary at 1,100-student Dartmouth High School, in a pretty university town 50 miles south of Boston, where the sons and daughters of professors studied alongside the sons and daughters of yacht owners and fishermen. The federal government honored the school for excellence in 1985. So it was a shock when two Dartmouth students and a third teenager burst into James Murphy's government class on April 12 armed with a bat, a billy club and a hunting knife. Police say they attacked freshman Jason Robinson, 16; one went after him with the bat, and as Murphy wrestled with the assailant, a second plunged the knife into Robinson's abdomen, killing him. Robinson's friend Shawn Pina, 15, had fought with one of the accused attackers earlier. A student in Murphy's class, Pina had been suspended after the

fight and was not present when the three arrived allegedly looking for revenge. So, officials say, they killed Robinson, who had asked what they wanted with Pina.

Until recently, schools were largely immune to the violence that has spread through American society. No longer. Today, more than 3 million crimes a year are committed in or near the 85,000 U.S. public schools, and school violence is a key issue in state and local elections. Two weeks ago, New York Mayor David Dinkins announced plans to station city cops in all 1,069 New York public schools—at a potential cost of \$60 million.

The terrifying thing is that the nature of school crimes has grown more violent, the perpetrators steadily younger. A University of Michigan study reports that 9 percent of eighth graders carry a gun, knife or club to school at least once a month. In all, an estimated 270,000

■ U.S. NEWS

guns go to school every day. Inner-city schools have started adding "drive-by-shooting drills" to traditional fire drills. Others have fenced in campuses, installed metal detectors and started locker searches and student shakedowns. And the Los Angeles school board last month voted to put its armed, plain-clothes security officers in uniforms and to add nightsticks to their weaponry.

Spreading fear. These days, attending school represents an act of courage for many students. Sixteen percent of eighth graders, 14 percent of 10th graders and 12 percent of 12th graders told University of Michigan researchers that they fear for their safety. There were 5,761 violent incidents in the New York City schools last year, up 16 percent from a year earlier. And school violence is not confined to inner cities. Researchers at Cincinnati's Xavier University interviewed principals in 1,216 school systems last year. Sixty-four percent of urban principals said violence has increased in their schools in the past five years; so did 54 percent of suburban principals and 43 percent of those in rural areas.

Eleven percent of the high school students in suburban Jefferson Parish outside New Orleans surveyed this year by Tulane University researchers said they had been threatened with a knife on school grounds.

With students fearing literally for their lives, learning has become next to impossible in some schools. Violence, says Secretary of Education Richard Riley, "has turned many of our classrooms into war zones." Among this fall's casualties:

■ August 27: A 15-year-old girl at suburban Lake Brantley High School near Orlando, Fla., allegedly gashed a classmate repeatedly. Affluent Lake Brantley had 21 National Merit finalists last year.

■ August 31: A ninth grader was killed and a 10th grader wounded when another student allegedly opened fire in the crowded cafeteria of Atlanta's Harper High School. The murdered student had had a fistfight with the suspected killer the previous day, off school grounds.

■ September 7: A 15-year-old was shot at Los Angeles's Dorsey High School while waiting in line for a permit to transfer into the school. He was hit in

the chest and back as he turned to see an argument between other students.

■ September 8: A 14-year-old student at rural South Iredell High School, north of Charlotte, N.C., was arrested for shooting a classmate on the sidewalk in the back and chest as school was dismissed.

■ September 9: Two students at Shaw Junior High School in Washington, D.C.,

gunned down at Downers Grove South High School near Chicago after a football game, where he had served as his school's mascot, a hornet. He was in a car when a Hinsdale South High School student, 15, walked over, purportedly put a gun to his head and pulled the trigger. Friction between the two had begun days earlier, when the suspected assailant re-



A rising toll. One of two students killed in a 1992 shooting at New York's Thomas Jefferson High.

were charged with spraying the school grounds with semiautomatic weapon fire, sending students diving for cover.

■ September 16: A 17-year-old at Immaculata High School in Somerville, N.J., was charged with attempted murder after allegedly shooting another student.

■ September 17: A 17-year-old was

portedly blew smoke in the face of the victim's 12-year-old brother.

New attitudes. Behind the rash of violence is a startling shift in adolescent attitudes. Suddenly—chillingly—respect for life has ebbed sharply among teenagers—and not just in embattled inner cities. Twenty percent of the suburban high schoolers surveyed by Tulane researchers Joseph Sheley and M. Dwayne Smith endorsed shooting someone "who has stolen something from you." Eight percent believed that it is all right to shoot a person "who had done something to offend or insult you." Concluded the researchers, "One is struck less by the armament [among today's teenagers] than by the evident willingness to pull the trigger."

Experts point to several sources of this troubling new code of conduct. One is the hopelessness of poverty. Often intensified by discrimination, it lays "a foundation of anger, discontent and violence," says the American Psychological Association in a recent report. Then there's the fraying of the fabric of the family. About a third of all American babies—and fully

What students have to fear



Twelfth graders who reported they were victimized at school during the previous year:

Injured with a weapon	5%
Threatened with a weapon	14%
Injured without a weapon	12%
Threatened without a weapon	57%
Theft of student's property	37%
Vandalism of student's property	26%

Note: Figures from survey conducted in 1992.
USN&WR—Basic data: University of Michigan

■ U.S. NEWS

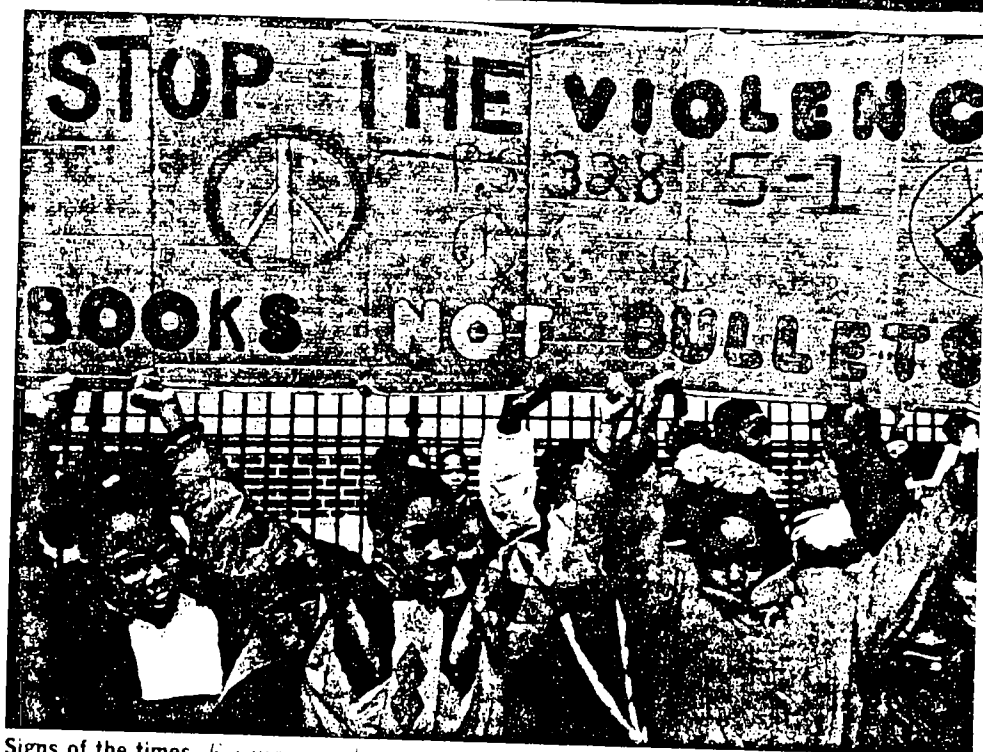
68 percent of African-American infants — are born to unwed mothers. Broken homes and two-income families leave an estimated 1 in 5 students home alone after school. Too often, such statistics translate into neglect, abuse and troubled kids. Fully 70 percent of juvenile court cases involve children from single-parent families.

Numbing statistics. Meanwhile, many youths are surrounded by violence. Ten percent of the children visiting Boston City Hospital's pediatric clinic last year had witnessed a shooting or a stabbing before age 6. Children watch an average of 8,000 murders and 100,000 other violent acts on television before finishing elementary school, says the American Psychological Association. All that violence is numbing — and signals that violence is normal.

Not surprisingly, a surfeit of violence also increases children's fear of becoming victims, making them more likely to interpret others' intentions as threatening and to respond aggressively. "When they believe the world is a dangerous place, many children take the offensive," says Carolyn Newberger of Boston Children's Hospital. In suburban Jefferson Parish, La., where 21 percent of high schoolers say they have carried a gun in the past year, 73 percent said they did so for protection.

The ready availability of guns has made the new ethos of aggression an increasingly deadly gambit. Thirty-five percent of the inner-city youths in Shelley's surveys said they carried guns at least occasionally; 70 percent said family members owned guns. The situation is similar in the suburbs: 18 percent of Jefferson Parish's students owned handguns, and 66 percent told Shelley they would have only "a little trouble" obtaining a gun. Many of the weapons that end up in kids' hands are stolen, available on the street for as little as \$50.

Shelley and other researchers believe that the youth gun culture is rooted in the drug violence of the 1980s. The many teenagers drawn into the distribution of drugs armed themselves. Out of fear of those in the drug trade, other teenagers did the same. "It's like a stain that keeps spreading," says Shelley. "At first it was drug driven, then fear driven. I don't think the av-



Signs of the times. For many students, going to school is an act of courage

erage kid with a gun today has anything to do with drugs." The result is a shocking increase in violent juvenile crime. According to the FBI, juvenile arrests for murder, robbery and assault all increased by 50 percent between 1988 and 1992.

The threat of fights, stabbings or shootings leaves many students less than engrossed in science or history. "Kids didn't want to go to class, they couldn't eat or sleep, they burst out crying," says Jettie Tisdale, principal of Longfellow Elementary School in Bridgeport, Conn., of the days after two students were gunned down outside the school last January — one in full view of fellow students and teachers. So many bullets were flying at Longfellow from

the P. T. Barnum housing project next door that bulletproof windows were installed on one side of the school. Says Tisdale: "We couldn't think about teaching reading, writing and arithmetic until we dealt with these problems."

Seeking solutions. The first issue on many policy makers' agendas is antigun measures, but none has cut the mayhem. Congress passed a Gun Free School Zones Act in 1990, barring the possession of guns in or near a school. One court has declared it unconstitutional, but the federal appeals court in San Francisco hears arguments this week in the case of a man arrested with a loaded rifle on the parking lot of a Sacramento high school. Separately, 18 states have enacted laws prohibiting gun possession by juveniles, and Congress soon will consider a federal law that would make the ban nationwide.

As school violence intensifies, so does the response to it. The Colorado legislature, meeting in a five-day special session in September, established a separate penal system for juvenile weapons offenders and ordered that some juvenile records be made public. California this year required that the records of violent students moved to new schools under a second-chance program be shared with their new teachers after one such student nearly killed his eighth-grade history teacher. And Connecticut's chief state's attorney last month assigned two special prosecutors to cope with a surge of violence in Hartford-area schools.

Schools, too, are cracking down. At

How times have changed

Public school teachers rate the top disciplinary problems

1940

- Talking out of turn
- Chewing gum
- Making noise
- Running in the halls
- Cutting in line
- Dress-code violations
- Littering

1990

- Drug abuse
- Alcohol abuse
- Pregnancy
- Suicide
- Rape
- Robbery
- Assault

USN&WR — Basic data: Congressional Quarterly Researcher



Protective clothing. These days, bulletproof vests come in kids' sizes.

least 45 urban systems now screen students with metal detectors. Even elementary schools are using them. The less-than-aptly named Green Pastures Center in Oklahoma City started screening students last year after the principal confiscated guns from fifth graders on three occasions. School officials also are removing student lockers and prohibiting the carrying of overcoats and large bags during school hours. In Concord, N.H., police lectured junior high school teachers on guns and violence, telling them what to do if a student pulls a gun in class (don't make any fast moves and follow the student's orders).

But such steps are far from foolproof. Consider metal detectors. Most schools use hand-held "wands" rather than walk-through detectors because they are less expensive (on average, \$115 versus \$2,500). But they are also less effective. And because it would take hours to screen every student, many schools don't. In New York, only about 1 in 9 is checked. Ultimately, it is virtually impossible to secure a school. Large buildings have as many as 50 exits that must remain unlocked from the inside to allow for quick escape in case of fire. Despite tougher security and a new closed-cam-

pus lunch policy, violent incidents rose 20 percent last year in District of Columbia public schools.

Getting tough. Education Secretary Riley has sent Congress two bills that would help educators in their get-tough crusade. The first, a stopgap Safe Schools Act that cleared its first congressional hurdle last week, would provide \$175 million to school systems trying to beef up security. The second would launch long-term funding, beginning in 1995. Significantly, the Riley bills earmark much of their funding for promising "softer" solutions to the crisis, including violence-prevention curricula and training in peer mediation and conflict resolution.

Riley's hopes for such programs spring from places like Roosevelt Middle School in Oceanside, Calif. Four years ago, most of the school's 1,500 sixth, seventh and eighth graders lived in fear as gangs "mad dogged" each other—deliberately provoking fights. Today, the school is a placid oasis thanks to a plan called "Resolving Conflict Creatively." First, the curriculum was infused with instruction on listening attentively, dealing with anger and overcoming racial stereotypes. Then a system of peer media-

Weapons

Students who reported carrying a weapon (a gun or a knife or a club) to school



Grade 8	9%
Grade 10	10%
Grade 12	6%

Note: Figures from survey conducted in 1992.
USN&WR—Basic data:
University of Michigan

TAKING ACTION

How kids can respond

This month, ABC-TV and the Disney Channel are giving youngsters a chance to speak out. On ABC's "Kids in the Crossfire: Violence in America" (November 6, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. EST), 8-to-15-year-olds will probe the topic. Disney's "Children's Day Forum" (November 20, 4-5 p.m. EST), features children grilling experts. It's too late to join the shows, but there are other ways for kids to weigh in:

■ **Make school safer.** School Crime Stoppers encourages students to share information about campus crime. Tipsters are promised anonymity—and rewards if tips pan out. For details, call School Crime Stoppers at (800) 245-0009. WeTip is a national crime hot line (800-782-7463) for students and adults.

■ **Write to Congress.** Politicians love to quote letters from children. A letter carries particular clout if it tackles a violence-related topic with legislation pending in Congress: gun control, media violence, community and school programs to keep kids out of trouble. Lobbyists advise personal, detailed letters: "I am afraid because... I wish I had a safe place to play after school." Write senators c/o the U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510 and representatives c/o the U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515. Kids might also invite a congressperson to school for a forum on violence.

■ **Talk back to TV.** Children's television crusader Peggy Charren advises kids to "make the press your partner." Write local stations to complain about violent shows or ads, telling them what you would like to see (programs about how kids can solve disputes nonviolently, for example); send a copy of the letter to local newspapers.

■ **Learn more.** KIDSNET, a clearinghouse for children's media, has a guide to publications and groups concerned about violence. For a free copy, write KIDSNET, Box 56642, Washington, DC 20011.

By MARC SILVER



Peer pressure. Student mediators on the job in Occanside, Calif.

tion was started. When a problem develops, it usually is settled within a day by student mediators who are trained to sit classmates down and resolve arguments with words rather than fists. Typically, one student threatens another, but they agree to avoid a confrontation until their anger passes. It seems to work. Two years ago, "I was afraid I'd get beat up by the eighth graders," says Lea Glatton, 13, now an eighth grader. "Now, I haven't seen a fight in a while."

No force. Roosevelt typifies a rapidly spreading trend. The idea is to show students that force is not the way to settle disputes. "We want to weave conflict resolution into the fabric of everyone's educational experience," says Larry Dieringer of Educators for Social Responsibility, which helps run Resolving Conflict Creatively in 225 schools nationwide. Despite the program's popularity, there isn't much proof yet that it significantly reduces school crime. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is spending \$2.4 million to study its effects.

While schools search for ways to halt the violence, of course, many violent kids end up in the largely ineffective juvenile-justice system. A recent federal study of juvenile courts showed that fewer than one third of youths accused of violent acts remain in custody; the rest are put on probation or set free. Only 3 percent are sent to trial in adult courts, a popular tactic sought by get-tough advocates. But even offenders who are tried as adults sometimes get off easy when judges put them on pro-

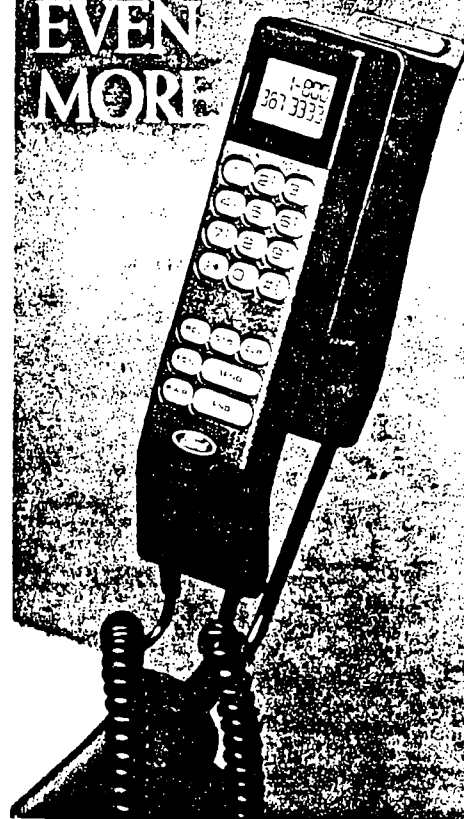
bation after comparing them with older, more dangerous defendants.

Even those who end up in the best rehabilitation programs still stand a good chance of continuing their criminal careers. One of the most successful rehab efforts is Associated Marine Institutes, a Florida-based organization that runs 35 programs in eight states, many involving youths in marine environmental projects. Its graduates' repeat-arrest rates in serious and violent cases are under 50 percent, well below the typical recidivism rate of 70 percent or higher, but still astoundingly high. Yet the program has demonstrated better success than another policy fad: "boot camps" that concentrate on military discipline.

White House officials are hoping to throw the influence of the presidential bully pulpit into the fight against violence this winter. The Clinton campaign will promote a wide-ranging antiviolenence plan that includes urging Hollywood to lose its penchant for shoot'em-up productions and beseeching the country to fight violence at school, work and home. The president himself was amazed when a North Carolina audience recently stood to applaud his call for gun control. Like many others, Clinton is convinced that violence reflects a cultural illness that won't be solved simply through public policy. Getting weapons out of the hands of juveniles is one thing. Reducing their motivation to arm themselves in the first place is quite another.

BY THOMAS TUCH WITH TED GEST
AND MONIKA GUTTMAN

NOW TAURUS
GIVES
AMERICA'S
DRIVERS
EVEN
MORE



The newest Taurus option has people talking. It's the factory-installed Ford cellular phone. For added safety, security, and convenience, this new cellular phone from Ford Electronics is integrated into the armrest of the vehicle. And this phone can also be activated by the dealer on the nationwide Ford Cellular Network. For more information, see your Ford Dealer cellular phone specialist or call 1-800-367-3333 (8 am to 8 pm E.S.T.).

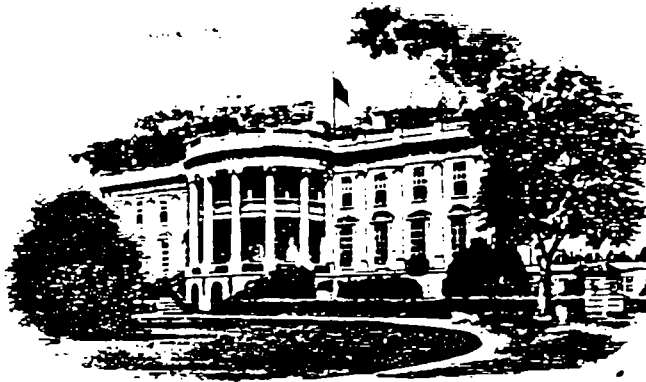


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THE WHITE HOUSE

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DATE: 7-11-94

TO: Bibb

FAX NO.: 219-7971

FROM: Li2

Number of Pages to Follow: 2

NOTES: _____

PROJECT SUMMARY

Sponsoring Organization: Chicago Alliance for Neighborhood
Safety
28 East Jackson Blvd., Suite 1215
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Contact Person: Warren Friedman, Ex. Dir.
(312) 461-0444

VISTA Resources: Sixteen (16) VISTA Volunteers

Project Goals:

The Sponsor

The Chicago Alliance for Neighborhood Safety (CANS) was founded in 1981 as the Urban Crime Prevention Program. Over the last ten years, CANS has provided community organizations and residents with training and technical assistance, research and safety-related public policy advice. Incorporated in 1984, its mission is to build friendlier and safer communities.

CANS carries out activities and education to further the concept and application of volunteer centered community controlled social and safety programs in order to build stronger and safer neighborhoods. CANS efforts in these areas include building over 1100 block associations and networks of community people who work with each other and public and private agencies and institutions to improve the quality of the life and increase the safety and the sense of community needed by neighborhoods.

Utilizing VISTA Volunteers in 1986 - 1989, CANS developed and provided training to over 1400 block groups in the Chicago area. Having successfully completed projected goals and objectives, CANS institutionalized the VISTA program in 1989. To date, the block clubs/watches are effectively operational.

In response to Chicago's rising crime rate and citizens' dissatisfaction with the Chicago Police Department (CPD) service, CANS published "Police Service In Chicago," 911 Dispatch Policy and Neighborhood-Oriented Alternatives. This study laid the basis for organizing and educating residents, police and city officials about community policing and its superiority to traditional incident-driven responses. In 1991, CANS convened a

city-wide Community Policing Task Force (CPTF) which has now grown into a coalition of nearly 60 community-based organizations. In mid-1994, community policing will be implemented city-wide. Community policing is a partnership between the community, police and other agencies to solve neighborhood crime and quality of life problems. Volunteers on this project will work to improve the community's capacity to be an effective partner.

The VISTA Project

VISTA Volunteers will work with CANS' trainers and community organization staff members on recruiting volunteer participation in police beat problem-solving teams. They will participate in planning and convening meetings, devising problem solving strategies and building the organizational capacity of the neighborhood to consolidate and sustain progress in reducing crime. These teams will be made up of neighbors, local police, area business people, churches, local school groups, social service and city agency representatives.

The VISTAs on this project will play the crucial role of helping to develop the community's capacity to be an effective partner. They will develop beat problem solving teams to address the spiraling crime rate and its effect on the community's quality of life. Presently, there are few community or block groups trained in community policing principles and procedures, leadership development skills, organized around a police beat structure and ready to work in partnership with the essential team members.

Expected Results

The VISTA project will result in low-income people developing as volunteers, leaders and involved citizens who create safer and friendlier neighborhoods and an improved quality of life. Over the period of a year, each VISTA Will have working contact with 500 residents and will work with a core of 20 community volunteer leaders whose efforts can be expected to have an impact on 344,144 low-income community residents.

Original
Kivuti
memo

DRAFT

November 20, 1994

MEMORANDUM TO THE CRIME TOUR SUB-GROUP

FROM: JACK QUINN/KUMIKI GIBSON
CAROL RASCO/JOSE CERDA

SUBJECT: CRIME TOUR

Set forth below is background information and a proposed outline for the President and Vice President's "crime tour," which the President announced at the Crime Bill signing event.

I. BACKGROUND

As may recall, in March 1994, the Vice President proposed to the President that they conduct a series of roundtable discussions on crime and violence. Specifically, the Vice President suggested that the President and he host a series of dialogues -- with Administration policy-makers and outside experts, thinkers, and community leaders -- to grapple with some of the issues surrounding the crime and violence problem in America and to discuss possible solutions, especially those that involve communities and their residents.

The President endorsed the idea -- both in writing and in person. Because of the White House's focused attention to health care and passage of the Crime Bill, the Vice President tabled temporarily the roundtables idea, although he and the President remained committed to hosting these discussions or some other forums that are similar in concept.

During the discussions of the roll-out for the Crime Bill, members of the President's and Vice President's staff began discussing the roundtables idea in terms of town halls, town meetings, and forums. We all decided -- and the President and Vice President agreed -- that we should announce this idea during the signing event of the Crime Bill.

On September 13, 1994, at the signing of the Crime Bill, the President announced a national crime tour, culminating in meeting at the White House, which is mandated by the Crime Bill:

[INSERT LANGUAGE FROM SPEECH]

II. GOALS FOR THE CRIME TOUR

The goals of this tour are simple. The primary purpose of the tour is to provide the President and Vice President with regular opportunities to speak beyond the Administration's programmatic and legislative initiatives. The tour will also serve as a mechanism (not simply a one-time event) for in-depth deliberations with all segments of our society -- enlisting community-based institutions and American businesses in a collaborative effort to address the problem, facilitating communications among diverse (and oftentimes feuding) groups, and healing wounds of the past. Finally, the forums will help us broaden our own thinking on the problems underlying this crisis.

III. STRUCTURE OF THE FORUMS

A. In General

While we have not yet agreed to the exact format of the crime tour, we have all agreed that each town meeting/forum should focus on a particular topic or problem; should include thinkers and experts in the area under discussion (as the Vice President characterized it, "a probing dialogue"); and should conclude with real solutions to the problem under discussion.

Needless to say, scheduling the tour will be tricky -- especially if the President wants to be involved in the major events. We recommend that we convene on a bi-monthly basis a meeting outside of Washington, D.C. -- in our nation's communities, with our nation's community leaders. The culminating event will be a White House summit or meeting on crime and violence.

B. Specific Forums

Last month at Governor Cuomo's invitation, the Vice President hosted a roundtable discussion in Buffalo, New York, that focused on community programs that effectively address local crime issues. Because this event also served a political purpose, the panelists were limited to elected or appointed government officials who work in one way or another in law enforcement or crime prevention. The forum was held in the gymnasium of a local high school and community leaders, residents, and high school members were invited to participate.

The press heralded the event as a success. (See attached news articles.) We believe, however, that the discussion was too superficial, unfocused, and failed to engage the audience. In light of the Buffalo experience, we recommend the each forum address a discrete topic, involve real experts in the field, and be held in a more serious setting -- such as a community office or a university. Set forth below are some suggestions for topics and possible panelists/participants.

1. Economic Underpinnings of Crime

In his book, The Truly Disadvantaged, William Julius Wilson chronicles the decline of our urban centers and the effects of the disappearing job market from these centers. He makes clear that poverty and unemployment are directly related to crime, violence, and other anti-social behavior. It is therefore critical that our tour include a discussion of the economic dislocation that causes many of our youth to choose lives of crime in an attempt to achieve the American dream.

We may want to discuss the following issues at this forum:

- incentives for businesses to locate in the central cities;
- racism and classism and their effects on the distribution of capital and employment opportunity; and
- job training and other labor programs.

Participants might include William Julius Wilson, professor, University of Chicago; Thomas F. Schrader, President of Wisconsin Gas Co. and Chairman of New Hope; Tom Klein, Pfizer Pharmaceuticals; and Toby Herr, Project Match.

2. Breakdown of the Family

Strong families -- those that provide moral guidance, leadership, and emotional support to their children -- form strong communities that serve as the foundation for a great nation. However, the American family, the bedrock of our strong nation, is crumbling. We must accept the shared responsibility to rebuild and restore our families.

We may want to use this forum to discuss the following issues:

- reasons for the disintegration of moral values;
- reasons for the breakdown of the family unit;
- latch-key children;

- the role of the family in choosing television programming and other media for children;
- the role of the family in helping children to view media critically;
- domestic violence and child abuse;
- the role of churches and other community institutions in addressing this issue; and
- the role of the Federal government in addressing this issue.

We could consider inviting to this forum some or all of the following individuals: Marian Wright Edelman, Children's Defense Fund; Ann Lewin, National Learning Center; Carole Hall, Community Workshop on Economic Development; Dr. Alvin Poussaint, psychiatrist, Harvard Medical School; Bill Cosby, entertainer and speaker; and the Reverend Anthony Bennett, St. Paul's Community Church and Director, Nehemiah Housing Project.

3. Drugs

Drug use, abuse, and trafficking are linked, directly and indirectly, to a disproportionate amount of crime and violence in this country, especially in our central cities. One study found that more than 50% of hard-core drug users are engaged in illegal activity, and another revealed that the incidence of violence among drug abusers is 16 times higher than the general population.

In this forum, we would discuss:

- the Administration's 1994 National Drug Strategy;
- the treatment of addicts;
- the costs of drug treatment to our health care system;
- the legalization of certain drugs; and
- the role of law enforcement in drug sales and use.

We could consider inviting the following individuals to this forum: Kevin Jett, Community Police Officer, New York City Police Department; Deborah Prothrow Smith, Dean, Harvard School of Public Health; Ted R. Miller, Health and Safety Economist, National Public Services Research Institute; and a reformed drug addict.

4. Firearms

Firearms, of course, play a large role in our epidemic of violence and crime. In 1991, firearms were used to kill 17,746 individuals and to assault 102,000 people. Furthermore, firearms were used in over 18,5000 suicides and in approximately 1,440 unintentional deaths.

At this forum, we should discuss the following issues:

- gun control;
- how firearms are stored, carried, and used;
- reducing the lethality of firearms;
- technological innovations that can promote firearm safety; and
- non-lethal alternatives for self-protection.

We could invite to this forum Mark Rosenberg, Centers for Disease Control; Jim Pascoe, Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms; Raymond Kelley, Former Chief of Police, New York City Police Department; Louis Freeh, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and Eric Larsen, author of Lethal Passage.

5. Racial Tension and Hate Crimes

This Administration has condemned -- and must continue to condemn -- all forms of bigotry, including bigotry expressed through the use of violence. The growing problems of inter-ethnic tension and racial hate crimes present us with a great challenge (and a great opportunity) to begin to address these sensitive issues.

Needless to say, our discussion must start with a reaffirmation of our belief that America is made great by its racial and ethnic diversity and should address the following issues:

- the development of race awareness and acceptance in children;
- racial tensions between groups; and
- education for all Americans on tolerance and non-violent conflict resolution.

The participants could include some or all of the following individuals: Jesse Jackson; Brian Levin, Anti-Defamation League; Joe Roy, Klanwatch, Southern Poverty Law Clinic; Louise Howe,

American Leadership Coalition; Ron Yokabayashi, Los Angeles Human Relations Commission; Adela de la Torre, professor of Chicano and Latino Studies, California State University; Jack McDevitt, Center for Applied Social Research, Northeastern University; and Joyce Rayzer, Community Health Care, Inc.

6. Failure of the Criminal Justice System

The current criminal justice system also exacerbates the crime and violence problem in this country. The court systems (federal and state) are backed-up; jails and prisons are overcrowded; and incarceration fails to rehabilitate convicted criminals.

Accordingly, we should address the following issues during this forum:

- courtroom overload;
- prison overcrowding;
- reform of the criminal correctional systems; and
- sentencing and parole.

I would recommend that we consider inviting some or all of the following individuals to this forum: Charles Ogletree, professor, Harvard University (and former public defender); Vincent Bugliosi, author and former U.S. Attorney; Kim Taylor, Professor of Criminal Law, Stanford University; Eric Holder, U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia; a social worker; a probation officer; and a prison official.

* * *

In sum, we believe that done correctly this crime tour -- a public/private dialogue involving the people like those suggested above -- we will be able to provide leadership during this crisis, facilitate communication between and among America's communities, and promote the Administration's view that all Americans have a shared responsibility to address the violence and causes of violence that plague our communities.

* * *

Please review the proposed ideas for the crime tour and be prepared to discuss them at our meeting on _____ . During this meeting, we will decide on the topics that should be addressed during the tour, develop a schedule for the tour, and assign to members of the group one or two events to organize.

Please feel free to call Kumiki Gibson if you have any questions about the tour or the meeting itself.

Distribution: Communications
Intergovernmental Affairs
Legislative Affairs
Public Liaison

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

16-Sep-1994 09:28am

TO: Bruce N. Reed
TO: Jose Cerda, III

FROM: Kumiki S. Gibson
Office of the Vice President

SUBJECT: CRIME TOUR

The VP talked to POTUS about the crime tour & they both think that we should try to do one before the elections. We therefore need to convene as soon as possible our crime tour sub-group, as discussed in Tuesday's meeting with Carol. Could you please let me know who you think should be a part of this group? Thanks.

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 N T

16-Sep-1994 09:49am

TO: Kumiki S. Gibson
FROM: Bruce N. Reed
Domestic Policy Council
CC: Jose Cerda, III
SUBJECT: RE: CRIME TOUR

All right! The Crime Superheroes '94 Tour begins.

Let's have a meeting Monday or Tuesday with:

Jonathan Prince
Liz Bernstein
Ron Klain
Rahm Emanuel
Gibson, Reed, and Cerda

My office can set it up, if you want. Will Jack want to join us?



December 14, 1994

President Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20050

Dear Mr. President:

Let me cut to the chase. At the signing of the Crime Bill, which you so graciously dedicated in Polly's honor, you said that Vice President Gore and you would be holding crime conferences throughout the United States in 1995. Last September, when I participated in the Crime Bill press conference in the Rose Garden, I mentioned to you that my foundation would be hosting a Crime Conference in the Spring of 1995. You said that it sounded like a good idea and expressed an interest in attending. I have since been unable to get a positive response from your staff regarding your attendance.

The purpose of the conference is to establish standards for interstate legislation that will effectively deal with predators who prey on children. The Marc Klaas Foundation For Children is hosting **Beyond Politics: Justice For Our Children** in the spring of 1995, in Los Angeles, California. The conference will focus on the eight percent solution. That is, legislative and law enforcement solutions that target the eight percent of the violent felons who commit sixty to eighty percent of the violent crimes. The conferees will consider legislative options such as: Truth in sentencing; Federal '3 strikes' law; Megan's law; the Jacob Wetterling Act; California's VCIC law, California's One Strike law and other possible legislative solutions.

Proven techniques will be emphasized in an effort to influence the law enforcement community. Oxnard, California has used community policing to reduce violent crime by forty percent in only two years. Civilian patrols focus on known violent offenders and notify law enforcement when they observe gang or criminal activity. Crime analysts identify areas and perpetrators of crime and then target those individuals. This allows the police to take a more pro-active approach to crime fighting. Advanced database systems, DNA files, and violent offender registries also aid law enforcement in the successful investigation of violent crime.

The 1994 elections proved one thing. People are fed up with business as usual. The Republican Party's Contract With America is not a mandate. It is a cry for help. I dare say that your election in 1992 was very much a reaction to the same dynamics. Unfortunately, you've gotten some very hard knocks. I think that you are different, and that that's part of the problem. The Crime Bill is a genuine heart felt response. Universal health coverage is an idea whose time has come. You've been very responsive to my request to put children higher on our national priority list. Thank you very much.

President Bill Clinton

December 14, 1994

Page Two

My father's generation was lucky. One wage earner, as many children as you wanted, the ability of the middle class to purchase a home, and a mother who had the luxury of staying home to raise and nurture the children. This ideal is now a pipe dream, unfortunately shattered. With all of the talk that comes out of Washington and the State Houses about family values and the quality of life, the reality is that our future is being continually eroded. Legislation that presented as being beneficial really chips away at our ever crumbling foundation. Taxes go up. Mothers are forced into the workplace. Children are left home alone in latch key situations. Government officials whine that it costs too much to house violent felons, so they ignore the problems of crime. Our welfare system incidentally denies families the right to unite.

My situation is at the root of the Contract With America. I was a normal person trying to make a good life for my family and myself. Conditions that could have been prevented only by responsive anti-crime legislation shattered my American dream forever. This scenario is being played out all over this great country on a daily basis. We're putting more into government and getting less out of it all the time. No wonder people are angry. No wonder a character like Ross Perot has a large following. No wonder the Republican's swept the elections. Enough is enough. I have no doubt that the Contract With America will fail. It is feel good posturing. Don't let government continue to betray the public trust. I'm screaming for true justice. I'm screaming for a society that no longer needs to feel like prisoners in their own homes.

Please come to my crime conference. You can help us force this country back on the right track. This is not about you and me. This is about Chelsea and Polly. This is about creating a safer world for our children than the one our parents left for us. I'm more than willing to work with your schedule. I will even hold the conference in Washington if necessary. If you are unable to attend, then I will approach Mr. Gingrich and the party that America has turned to for substantive change. I can't delay any longer. Please confer with me on how you would like to approach this.

Sincerely,



Marc Klaas

December 20, 1994

A NOTE TO JOSE CERDA

FROM: GAYNOR McCOWN

SUBJECT: SOME QUICK THOUGHTS ON THE CRIME BILL TOUR

Per our discussion yesterday, I just wanted to provide some feedback to you on Kumiki's memo regarding the Crime Bill tour. To begin with, I agree with your assertion that these tours should be community-based as opposed to bringing in "experts" to talk about crime and its causes. Nobody wants to hear it!!! That is not to say, however, that the attendance of individuals such as Marian Wright Edelman, Jesse Jackson and others would not add to the event.

Therefore, I would reverse the general purpose of the tours. Instead of each town meeting / forum focusing on a particular topic or problem (with experts and thinkers in the area) and concluding with "real solutions" to the problems --- the tour should begin with real solutions and conclude with how to take those solutions to scale.

I also would suggest that the forums take place in a "serious setting" like a school or a community-based organization to validate the work that goes on there. A university setting inevitably has a very academic and somewhat removed aura. A setting such as a school would enable attendance of a more diverse population.

This tour could provide an excellent opportunity for the Vice President to reach out to communities that are most in need. I think your idea of "building community will" is a good one and is more in line with looking to the communities for solutions. Individuals in the communities need to see this as a challenge for them to get involved. After all, in the end, it is up to the communities themselves.

The memo outlines specific areas that they want the Vice President to address during his tours. I think that focusing on particular areas is fine but I disagree with the approach. In my opinion, we should consider two possibilities -- related but not exactly the same: (1) the tour would be an opportunity for the Vice President to go to a particular location that is dealing with the specific issue; (2) the community, as you have suggested, could plan the forum based on a request from us as to

what issue we want to address.

Some examples of place that the Vice President could go:

1. Economic Underpinning of Crime

The focus here would be our declining urban centers and the effects of the disappearing job market. One possibility for location would be one of the settlement houses in New York. Job training and other labor programs are a big part of the work they are engaged in. They are also involved in providing other services for the community.

2. Breakdown of the Family

The focus here is that of strong families -- those that provide moral guidance, leadership and emotional support to their children --- form strong communities that serve as the foundation for a great nation. I would suggest the Vice President host a forum at the Walbridge Caring Communities in St. Louis, Missouri. This program - located at an elementary school - has been offering services to the families of the Walbridge Community since 1989. Caring communities works in collaboration with families to insure that children:

- . remain in school, while increasing their success;
- . remain safely in their homes, avoiding out of home placement, and
- . remain out of the juvenile justice system.

3. Drugs

4. Kids and Guns

5. Racial Tensions and Hate Crimes

Go to a site (such as Brooklyn, New York) where the racial tension is being dealt with. How are they dealing with it? What are the effects? How are they trying to get the message to children? Or, have the Vice President sit in on a seminar of conflict resolution.

6. Failure of the Criminal Justice System

Engage in conversations with people who have gone through the criminal justice system.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 15, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR JACK QUINN/KUMIKI GIBSON

FROM: RAHM EMANUEL/BRUCE REED/JOSE CERDA

SUBJECT: Crime Tour Ideas

In response to your previous draft memorandum, we have prepared an outline for you of our ideas for the President and Vice President's Crime Tour and Summit. Given the new, post-election challenges we face, however, we have repackaged the specific forum topics to correspond more directly with some of the debate we anticipate from Republicans on the Hill.

I. Crime Tour Goals

Borrowing from some of the long-term strategic decisions that have been made since the election, we would suggest that the following four goals serve as our guide in putting together the Crime Tour:

- (1) **Passing the Leon Panetta Test.** Potential Crime Tour events should -- from the outset -- meet the Chief of Staff's three-fold test for getting on the schedule: (1) raising the stature of the President, (2) demonstrating the Administration's commitment to fighting for the middle class, and (3) furthering the President's image as a reformer. Certainly, speaking to the violence issue in broad terms and beyond our crime programs is presidential. However, we must also go out of our way to ensure that our forums cast the President as pro-middle class and as a reformer, not as a Washington insider or an academic elite. Our forums need to have real meaning for real people.
- (2) **Taking the Offensive.** At a time when all of Washington will be buzzing with wholesale change and unprecedented activity, we feel strongly that the President and Vice President need to be on the offensive, not merely in listening mode. As the President stated in his speech to the DLC, we need to have "...a contest of ideas." Thus, our forums must be part of the battle of ideas that is to take place. They will need some sort of action component.
- (3) **Getting Credit for the Crime Bill.** Republicans fought against the crime bill -- and continue to want to repeal it -- for one simple reason: they do not want President Clinton to get any credit for fighting crime. That is why we have to fight especially hard to make the crime bill work and to highlight its successes.

If we are not aggressively defending our crime bill (and its core principles -- police, punishment and prevention), we will play right into Republican's hands on the need to revisit and improve the bill.

- (4) **Making People Feel Safer.** Ultimately, the American people will give the President credit for fighting crime only if they feel safer. Remember, former Mayor David Dinkins put 3,000 more police on the streets of New York and helped drive the crime rate down in every major crime index for the first time in 30 years, but New Yorkers did not feel any safer -- and Dinkins lost the crime issue and his re-election bid. To help the middle class feel safer, our Crime Tour needs to reach beyond the crime programs and crime rates, and speak directly to communities' crime concerns -- not problems in the abstract. We must be willing to embrace the bold, new crime fighting solutions to which many communities have turned.

While it may not be easy to structure forums that meet all four of these criteria, we strongly believe that the Crime Tour must achieve a balance between three goals.

II. Structure and Content of the Forums

We enthusiastically support the forums you have suggested on the breakdown of the family and the use of illegal drugs, and have included some suggestions on how to repackage the others so that they respond more directly to the crime debate we expect on the Hill. Specifically, we would propose forums on the following three topics: (1) Youth Violence; (2) the Criminal Justice System; and (3) Building Communities. We have also included some brief suggestions on the actual structure of the forums.

A. Specific Forums

1. Youth Violence

At the very heart of America's current crime crisis is the multi-faceted problem of youth violence. While overall crime rates have been dropping, kids today are increasingly the perpetrators and the victims of some of the most violent crimes. As one prominent criminologist put it, "...there are 2 opposite crime trends going on: The baby boomers are getting older and less violent, and the young are getting more ruthless."

Americans know this. When property crimes of all sorts are on the rise, Americans could respond with increased security -- more locks, alarm systems, the club, etc. But society -- especially its working families who depend on the government to keep them safe -- do not know how to respond to a crime epidemic that is fueled by a small percentage of gun-toting, violent youth who are just as likely to shoot a stranger or an innocent bystander as they our a rival gang member. As a result, we believe the Crime Tour must first address the problem of

youth violence. In fact, we would even go so far as to suggest that youth violence could be the subject of more than one forum.

Here are some of the issues that could be address within the context of a youth violence forum:

- The young violent offender. We know that a very small percentage of youth (about 6 percent) will commit a majority of the serious crimes committed by youth, and that these individuals have become even more violent in recent years. We also know more and more about the characteristics of these violent youth -- criminal parents, broken families, problems in school, drug and alcohol abuse, etc. However, our juvenile justice system remains ill-equipped to deal with these offenders.
- Gangs. For many at-risk youth, gangs have taken the place of strong families. In our urban centers -- and increasingly in suburban and rural areas -- gangs are a major part of the crime problem.
- Kids and guns. Kids today are 2 1/2 times more likely than adults to be victims of violent crimes, and firearms kill more people between the ages 15 and 24 than all natural causes combined.
- School safety. Nearly 3 million thefts and violent crimes occur on or near school campuses every year -- or about 16,000 incidents per school day, one every 6 seconds. Schools should be part of the answer to youth crime, not part of the problem.

2. the Criminal Justice System

Crime has remained such a volatile issue for millions of Americans because they have little faith in the criminal justice system's ability to protect those who work hard and play by the rules, or to punish those who do not. Americans from all segments of society long ago embraced the notion that the system is in crisis. For instance, influenced by countless stories about repeat offenders who don't serve their full sentences and go on to victimize again, the middle class has turned to a series of increasingly punitive laws and more prisons for answers. Working families in distressed communities -- society's most likely crime victims -- continue to see their public safety needs go unmet and view the system itself as the problem; suburban and well-to-do families begin to give up on government's ability to ensure public safety and invest large sums of money on private security, gun ownership and other measures.

Here are some things we would consider discussing:

- Victims rights. While the stories of victims such as Polly Klaas can mobilize communities to take action on crime, millions upon millions of Americans have been victimized during violent crime's 30-year rise. And, in 1993, someone was victimized

every year 16 seconds. Very few of these crimes will galvanize communities into action, but they will directly shape the perceptions and expectations that so many Americans have of our criminal justice system. We must be ever vigilant of the needs of victims.

- Certainty of punishment. Although much public attention is focused on the severity of punishment, it is certainty of punishment and likelihood of apprehension that ultimately will deter crime and drive down the crime rate. However, the criminal justice system will only punish a small percentage of serious criminals -- about 500,000 of 25 million -- most of whom will have already gone through the criminal justice system's revolving door.

- Truth-in-sentencing. Even when criminals receive stiff sentences, prison overcrowding and a patchwork of outdated parole policies often result in serious criminals serving less than half of their full sentences.

- Reinventing the "Criminal Justice System." While we refer to the criminal justice system as a single entity, it is not. It is an amalgam of tens of thousands of components, including -- state and local law enforcement agencies, federal law enforcement bureaus, state and criminal justice agencies and court systems, etc. How can we make sure that the public's needs are met with such a complex system?

3. Building Communities

There is little disagreement that, to have an impact on crime and its related social ills, we need to both empower and encourage communities to confront their problems. The way to start doing that is not by bringing Washington's dead-end debate on crime to communities, but by learning from communities. Communities long ago stopped talking about the violence problem and started working toward solutions. Washington needs to do the same.

Equally important, however, communities have stressed that, more than new laws and resources, what they want from the President and Vice President is leadership. They want the President and Vice President to use the bully pulpit to "build community will," and help them create consensus and move forward. We could not agree more and we suggest the following topics for such community-focused forums.

- Community policing. In many communities, community policing has served as the linchpin for neighborhood organization efforts. With the President's expansive community policing program, we could play a huge leadership role in helping communities get together with their police to take on crime problems and improve the quality of life in America's neighborhoods.

- Involving the private sector and professional associations. To achieve long-term success, communities need the support of the private sector and of its local leadership institutions.
- Local media. All too often, local media exacerbates a community's crime problem. Crime stories lead the local nightly news night after night, but successful anti-violence efforts of all types go unreported.
- The faith community. Churches, synagogues and mosques can play a key role in reducing violence.

4. Illegal Drugs and Violence

With the strong exception of any discussion on the topic of legalization, we strongly favor a forum on illegal drug use and trafficking. We would suggest a special focus on why kids today are using more drugs and perceiving them to be less dangerous. During the mid-eighties, the middle class's concern with increases in adolescent drug use made the drug issue America's number one concern.

5. Breakdown of the Family

Again, we strongly support such a forum.

B. Structure of the Forums

Here are some general recommendations for you to consider on the actual structure of the forums. Actual participants, locations, etc., we assume can be worked out later.

First, we would focus much less on "thinkers" than on real people making a difference. Generally, we believe it will be more difficult to capture the public's attention with the same "thinkers" who have exhausted the anti-violence speaking circuit over the past two years, than it will by highlighting those on the front lines of violence. Moreover, such participants make it easier for the President and Vice President to show leadership and talk solutions. We need to develop the right mix of "thinkers" and front line crime fighters.

Second, we believe that the point of departure for each forum should be some Administration action or anti-violence solution -- not merely a rehashing of the problem. During the past two years, every major interest group and Federal agency has held a forum of some sort to size up the violence problem, so a large body of information on the extent of the problem already exists. Our forums should build on this existing body of knowledge -- and on the crime bill -- and show that we are moving forward to do everything we can to make communities safer.

Third, we prefer that the forums take place at a school, community-based organization, a police department, or some other location that would show the President as trying to directly understand the very real concern that many Americans have with crime and violence in their communities. A university, we fear, may be viewed as detached and aloof.

And fourth, in the hope of making these events look and feel less staged than they have in the past -- as well as possibly increasing their odds of getting on the President's schedule -- we would suggest that you consider ready-made forums or asking some of the more friendly groups to sponsor certain forums for us. For instance, Mark Klaas has been after the President to attend a violence forum he is sponsoring. This could serve as an opportunity for the President and Vice President to focus on "Fixing the Criminal Justice System." Also, groups such as Community Anti-Drug Coalitions (CADCA) and the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) could help us develop forums on "Illegal Drugs," and "Building Community Will."

DRAFT

November 20, 1994

MEMORANDUM TO THE CRIME TOUR SUB-GROUP

FROM: JACK QUINN/KUMIKI GIBSON
CAROL RASCO/JOSE CERDA

SUBJECT: CRIME TOUR

Set forth below is background information and a proposed outline for the President and Vice President's "crime tour," which the President announced at the Crime Bill signing event.

I. BACKGROUND

As may recall, in March 1994, the Vice President proposed to the President that they conduct a series of roundtable discussions on crime and violence. Specifically, the Vice President suggested that the President and he host a series of dialogues -- with Administration policy-makers and outside experts, thinkers, and community leaders -- to grapple with some of the issues surrounding the crime and violence problem in America and to discuss possible solutions, especially those that involve communities and their residents.

The President endorsed the idea -- both in writing and in person. Because of the White House's focused attention to health care and passage of the Crime Bill, the Vice President tabled temporarily the roundtables idea, although he and the President remained committed to hosting these discussions or some other forums that are similar in concept.

During the discussions of the roll-out for the Crime Bill, members of the President's and Vice President's staff began discussing the roundtables idea in terms of town halls, town meetings, and forums. We all decided -- and the President and Vice President agreed -- that we should announce this idea during the signing event of the Crime Bill.

On September 13, 1994, at the signing of the Crime Bill, the President announced a national crime tour, culminating in meeting at the White House, which is mandated by the Crime Bill:

[INSERT LANGUAGE FROM SPEECH]

II. GOALS FOR THE CRIME TOUR

The goals of this tour are simple. The primary purpose of the tour is to provide the President and Vice President with regular opportunities to speak beyond the Administration's programmatic and legislative initiatives. The tour will also serve as a mechanism (not simply a one-time event) for in-depth deliberations with all segments of our society -- enlisting community-based institutions and American businesses in a collaborative effort to address the problem, facilitating communications among diverse (and oftentimes feuding) groups, and healing wounds of the past. Finally, the forums will help us broaden our own thinking on the problems underlying this crisis.

III. STRUCTURE OF THE FORUMS

A. In General

While we have not yet agreed to the exact format of the crime tour, we have all agreed that each town meeting/forum should focus on a particular topic or problem; should include thinkers and experts in the area under discussion (as the Vice President characterized it, "a probing dialogue"); and should conclude with real solutions to the problem under discussion.

Needless to say, scheduling the tour will be tricky -- especially if the President wants to be involved in the major events. We recommend that we convene on a bi-monthly basis a meeting outside of Washington, D.C. -- in our nation's communities, with our nation's community leaders. The culminating event will be a White House summit or meeting on crime and violence.

B. Specific Forums

Last month at Governor Cuomo's invitation, the Vice President hosted a roundtable discussion in Buffalo, New York, that focused on community programs that effectively address local crime issues. Because this event also served a political purpose, the panelists were limited to elected or appointed government officials who work in one way or another in law enforcement or crime prevention. The forum was held in the gymnasium of a local high school and community leaders, residents, and high school members were invited to participate.

The press heralded the event as a success. (See attached news articles.) We believe, however, that the discussion was too superficial, unfocused, and failed to engage the audience. In light of the Buffalo experience, we recommend the each forum address a discrete topic, involve real experts in the field, and be held in a more serious setting -- such as a community office or a university. Set forth below are some suggestions for topics and possible panelists/participants.

1. Economic Underpinnings of Crime

In his book, The Truly Disadvantaged, William Julius Wilson chronicles the decline of our urban centers and the effects of the disappearing job market from these centers. He makes clear that poverty and unemployment are directly related to crime, violence, and other anti-social behavior. It is therefore critical that our tour include a discussion of the economic dislocation that causes many of our youth to choose lives of crime in an attempt to achieve the American dream.

We may want to discuss the following issues at this forum:

- incentives for businesses to locate in the central cities;
- racism and classism and their effects on the distribution of capital and employment opportunity; and
- job training and other labor programs.

Participants might include William Julius Wilson, professor, University of Chicago; Thomas F. Schrader, President of Wisconsin Gas Co. and Chairman of New Hope; Tom Klein, Pfizer Pharmaceuticals; and Toby Herr, Project Match.

2. Breakdown of the Family

Strong families -- those that provide moral guidance, leadership, and emotional support to their children -- form strong communities that serve as the foundation for a great nation. However, the American family, the bedrock of our strong nation, is crumbling. We must accept the shared responsibility to rebuild and restore our families.

We may want to use this forum to discuss the following issues:

- reasons for the disintegration of moral values;
- reasons for the breakdown of the family unit;
- latch-key children;

- the role of the family in choosing television programming and other media for children;
- the role of the family in helping children to view media critically;
- domestic violence and child abuse;
- the role of churches and other community institutions in addressing this issue; and
- the role of the Federal government in addressing this issue.

We could consider inviting to this forum some or all of the following individuals: Marian Wright Edelman, Children's Defense Fund; Ann Lewin, National Learning Center; Carole Hall, Community Workshop on Economic Development; Dr. Alvin Poussaint, psychiatrist, Harvard Medical School; Bill Cosby, entertainer and speaker; and the Reverend Anthony Bennett, St. Paul's Community Church and Director, Nehemiah Housing Project.

3. Drugs

Drug use, abuse, and trafficking are linked, directly and indirectly, to a disproportionate amount of crime and violence in this country, especially in our central cities. One study found that more than 50% of hard-core drug users are engaged in illegal activity, and another revealed that the incidence of violence among drug abusers is 16 times higher than the general population.

In this forum, we would discuss:

- the Administration's 1994 National Drug Strategy;
- the treatment of addicts;
- the costs of drug treatment to our health care system;
- the legalization of certain drugs; and
- the role of law enforcement in drug sales and use.

We could consider inviting the following individuals to this forum: Kevin Jett, Community Police Officer, New York City Police Department; Deborah Prothrow Smith, Dean, Harvard School of Public Health; Ted R. Miller, Health and Safety Economist, National Public Services Research Institute; and a reformed drug addict.

4. Firearms

Firearms, of course, play a large role in our epidemic of violence and crime. In 1991, firearms were used to kill 17,746 individuals and to assault 102,000 people. Furthermore, firearms were used in over 18,500 suicides and in approximately 1,440 unintentional deaths.

At this forum, we should discuss the following issues:

- gun control;
- how firearms are stored, carried, and used;
- reducing the lethality of firearms;
- technological innovations that can promote firearm safety; and
- non-lethal alternatives for self-protection.

We could invite to this forum Mark Rosenberg, Centers for Disease Control; Jim Pascoe, Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms; Raymond Kelley, Former Chief of Police, New York City Police Department; Louis Freeh, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and Eric Larsen, author of Lethal Passage.

5. Racial Tension and Hate Crimes

This Administration has condemned -- and must continue to condemn -- all forms of bigotry, including bigotry expressed through the use of violence. The growing problems of inter-ethnic tension and racial hate crimes present us with a great challenge (and a great opportunity) to begin to address these sensitive issues.

Needless to say, our discussion must start with a reaffirmation of our belief that America is made great by its racial and ethnic diversity and should address the following issues:

- the development of race awareness and acceptance in children;
- racial tensions between groups; and
- education for all Americans on tolerance and non-violent conflict resolution.

The participants could include some or all of the following individuals: Jesse Jackson; Brian Levin, Anti-Defamation League; Joe Roy, Klanwatch, Southern Poverty Law Clinic; Louise Howe,

American Leadership Coalition; Ron Yokabayashi, Los Angeles Human Relations Commission; Adela de la Torre, professor of Chicano and Latino Studies, California State University; Jack McDevitt, Center for Applied Social Research, Northeastern University; and Joyce Rayzer, Community Health Care, Inc.

6. Failure of the Criminal Justice System

The current criminal justice system also exacerbates the crime and violence problem in this country. The court systems (federal and state) are backed-up; jails and prisons are overcrowded; and incarceration fails to rehabilitate convicted criminals.

Accordingly, we should address the following issues during this forum:

- courtroom overload;
- prison overcrowding;
- reform of the criminal correctional systems; and
- sentencing and parole.

I would recommend that we consider inviting some or all of the following individuals to this forum: Charles Ogletree, professor, Harvard University (and former public defender); Vincent Bugliosi, author and former U.S. Attorney; Kim Taylor, Professor of Criminal Law, Stanford University; Eric Holder, U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia; a social worker; a probation officer; and a prison official.

* * *

In sum, we believe that done correctly this crime tour -- a public/private dialogue involving the people like those suggested above -- we will be able to provide leadership during this crisis, facilitate communication between and among America's communities, and promote the Administration's view that all Americans have a shared responsibility to address the violence and causes of violence that plague our communities.

* * *

Please review the proposed ideas for the crime tour and be prepared to discuss them at our meeting on _____ . During this meeting, we will decide on the topics that should be addressed during the tour, develop a schedule for the tour, and assign to members of the group one or two events to organize.

Please feel free to call Kumiki Gibson if you have any questions about the tour or the meeting itself.

Distribution: Communications
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