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Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: Domestic Policy Council

Series/Staff Member: Bill Galston

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 5741

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Folder Title:
[Crime Act] [2]

Stack:

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Row:

95

Section:

6

Shelf:

7

Position:

3

PRESIDENT CLINTON ON CRIME, PREVENTION AND CHILDREN

Remarks at the Pinellas Marine Institute, St. Petersburg, FL, September 24, 1993.

Now, one of the things that our health care reform package and the crime initiatives that the Attorney General is leading have in common is a focus on prevention. I got a great hand the other night talking to Congress, and I said, you know how your mother said an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure; well, your mother was right? Well, that's the truth....

The same thing is true in crime...When I was born in 1946 homicide wasn't even in the top ten leading causes of death in America. In fact -- listen to this -- throughout my lifetime homicide never made the top ten until 1989. And yet, now, homicide is the second leading cause of death among Americans age 15 to 25. And more of our teenage boys die from gunshots now than any other cause.

Now, we can decide again what to do with this. Are we going to hunker down and turn away and pretend it's not happening? Maybe it will go away -- we've got a one chance in a hundred that will happen. Or we can face it, and we can face the problem in all of its human manifestations, just the way the Attorney General said.

These kids we just met out here who got in trouble and now they're in this program, pretty good kids. They've got a whole life ahead of them. They've got contributions they can make. And we need to see what we can do about preventing the life that might happen that none of us want to occur.

This initiative that we have undertaken in our administration to give more security and to make this society safer include at least three forms of prevention I want to emphasize, because we know they work and because they are rooted in getting people at the grass-roots community level more power over their own lives.

First is giving these children who get in trouble something to say yes to and some order and framework in their lives. Senator Moynihan said on television last Sunday -- the distinguished Senator from New York who's been a student of American social history for 50 years -- we have gotten used to accepting a lot of behavior from people in this country that's pretty destructive. We have gotten used to the fact that a lot of kids grow up alone or almost alone in conditions that are very damaging to themselves and aren't conducive to learning good things and good habits. And we have let it happen. But all over America there are programs like the boot camp program -- one of these young men just came out of the boot camp program of this program, and he told the Governor that he liked the program; more people ought to be in it. Because, he said it used to be you could -- he knew this. He said it used to be you should ship kids my age off to the service, but we're going down. We don't have a draft anymore. We're going down -- the number of people in the service. So we've

got to have a substitute where people can learn discipline and order and be able to see the future as something that happens three years from now, not three minutes from now. And we have to have programs like this Marine Institute, which now is spreading across the country.

This program is giving young people a chance to take their future back, a chance to understand that there is good inside them, that they can do things that are useful and productive and profitable, and a lot more fun than whatever it is that got them into this program in the first place.

Those young people told me what it was like to learn how to give CPR, to learn how to scuba dive, to learn how to repair a boat and fix it so it would sail, to learn how to deal with each other and with adults so that they could get jobs. This program now operates in partnership with grass roots people in seven other states nationwide. They've taken 20,000 young people at risk and helped them to become responsible citizens. And so far, after they leave this program 75 percent of the young people that go through this program never have any criminal convictions again. If every young person in America that got in trouble had a chance to be in a program like this, think what a difference it would make.

It's very important. How many times do you pick up the paper and read about somebody finally did something terrible after they had been arrested 13 times or 15 times or 20 times. We need a system in this country, and the national government cannot do it, but we can help you do it. We can help provide funds and support and technical expertise, but people at the grass roots level have to do it. We've got to have systems in this country where everybody in those critical young years has a chance to be in a boot camp like this -- like you have in Florida -- or a program like the Marine Institute, or both if they need it.

We have an experimental program we started last June. Ten military facilities have been enclosed across the country where kids who are high school dropouts are able to come back and get their GED and have the benefit of military-type training. And a lot of these kids just love it. It's just changed their whole outlook on life. We have got to understand that we are raising a generation without the structure and order and predictability and support and reinforcement that most of us just took for granted. We took it for granted.

And there's no use in us pretending that some national government program and money alone will fix it. But there's no use in us pretending that just preaching at people will fix it, either. We have to actually change the conditions of opportunity for these young people...

...These are things we have to do...There worth a pound of cure. Have more programs like this one. Give these kids a chance to have something to say yes to, not just telling them what they have to say no to; and a chance to order their lives and to fill themselves from the inside out. A lot of these programs don't deal with people from the inside out. That's the only way you can really change people's lives.

Remarks at the Robert Wood Johnson Hospital, New Brunswick, NJ, October 8, 1993.

...Another part of the crime bill gives states funds to establish innovative programs for kids when they get in trouble before they do shoot somebody to try to get them back into the mainstream of life. After all, a lot of these young people who get in terrible trouble are not really bad people, they have no structure, no order, they cannot imagine the future. There are no rules that bind them internally to the things the rest of us take for granted and we've got to try to get as many of them back as we can before they do something terrible which will require us to put them away for a long time.

Remarks During Larry King Live, January 20, 1994.

Q: I live in Detroit where we have had 629 murders in our state, and I would like to know what can you do or help us about this issue...

A: ...Let me tell you what I think we can do together. First of all, we've got to strengthen our law enforcement forces...Secondly, we passed the Brady Bill, but we need to do more on guns. Specifically, we need to limit these automatic, semiautomatic assault weapons that have no purpose other than to kill...Thirdly, people who are repeated serious violent offenders shouldn't be paroled. And fourthly, you've got to give these kids something to say yes to. That is, we have got to go into these really distressed areas and rebuild the bonds of family, community and work. There's got to be education opportunities, there's got to be job opportunities. There's got to be alternatives to imprisonment, like boot camps. There needs to be drug treatment and drug education programs. We can't have it all on the punishment. These children have to have something to say yes to. If you look at a lot of these high crime areas where the gangs and the drugs and the guns are, they fill the vacuum. When family collapse, when work collapse, most of us organize our lives around work, family, community. And a lot of these young people that are in real trouble today and really vulnerable are living in places where there's not enough community, enough family or enough work. So I think we have to do both things...

Remarks to the U.S. Conference of Mayors, January 28, 1994.

...This administration does favor stronger punishment when it's appropriate. I do believe in the three strikes and you're out concept for violent criminals...But I think every one of us know, if you've ever walked the streets -- really walked the streets -- of a crime-infested area; have ever really talked to the people who live there; who ever really focused on the fact that most people in the highest crime areas of America still obey the law, get up every day and go to work, try to raise their kids, try to the very best they can. What they really want is safety in the first place, which means that we have to follow strategies that can also prevent crime and we have to bring hope back to those places. We have to support the families and rebuild the communities and give people work.

Remarks to the Peace Officers Academy, London, OH, February 15, 1994.

In the last three decades, violent crimes have increased by 300 percent. Over the last three years, almost a third of Americans have either had themselves or someone in their families victimized by crime...Here is what our administration is trying to do.

First, we want a drug strategy that gets hard-core drug users who cause most of the drug-related crimes off the streets, out of crime, into treatment. Second, we want a tough, smart crime bill that puts 100,000 more police officers on the street and violent criminals behind bars. Third, we want to use every resource at our disposal to fight crimes and drugs from public schools to public housing. Fourth, we want to give our young people something to say yes to, by putting hope and opportunity back in their lives. And finally, we want to challenge every American to work with you, the law enforcement community, as partners, to put the values of work and family and community back at the center of the lives of our young people before it is too late for them.

...We need to...make our schools gun-free, drug-free and violence-free. If kids can't go to school safe, this country cannot move into the 21st century in good shape. It sounds like a simple thing, but there have been schools in this country where people do bullet drills...

...We have got to make the schools safe. Our bill allocates \$300 million over three years for local schools and communities, for safe school projects. Up to a third of it can be used for metal detectors, school police or security measures; the rest should provide alcohol and drug education, counseling for youngsters who are victims of violence, and activities to get young people to stay out of gangs. You know, we've got to put basic recreation and a spirit of teamwork and working together back in a lot of these schools. There's a lot of schools in America today where there is nothing for these kids to do anymore, where all the tough financial problems have found their way into just taking out things that would give the kids something they can do.

I've said this many times, but if you think about it, all of us are part of gangs; we just need to be in good gangs. We all have a need to be a part of something. A local police force is a gang; you're on a bowling team it's a gang. Right? Your church is a group of people who think like you do. I mean, people are social animals, they have to be part of something, and we have to do that.

And the final thing I want to say is there's lots of evidence that young people can be taught to find ways that are non-violent to resolve their conflicts and their frustrations. They can do that. We have run across at least one school in the last year that had a wonderfully successful program for reducing violence, and it had to be suspended after a year because someone had given them \$3,000 to bring in someone to run the program, and they didn't continue the gift. We ought to be able to build that in. If we know you've got kids coming out of difficult circumstances, every school that needs to do it should have someone who is trained who can teach kids how to find non-violent ways to deal with their frustrations and resolve their conflicts...

Radio Address to the Nation, April 9, 1994.

The crime bill I have proposed to the Congress is both tough and smart...It will help us to lock the revolving door that swings too freely on serious criminals, and give young people a chance to avoid a life of crime...

...Preventing violence from occurring in the first place is also an important part of our crime bill. It encourages young people to stay off the streets, offering employment opportunities, after-school activities and good role models who teach strong values. These boot camps and other similar operations will give us a chance to send first-time offenders to a disciplinary setting who might otherwise go free. But they'll also give these young people a second chance to avoid a lifetime of trouble, a chance to learn new discipline and how to behave responsibly.

We're doing more to make the schools safe and to get hard-core drug users into the treatment they need. But telling our kids to say no to drugs is only half the battle. If we want children to grow up to become law-abiding members of society, we have to help them find a place in tomorrow's economy to give them something to say yes to.

You and I both know government can't do this job alone, nor should it. The most law-abiding societies are not those with the most jails. They're the ones with good jobs, strong families and strong communities, where the rights of the community are respected, with strong values about helping, not hurting, one's neighbors.

Remarks to Mayor and Law Enforcement Officials on South Lawn, April 14, 1994.

...Let me say finally, this bill has a healthy dose of prevention. And we know that works. And I was glad to see Sergeant Lawson speak up for prevention. It's funny, you know, you hear sometimes the debates in the Congress and people who want to be tough on crime say, well, this prevention stuff, it's a little squishy and maybe we shouldn't spend the money on it. But if you talk to any veteran police officer, they tell you, spend the money on prevention; give me the tools to do alcohol and drug abuse education; give me the tools to give these kids something to do before school and after school and at night; give me the tools to give these young people something to say yes to, instead of just having us tell them to say no to something wrong. That's what the law enforcement community tells us.

So I would ask you as you go to the Hill today, if you believe that, as every law enforcement official I've ever spoken with does, tell the Congress that prevention is an important part of this.

On Monday at the Justice Department, a young man from Boston named Eddie Cutanda stood up and said he used to hate the police. Pretty brave kid. There were about 500 police officers there when he said it. And he said he used to hate the police, because he used to run the streets with his friends. And he got away from gangs and drugs, thanks to a community policing program, and the kind of after-school activity that the officers were able to bring to the young people of Boston -- a prevention program that worked, that made this

young man and his friends go from hating the police to loving the police, and had him standing up in the Justice Department with the Attorney General and the President of the United States, saying, we are not part of a lost generation; we want to have a life and a better future.

There are all kinds of prevention strategies in this bill including the opportunity for some of our communities to offer larger numbers of jobs to teenagers who are today out of work, just to test to see whether that will lower the crime rate dramatically. We will be able to experiment with a lot of different things as well, as building on what works in community after community.

Remarks in MTV's "Enough is Enough" Forum on Violence, April 19, 1994.

Q Mr. President, my name is Brock Leonard and I'm 18 years old. The crime bill's a great first step in the fight against crime and violence. But what plans are you trying to implement that's going to stop the violence before it starts -- in homes and neighborhoods where kids grow up thinking violence is the only way to solve problems?

THE PRESIDENT: Perhaps the best thing about this crime bill from that point of view is that this is the first crime bill in my lifetime that -- as far as I know, anyway -- that has a huge amount of money allocated to crime prevention; to programs that work in the neighborhoods. For example, before and after school programs; programs to keep young people active; programs to give young people jobs in the summertime or after school; programs to give people something to say yes to, not just tell them something to say no to.

There's also a huge amount of money in this crime bill for drug and alcohol education and prevention, as well as treatment. And there's some money in there that can be -- for example, suppose in your community you've got an innovative project that you want to try. Under this crime bill, the states and the localities will be able to have the flexibility to try some things that they know work and expand them.

One other thing I want to say -- just put a plug in because it hadn't come up yet -- I believe that a lot of the violence that happens among young people your age and younger, where people just pull out knives or guns and shoot each other because they've been fighting over something -- I think people can be educated out of that. There's a lot of evidence that you can teach young people who grow up in tough environments that there are other ways to solve their problems other than shooting or cutting up each other or beating each other. And there's some money in this crime bill to do that in schools all across this country. I also think that's very, very important.

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MS. SOREN: Today we've heard a lot of frustrating talk about how criminals are getting off too easy in this country sometimes, and that tougher punishments might deter crime. But we've also heard from many in our audience who think that we should focus on programs and education that would prevent people from preventing crimes in the first place.

By a show of hands, how many of you think that government's priority should be -- if you had to choose one --prevention.

All right. How many are for punishment?

MS. STEWART: Somewhat overwhelming for prevention in the room, President Clinton. Are you surprised by that at all?

THE PRESIDENT: No, because I think a lot of young people know others who have been to prison and haven't been deterred, and because I think the problem seems so overwhelming. People know that you've got to change behavior, you have to change people from the inside out. You have to change community by community, school by school.

My own belief is that we shouldn't make a choice, because the two things can work together. You can be tough and you can be compassionate. You can be oriented toward prevention, but when somebody does something really horrible, you just can't walk away from it. You can't. So I think you have to do both.

But one thing I'd like to say to all of you who are here -- there is a limit to what the government can do unless people are working at the grass-roots level. And everyone of you, if you really care about this, could make a contribution to making the problem better. Is there an organization in your school? Is there an organization in your community? If you believe in prevention, are you doing something to try to touch somebody else? Because most people have to be rescued one at a time, just the way they get lost one at a time. And there will never be enough police officers, there will never be enough government workers to do this. So I would just urge you -- we had one young lady from Baltimore there who said she was going to work on setting up a community center.

I think that there are things that you can do to give people something to say yes to that will make this prevention strategy work. And all the crime bill funds are basically just designed to give you the right -- you and people like you all over America -- to get together with people who care about this and do something about it in school after school and neighborhood after neighborhood.

Remarks at the Fraternal Order of Police Peace Officers Memorial, May 15, 1994.

..And we recognize, too, something that Congress will be called upon to grapple with as we finish this crime bill. And that is that we must invest in prevention and use law enforcement officials in the work of prevention.

Law enforcement officials tend to be much more supportive than many politicians in the work of keeping young people away from crime in the first place, because people in law enforcement know how some tender, smart, intelligent act to a young child may head off a whole life of crime and another tragedy one or two or five or 10 or even 15 years down the road. And I thank the law enforcement community for their leadership to keep prevention a part of our efforts to make America a safer place.

I also want to thank all of you who personally give your time to that. I'll never forget the first time my daughter came home from school and talked to me about her DARE officer in her fifth grade class. And I'll never forget in that year how I learned more about that man and his work and his family than I did about anything else going on in the school. Do not ever think that you don't have a big impact on the young people of this country when they see you in the uniform, standing up for what's right and showing that you care for them. There are so many kids in this country in so much trouble. They need you, and you can make a difference.

Radio Address to the Nation, June 18, 1994.

...But providing more police and tougher punishment isn't enough. We have to deter crime where it starts. This proposal also gives people something to say yes to. It provides jobs for thousands of young people from high-crime neighborhoods -- particularly those who stay in school, off drugs, and out of trouble. It gives funds to keep schools open after hours. It adds support for boys and girls clubs, for community activities like midnight basketball. It builds better partnerships between our police and our young people. An investment in a child is not only a contribution to America's future, it's a real stroke in the war against crime.

Those on the front lines of crime -- our police officers -- have witnessed first-hand the explosion in youth crime and violence. And they know this is true. A coalition representing more than half a million law enforcement officers nationwide has just written to me and said, "We support the inclusion in the crime bill of substantial funds for prevention programs. They can help make a difference."

Here at the Robert Taylor Homes on Friday, I saw young people wearing T-shirts for peer groups, for Adopt-A-Grandparents program, for anti-drug programs, for midnight basketball programs. I met adults working in tenant patrols. All these prevention programs are unleashing the grass roots energy of responsible residents who understand that they too have a duty to try to do something about crime. They're young, they're old, their middle-aged. They want to take their streets, their neighborhoods, their communities back. And we owe it to them to support them. We can only do it if we keep the prevention component of the crime bill.

Radio Address to the Nation, July 18, 1994.

In the past, Congress has been stymied by an either-or debate over the false choice between tougher punishment or smarter prevention. One of the first things I noticed during the presidential campaign was that every place I went Americans -- and police officers, especially -- rejected that argument. Our citizens want criminals to be punished. They want young people, particularly in our poorest communities, also to have something to say yes to, to turn away from a life of crime.

The crime bill before Congress does both. It provides tough punishments for violent criminals...But it also provides about \$8 billion for effective prevention programs, like the Youth Employment and Skills Program that will give youth in high-crime areas a chance to learn skills on the job; midnight basketball programs; after-school programs; summer jobs programs -- things that our young people can do to avoid getting into trouble.

Press Conference Following House Vote on Crime Bill Rule, August 11, 1994.

Q: Mr. President, on the issue of the specific complaints that the opposition made, that there was too much money -- pork, if you will -- they claim on crime prevention and that the ban on 19 kinds of assault weapons -- are you prepared to compromise on those two points, the crime prevention programs and the gun control, in order to get the more prisons, the 100,000 police, and everything else you want?

THE PRESIDENT: First of all, I believe that all of these elements can pass, and I believe that they will. Let's wait and see what they have to say. There were -- let me say again -- there were 11 votes, Republican votes, for this rule today. There were 38 Republican votes for the assault weapons ban. There were 65 Republican votes for the crime bill with about the same dollars' worth of prevention programs we had. So I don't see how, when we're spending two-thirds of the money in this bill on prisons, police and punishment, we can possibly walk away when we've got the toughest punishment that any federal bill ever had -- three strikes and you're out, tougher penalties for serious offenders, tougher penalties for serious juvenile offenders -- how we can walk away from the prevention programs when the police have told us that that's what we have to do.

Remarks to the Nat. Assoc. of Police Organizations, Minneapolis, MN, August 12, 1994.

When I ran for this office, and when I went to Washington, I had dreams that many said were naive. I really dreamed that we could govern in Washington the way most mayors and governors do; that somehow we would be able to go beyond the labels that colored our view of the past, beyond Republican and Democrat and liberal and conservative, and whether you were for punishment and prevention in this case.

Those old left-right deals, they make great headlines, but they often don't do anything to solve people's problems. They're great in 30-second ads, throwing those rhetorical bombs over the wall at your opponent, but they don't keep any kids alive, or help any families to get through the day. And we're in a whole new era in which everything in the world is changing, and we cannot afford to be bound by the categories of the past.

The thing I like so much about this crime bill -- Mayor Giuliani's right -- if he sat down alone and wrote it, it wouldn't be just like it is. If I sat down alone and wrote it, it wouldn't be just like it is. But the thing that's so good about it is that it rejects all those false choices that the politics of the past always tries to impose on ordinary people in our complicated lives. It says, no more false choices, let's do what common sense dictates.

And the reason it does is that this bill was largely the handiwork of people in law enforcement. We never had a bill before that was endorsed by every major law enforcement group in the entire United States. So it puts 100,000 police on the street. It says three strikes and you're out is the law of the land, and makes available more funds for prisons to house serious offenders. It bans handgun ownership for juveniles and bans assault weapons that gangs and thugs use to outgun the police. But it also protects 650 specifically named hunting and sporting weapons, something the American people too often are not told.

It imposes tougher penalties for violent crimes, all right. There is a death penalty for killing an officer of the law in the line of duty. But it also has the prevention funds in there. You heard these people in law enforcement talking about it. It makes my blood boil when I hear people talking about pork. Because, you see, I have seen the eyes of schoolchildren after the DARE officer has talked to them.

I remember when the DARE program came into my child's elementary school and how it affected the way she looked at the whole issue of drugs and her personal responsibility, and how it affected all those kids who never had a daddy at home to say this is right, or this is wrong, who didn't have a job in the home to say, this is the future you can have.

Who are we trying to kid with all of this rhetoric? Talk to people like us, who have been to the funerals of police officers gunned down in the line of duty, and I dare you to find one person who knows anything about this, who's not for tougher punishment and more prevention.

Radio Address to the Nation, August 27, 1994.

Good morning. This has been an historic week for the American people. After six years of talking about crime, members of Congress in both houses from both parties overcame their partisan divisions and the false choices of the past to pass the toughest attack on crime in history.

...The crime bill answers the call of police officers everywhere to do more to prevent crime from happening in the first place. It will help to steer young people away from gangs and drugs by helping them learn right from wrong and giving them something to say yes to, as well as something to say no to.

Radio Address to the Nation, September 10, 1994.

By now, nearly all of us know the story of Robert Sandifer, known as "Yummy" to his friends. He was first arrested when he was eight years old. A couple of weeks ago, when he was only 11, he became a suspect in the gang shooting of an innocent girl named Shavon Dean. Several days later, that boy died himself in what Chicago police say was yet another gang-related killing.

The number of gang homicides has nearly tripled since 1980 in Robert and Shavon's hometown. And all across America, too many decent people have felt the anguish of losing a child to the meanness of the streets. At younger and younger ages, boys and girls are turning to gangs and to guns.

For a child without an involved family, a gang offers a feeling of belonging. For a young person without options for tomorrow, a gang offers a sense of purpose. For anyone born in a home barred and chained off from danger, life on the streets seems like a taste of freedom they've never known.

But America knows how to use its freedom better than that. We see it every day in big cities and small towns as Americans do come together to take up their responsibilities, and to put the spirit of community to work. And I believe we have many opportunities right now to do just that, and to turn around the scourge of violence in the lives of our children. Much of that work begins with what each of us can do as caring Americans.

Today I'll sign a proclamation designating next week as National Gang Violence Prevention Week. I'm asking Americans to address this profound problem, each of them in their hometowns, to save a generation of our children. Every parent, every teacher, every person who has the chance to influence children must force a change in the lives of our kids. We have to show them we love them, and we have to teach them discipline and responsibility. Robert Sandifer's grandmother despaired at his funeral because she said, "I couldn't reach you." We must keep doing everything we can to reach those children. And we must help them respect the law and keep them safe.

Next week I'll sign into law the historic Crime Bill that will be a tough, but smart tool in every community's fight for our children's safety. It'll punish hardened, young criminals with stronger penalties, and it will expand boot camps, drug courts and other sanctions to stop first-time offenders from beginning lives of crime. It bans 19 assault weapons and goes a long way toward keeping the guns out of the hands of our children. And with prevention programs, the crime law will take on the sickness of gangs and drugs and give our young people a chance at a new and better life.

Finally, we have to show our children before they enter gangs that they already belong to a community larger than themselves in which they can feel important and serve a larger purpose. On Monday here at the White House and at sites all across America, we'll kick off AmeriCorps, our national service effort.

AmeriCorps is America at its best -- people rolling up their sleeves and assuming responsibility to make our country better. At a time when so many of our people feel alienated or alone, the 20,000 new members of AmeriCorps will work closely with neighbors and fellow citizens all across this country to make our communities places where children can grow up to realize their God-given potential. They'll help make schools safe in Los Angeles, tutor second graders from Kentucky, repair neighborhoods in Philadelphia. Instead of just talking about problems, they'll be solving them. AmeriCorps will call upon the best of a generation to reclaim what has always been best about America.

Remarks at the Signing of the Crime Bill, September 13, 1994.

The American people have been waiting a long time for this day. In the last 25 years, half a million Americans have been killed by other Americans. For 25 years, crime has been a hot political issue, used too often to divide us while the system makes excuses for not punishing criminals and doing the job, instead of being used to unite us to prevent crime, punish criminals, and restore a sense of safety and security to the American people...

...We will cut the federal work force...to its lowest level in 30 years, and take all that money to pay for this crime bill... The savings will be used to put 100,000 police officers on the street, a 20 percent increase. It will be used to build prisons to keep 100,000 violent criminals off the street. It will be used to give our young people something to say yes to, places where they can go after school where they are safe, where they can do constructive things that will help them to build their lives, where teachers replace gang leaders as role models. All of these things should and will be done.

But, my friends, let us be frank with each other: even this great law, the toughest and smartest crime bill in our history, cannot do the job alone. By its own words, it is still a law. It must be implemented by you; and it must be supplemented by you. Even when we put a new police officer on your block, the officer can't make you safe unless you come out of your home and help the officer do his or her job. Even when we keep our schools open late and give our children an alternative to drugs and gangs, your children won't learn the difference between right and wrong unless you teach them and they're in those schools when they're open.

Here in Washington there is more that we can do. Today I am naming Vice President Gore -- whose reinventing government report first proposed the cuts in the bureaucracy that will pay for this bill -- to head the President's Prevention Council. I want him to work with every department to make this a coherent and cost-effective effort to give communities the tools they need to prevent crime from occurring in the first place.

Remarks at NAPO Top Cop Awards Dinner, October 14, 1994.

...And let me just say to all of you, you mustn't give up. The truth is, we're making progress in this fight. And we're fighting against big, deep, sweeping trends. For 30 years or more, America's neighborhoods have been growing more violent as families have broken down and community institutions have broken down and traditional avenues of opportunity and education and work have broken down and the vacuum has been filled by guns and gangs and drugs and violence. This has been happening a very long time. But we are actually learning things that we can do about it, things that people in uniform can do not only in punishment but in prevention, things that community leaders can do. And there is city after city after city, town after town after town in this country where the crime rate is going down.

Remarks to the Inter. Assoc. of Chiefs of Police, Albuquerque, NM, October 17, 1994.

We also know that even as overall crime rates drop, the rate of random violence among young people, people under the age of 18, is going up dramatically in sickening ways that we have all seen again in recent days...

We have to do things that will go beyond talking, that will actually reduce the rates of crime and violence in the United States, that will actually make sure that more of our children do say "no" to drugs and gangs and guns, and "yes" to books and to Boys and Girls Clubs and to games...

I was in Detroit the other day doing an editorial board meeting, and The Detroit Free Press had done a program with children in the area and had taken letters from children. And a little girl named Porsha, nine years old, wrote me a letter and said, I just want you to make me feel safer. I don't feel safe.

Many of you saw the reports that I gave when we were debating the crime bill about that nine-year-old boy in New Orleans who wrote me a letter saying, can't you make me feel safe? And we was killed on the street in a random shooting just a few days after he wrote me. A 10-year-old son of a member of my administration, a young man brought up in a well-to-do home, goes to good schools, and lives in a beautiful neighborhood, wrote me a wonderful letter the day after the Crime Bill passed -- a 10-year-old boy saying, I know you think that I wouldn't be afraid of this, but every time my friends and I go downtown to a movie, I am afraid I will be shot before I get home. And I feel so much better now that this Crime Bill has passed.

These are the voices of the children of America across racial and income and regional lines, telling us that we have to do better. That is what this is about. Well, we are doing better, but there's more to be done...

...You now have the tools to deal with this problem. But you've got a whole country out there full of people who have to help. Parents have to recognize that the real war on crime begins at home. If the first responsibility of government is to provide law and order, the first responsibility of parents is to teach right from wrong.

We've got to have more folks turning off the TV and knowing where their kids are, and spending time reading and doing homework, and accepting personal responsibility. And we've got to have more folks helping them, like those wonderful police officers in the D.A.R.E. programs all across America.

Kids are going to look up to somebody, and it's up to the adults in this country to decide who they're going to look up to. What do you think about those two kids, 10 and 11 in Chicago that threw that five-year-old boy out the window? A five-year-old kid, who knew right from wrong, lost his life at the age of five because he wouldn't steal candy, because he knew right from wrong -- and his brother, only three years older, knew right

from wrong and he wouldn't steal candy, either -- trying desperately to save his little brother's life.

Who did the other two kids look up to? Who did they come in contact with who could have taught them right from wrong and didn't? Who did they come in contact with who taught them wrong? What about that little kid that was set on fire? Burned over 85 percent of his body; 3 years old, not even big enough to do anything wrong. Who taught those children right from wrong?

You know, we see all these stories about these kids doing these things, and then we see that they apparently feel no remorse. At that age in their development, it is a question of where they got the message. Where did it occur to them to hang somebody out of a window in a high rise? How do they learn to pick up a gun? Where do they know that a fast buck today is better than 10 years or 12 years or 16 years of hard work and school to make something of yourself? These kids are looking up to somebody. Who are they going to look up to? How are they going to learn this? We can hire 5 million police officers, and if we keep losing the battle for what these kids think is right and wrong, we're going to be in a lot of trouble.

I know we grown-ups sometimes -- we're too negative sometimes -- we're too cynical sometimes. A good Catholic friend of mine and I the other day were having a theological discussion and he said, you can never get discouraged, Bill, because the only truly unforgivable sin is despair. That's why I preach hope all the time.

...And we need not be worried about that if we just roll up our sleeves and face our challenges and go on. But what we must be worried about is wave upon wave upon wave of these little children, who don't have somebody both good and strong to look up to. Who are so vulnerable that their hearts can be turned to stone by the time they're 10 or 11 years old. And when there is a good one -- a 5-year-old kid in difficult circumstances, blooming like a flower in the desert, knowing that it's wrong to steal candy. He actually has his life at risk.

That's why all of you wanted these prevention programs. But I am telling you, you've got to go home and you've got to say, okay, I'll wear my DARE uniform, I'll do my part, but every last citizen in this country has got to do more than look at you and demand that you do something about crime. We have got to teach our children and lift them up.

Interview with Black Entertainment Television, November 2, 1994.

Q. ...Many people suggest that the crime bill was all well and good, but it wasn't remedy-based.

...On the crime bill, if you'll remember -- all the big battles on the crime bill were on the prevention programs, on the positive programs, where the Democrats stuck up for them and the Republicans attacked them viciously and for pure political benefit. Some of those prevention programs had been sponsored and put into the bill by Republican Members of Congress. And then as soon as we got close to the election, they turned like a dog in the

night on that bill and started talking about how it was just a pork bill and just a giveaway and how midnight basketball was terrible. They did that. It was the Democrats that stood for the prevention programs, for giving our kids something to say yes to, for some remedy-based solutions, to use your phrase, in that crime bill -- again showing that it makes a big difference who is in and who is not. That crime bill gives communities the tools to make a difference in young people's lives, if they will use it...

...Now, in the crime bill, one of the things we did which I am proud of is we made church groups and community groups eligible to get that prevention money so that they can go out and do the right things. There's not a lot of Federal rules and regulations.

We also made, in our national service program, community groups eligible to get young people to work in national service. We pay them, and then -- we pay most of the costs -- and then we pay them a college scholarship; we give them whatever they'd get doing the GI bill. So we're trying to do some things that specifically give more opportunity to young people out there.

Remarks at the Democratic Leadership Council Gala, December 6, 1994.

...And we still have to implement that crime bill, folks. A hundred thousand police means that cities will get an average -- and small towns and rural areas -- of 20 percent more police. We know if they're deployed properly, that it will lower the crime rate. Community policing, a DLC idea; we've been advocating it for years. And we believe in the prevention programs; read our record. They don't. We're right. The police are on our side. Let's fight to save those prevention programs. Let's get those police in place. Let's have the tougher punishment. If they have more ideas on crime, let's have at it. But let's not stop implementing the crime bill until we lower the crime rate and make streets safe for American families and their children again. And don't forget that we passed it.

Remarks in Announcement of Top Cop, December 19, 1995.

I know that members of this new Congress have some ideas about fighting crime; I welcome those ideas. I ask them only to remember that we should do what was done in the last Congress: listen to the people in law enforcement; listen to the people in community organizations; listen to the people at the grass-roots level who know how to catch criminals, but who also know how to prevent crime and lower the crime rate. If we listen to people at the grass-roots level and enlist ourselves as your supporters, then we can continue to make progress on crime.

But I also have to say that I don't think we should turn back on the progress we have made...I'm going to come up with plenty of budget cuts. But we shouldn't cut the money that Lee Brown and people all over America need for drug prevention, drug education, drug treatment, things to lower the problem of drugs so we can lower the crime rate in that way. We shouldn't do that.

...So the last thing that I'd like to say is that if community policing is more than a deployment of police officers, and is really a philosophy of law enforcement, it is two words: police and community. That means that neighbors have to help neighbors; parents have to raise kids; that schools have to do things they didn't used to have to do. But if we do this together, then this community policing can be the banner of a safety America. And if we can lower the crime rate again, and make people feel safer on their streets, in their homes, and in their schools, we will begin to see this country coming together as a community again, we will begin to see people believing in our country again, we will begin to see people willing to make sacrifices for the common good again.

State of the Union Address, January 24, 1995.

There may be other things we can do to be tougher on crime, to be smarter with crime, to help to lower that rate first. Well, if there are, let's talk about them, and let's do them. But let's not go back on the things that we did last year that we know work, that we know work because the local law enforcement officers tell us that we did the right thing, because local community leaders who have worked for years and years to lower the crime rate tell us that they work. Let's look at the experience of our cities and our rural areas where the crime rate has gone down and ask the people who did it how they did it. And if what we did last year supports the decline in the crime rate -- and I am convinced that it does -- let us not go back on it. Let's stick with it, implement it. We've got 4 more hard years of work to do to do that.

Remarks to the U.S. Conference of Mayors, January 27, 1995.

Finally, let me say some things about the crime bill. I very much hope that we will be able to work through, in this session of Congress, a good faith carrying forward of the crime bill that was passed last year. It became unfortunately embroiled in politics; you know that better than I do. And I think you also know that the prevention programs that were passed were programs that were recommended to us in the strongest possible terms not only by mayors, not only by community leaders but by the leaders of the law enforcement community and that a lot of those prevention programs that were later labeled as pork were cosponsored, the first time they came up, by people who later said they were pork.

Well, all that's behind us now, and the only thing that matters now is, what is the best thing for the people of this country?

...Now, the crime bills now being considered in Congress have some things that I think may be superficially appealing but need to be thought through. If you scrap the \$ 8.8 billion cops initiative, as some suggest, and replace it with a \$ 10 billion block grant which also has to include prevention programs, the good news is you'll have a block grant. The bad news is there'll be a lot less money in it than was provided for.

Now, to make matters worse, some have suggested that the \$ 10 billion block grant to fund police and prevention could only be funded if we first fund \$ 10 billion in new prisons. So that's a decision that some would make against the unanimous advice of every police

officer in the country who has testified. So that -- if we make that decision, that would be like people saying, "We don't care what lowers crime; we don't care what makes people safer; we don't care what people in law enforcement who vote Republican and Democrat say. This is what we're going to do. It will make us feel better, and we can claim that it was the best thing to do."

We should not do that. This ought not to become a political issue. That crime bill had a balance of police and prevention and prisons. We shouldn't take all the prevention money away through the back door and put it into prisons. And we shouldn't say that the prisons are more important than the police and the prevention. I had no objection to getting into the business of helping States with their prison construction, even though it was totally unprecedented, but there is no evidence that that is the way to lower the crime rate. The American people want to be safer at night; they want their kids to be safer on the streets and at school. And we ought to be driven by what is best for the American people.

Remarks to Mayor's Youth Council, Boston, MA, January 31, 1995.

[A participant stated that many after-school programs to keep children away from drugs and gangs were oriented toward boys rather than girls and asked about planned support for these programs.]

Well, most of those decisions have to be made by the local school districts and the local communities. What we do is to try to provide the funds, like, for example, in the crime bill, one of the more controversial parts of the crime bill, were the funds that Congress voted for and that I supported to provide cities, for example, monies that they could use in after-school programs and other preventive programs, to try to give young people something positive to do.

The content of those programs, exactly whether there are enough programs for girls and they're as good and fair as the ones for boys and all that, all those are things that you have to work out here. So my answer to you is, that's what this youth council's for. You should -- if the city controls the programs, talk to city about it. If there are local groups who make the decision, but they don't work for the mayor, call them into your council and ask them to come testify. Tell them what you don't like about the program.

Radio Address to the Nation, February 11, 1995.

...This week, I announced our administration's 1995 Drug Control Strategy. It involves cutting off drugs at the source, stiffer punishment for drug dealers, more education and prevention, and more treatment. But perhaps the most important part of this strategy will be to boost efforts to educate our young people about the dangers and penalties of drug use. Our children need a constant drumbeat reminding them that drugs are not safe, drugs are illegal, drugs can put you in jail, and drugs may cost you your life.

Community-based education programs work. I saw them work in school when my daughter was younger. This morning I've been joined by some police officers who participate in community education programs, and especially in the national drug abuse education and resistance program that you probably know as DARE. Every American should follow their example and accept the responsibility to join the fight against drugs and crime and violence.

Parents must teach their children right from wrong. They must teach that drugs are bad and dangerous. And make no mistake about it, parents must set a good example for their children. Young people must have the courage to do what's right and stand up for what's right. That means not using drugs, staying out of gangs, studying hard, avoiding violence. It also means telling friends that drugs and gangs and guns aren't cool, and children that are involved in those things aren't going to be your real friends.

Radio Address to the Nation, March 4, 1995.

Good morning. I always like to hear from young people across our country. After all, they're at the heart of our efforts to build America up, to face the demands and the challenges of the 21st century. The responsibility of my generation is to leave those young people a better world, and to make sure that they're prepared to succeed in that world.

I was especially touched by a letter I recently received from a 15-year-old girl named Melissa, who lives in a small town in the Midwest. Even though she's only 15 and she lives in America's heartland, she's a recovering drug addict. She's been drug-free for two years now, but she still sees other children going down the road to drug abuse, and she's very worried.

This is what she wrote to me: "It seems there's just not enough help, and when there is help, there's not enough money to do what needs to be done. Let's help this problem so it's not so big for the next generation." We ought to listen to Melissa. From our smallest towns to our biggest cities, millions of our children face the temptation of illegal drugs everyday in their schools. Surveys show that unfortunately more and more of our adolescents are using illegal drugs. Kids today are somehow not getting the message. They are beginning once again to think that it's all right to use drugs, that they're not really dangerous. But they're wrong. Too often, they're dead wrong.

Now, think about what this means for our communities and for our country, for all the rest of us. Illegal drugs go hand in hand with violence. They foster fear. School children stay home by the thousands every day because they are afraid. And in this kind of environment, even the best-behaved young people have a tough time learning. That means our standards of education are being undermined by drugs and violence. And that hurts our ability as a nation to compete and win. So we all pay a price.

The first line of defense, of course, has to be in our communities -- with our parents and teachers and our neighbors, other role models in law enforcement and the religious community -- telling our young people in no uncertain terms that drugs and violence are wrong, and helping them to stay away or to get off. I know that.

But we here in Washington have a responsibility, too. All of you know there's a big debate going on in Washington now about what the role of the government ought to be. The Republican Contract says we should cut just about everything to pay for big tax cuts that go mostly to upper income people. Well, I think we should cut government. We have. There are over 150,000 fewer people working here than there were when I took office. I think we ought to reduce the burden of unnecessary regulation, and we are.

But I think we need a government that's lean and not mean, one that offers opportunity and challenges people to be more responsible; one that's a partner in increasing opportunity, empowering people to make the most of their own lives, and providing more security for our people. The fight against drugs and the fight for safe schools does all of that.

After all, leaders of both parties have seen this as a problem that can't be ignored in Washington. President Reagan and President Bush invested in initiatives for drug-free schools. And last year, working with members of Congress of both parties, our administration expanded the Safe and Drug-free Schools Program to include violence prevention and security. We passed legislation that sends \$482 million to the states -- enough for efforts in over 90 percent of our school districts.

Communities are using this money in a lot of different ways. They are using it to pay for police officers and metal detectors to keep our schools safer, to train teachers, staff and students on how to resolve conflicts without violence, to help guide young people in fighting peer pressure to use drugs, to help instruct parents on the warning signs of drug use. All of this is a very good and sound investment for our future. It's Washington being a good partner with people building their communities at the grass-roots level.

The schools taking part wouldn't give up these safeguards. If anything, they want more help. But now, some Republicans in Congress want to completely eliminate our safe schools and anti-drug efforts. Right now, Congress is considering a rescission bill that cuts out the money we passed last year for all these programs.

I am concerned that the Republicans are willing to sacrifice our children's safety and our ability to learn in secure environments to pay for these tax cuts for upper income Americans. That's not a good deal for America's children, for America's future -- it's not a good deal for upper income Americans. It's not putting people first. It won't help to restore the American Dream, to advance the economic interests of the middle class to support mainstream values. They're trying to cut other things that I don't support, either. They're trying to cut the crime bill we passed last year to provide 100,000 police on our streets and to cut other education programs.

Now, I know we've got to reduce the deficit. We've already brought it down by over \$600 billion under the tough plan we passed last year and the year before. And I've given Congress a budget that has another \$140 billion of spending cuts. I'll work with them to find more, but not in education or jobs or the safety of our children. We need to be expanding opportunity up here, not restricting it. We need to be giving our people the tools they need

to make the most of their own lives, not taking them away. We need to enhance our security, not undermine it.

And where our children are concerned, we've got to give them the best chance we can to develop their God-given abilities so they can do the rest. They've got to stay in school, stay out of trouble, stay off drugs and off the streets. But young people, given a chance, can overcome great obstacles.

Look at young Melissa. Now she's gotten herself a second chance to become a first-class citizen. We need more young people like her for their strength, their intelligence their humanity. We don't have a one to waste. And our young people need us to have the vision and the strength to do what's best for their futures today.

CRIME BILL PREVENTION RELATED PROGRAMS WITH FY95 FUNDING

- **The Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Program** -- to put 100,000 police officers on the streets and otherwise promote and expand community policing. Competitive grants will allow states and communities to hire and train new police officers. Many grant awards have already been announced. 17,000 new officers have been funded since last fall. \$1.3 billion appropriated.
- **The President's Crime Prevention Council** -- to coordinate the administration of federal crime prevention programs, catalog prevention programs, assist communities and community-based organizations seeking information about these programs, and develop services for program integration and grant simplification. The Council has been staffed since mid-February. \$1.5 million appropriated.
- **The Violence Against Women Act** -- to develop and strengthen law enforcement strategies to combat violent crimes against women and to improve victims' services. Proposed regulations published in the Federal Register on December 28, 1994. Final regulations and formula grant application kit will be distributed to states in late March. \$26 million appropriated.
- **Community Schools and Family and Community Endeavor Schools (FACES) Program** -- to bring together community-based organizations and schools in communities with high poverty rates, violent crime, and significant juvenile delinquency to prevent the involvement of children and youth in violent crime and other negative behaviors and to support their positive and healthy development. A joint program announcement was published in the Federal Register on March 6, 1995. \$36.9 million appropriated.
- **Drug Courts** -- to fund state and local drug courts that provide service, treatment and continuing judicial supervision for non-violent offenders with rehabilitation potential. Proposed regulations published in the Federal Register January 26, 1995. Application information has been approved and will be disseminated in March. \$29 million appropriated.
- **National Domestic Violence Hotline** -- to provide crisis counseling and assistance and referral services to victims of domestic violence and their children, families, and friends through a 24 hour National Domestic Violence Hotline. The announcement was published in the Federal Register on March 6, 1995, and will be awarded in the late Spring. \$1 million appropriated.
- **Gang Resistance and Training (GREAT) Project** -- to implement school-based programs designed to resist emerging or existing gang activity. Instructed by uniformed police officers, children will learn to set goals, develop self esteem and respect, resist negative peer pressure and peacefully resolve conflict. Grants have been distributed to cities. \$16 million appropriated.
- **Boot Camps** -- to construct, develop, expand or improve correctional facilities, including boot camps and other alternative correctional facilities. Funds will be provided to state and local governments for planning, development and construction costs. Interim final regulations published in the Federal Register on December 7, 1994. Guidelines/Application dissemination began March 1, 1995. \$24.5 million appropriated.

CRIME BILL PREVENTION RELATED PROGRAMS WITH FY96 FUNDING

- **Battered Women's Shelters** -- \$325 million authorized for FY 1996-2000 for battered women's shelters and other domestic violence prevention strategies.
- **Capital Improvements to Prevent Crime in Public Parks** -- \$15 million authorized to increase safety in urban parks and recreation areas.
- **Education and Prevention to Reduce Sexual Assaults Against Women** -- \$205 million authorized for FY 1996-2000 to fund efforts to increase awareness about or help prevent sexual assault.
- **Crime Prevention Block Grants Program** -- \$377 million authorized for FY 1996-2000 to fund units of local government for crime prevention, intervention and treatment initiatives.
- **Delinquent and At-Risk Youth** -- program will provide \$36 million during FY 1996-2000 to public and private non-profit organizations to support the development and operation of projects that provide residential services to at-risk youth.
- **Model Intensive Grant Program** -- \$625.5 million authorized for the U.S. Attorney General to establish model crime prevention programs in 15 chronic high-crime areas.
- **Residential Substance Abuse Treatment** -- will provide funds to states to develop and implement residential substance abuse treatment programs in state and local correctional facilities. \$270 million is authorized for FY 1996-2000.
- **Urban Recreation for At-Risk Youth** -- \$4.5 million is authorized for FY 1996-2000 for at-risk youth recreation grants in neighborhood and communities with a high prevalence of crime.
- **Local Partnership Act** -- a revenue sharing program to support education, substance abuse treatment and job programs to prevent crime. \$1.62 billion is authorized for FY 1996-2000.
- **Education and Prevention Grants to Reduce Sexual Abuse of Runaway, Homeless, and Street Youth** -- will provide funds to non-profit agencies for street-based outreach and education and referral for runaway, homeless, and street youth who have been subjected to or are at risk of being subjected to sexual abuse. \$30 million is authorized for FY 1996-1998.
- **Youth Education and Domestic Violence** -- to select, implement, and evaluate four model programs for the education of young people about domestic violence and violence among intimate partners. \$400,000 is authorized for FY 1996.
- **Demonstration Grants for Community Partnerships** -- to fund projects in local communities that develop a coordinated community plan for intervention in and prevention of domestic violence. \$10 million is authorized for FY 1996-1997.

THE PRESIDENT'S CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL

In September 1994, Congress established the Ounce of Prevention Council as a part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act. The Council, comprised of the Attorney General; the Secretaries of Education, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Labor, Agriculture, Treasury, and Interior; and the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, is the primary vehicle for ensuring a coordinated federal approach to promoting comprehensive, community-based crime prevention efforts.

As authorized by statute, and consistent with his efforts to ensure good government, the President has named the Vice President to serve on the Council and act as its Chair and has asked the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy to sit on the Council. The Vice President, as authorized in his capacity as Chair, staffed the Council's office in February, appointing Karen Pittman, former director of the Center for Youth Development and Policy Research, as its Director.

CHARGE AND AUTHORITY

The Council is charged with the following responsibilities:

- Coordinating programs authorized under the Act as requested by Council members;
- Coordinating planning across agencies involved in crime prevention;
- Developing strategies for program integration and grant simplification;
- Developing a comprehensive crime prevention catalogue;
- Assisting communities and community-based organizations seeking information regarding crime prevention programs and integrated program service delivery.

In addition, the Council is authorized to make grants to support local, community-wide efforts to offer summer and after-school education and recreation programs; programs that provide mentoring, tutoring and promote employability and job placement; and prevention and treatment programs to reduce substance abuse, child abuse, and adolescent pregnancy, including outreach programs for at-risk families.

SCOPE

Crime prevention, as made clear in the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act, requires efforts to reduce crime and promote environments in which crime is unlikely to occur. At its best, crime prevention encompasses efforts to reach children and families early, particularly those at risk of neglect and abuse; to support children and families throughout the school years with a range of opportunities for instruction, recreation, basic care, and employment; and to intervene immediately once there is evidence of problems.

GOALS

The work of the Council reflects the Congress' and the Administration's commitment to

- streamline, coordinate, and integrate the related crime prevention responsibilities, programs, and functions of the various departments;
- provide greater resources and flexibility to states and localities as they craft and implement locally tailored efforts to reduce crime and increase the sense of safety and well-being in communities; and
- set clear performance standards for programs, coalitions, and localities that are shared by the various departments.

Much of the Council Office's work, consequently, is with the departments themselves. But an important goal of the Council is to assist communities in developing comprehensive approaches to reducing crime and promoting community safety and well-being. To this end, the Council's Office will, among other activities:

- document and highlight plans, policies, initiatives, programs, and practices in use across the country and compile these in concise and usable formats including geographic breakdowns.
- convene national and local forums on key issues, identify pressing areas for research, and compile available data on impact, funding, and cost effectiveness.
- offer communities information on available federal resources and annually complementing these resources through a Council-developed grants program.

CAPACITY

The Office that supports the Council's work was established in February 1995. The Office is rapidly gearing up to compile and disseminate information on programs and funding from the federal agencies; receive information on programs and prevention-related activities from organizations; respond to requests for information and assistance; and promote the issue and the work through public appearances, community visits, and issue-specific events. Specifics on the grants program, which will be fully operational in FY1996, are being developed.

For more information contact:

The President's Crime Prevention Council
736 Jackson Place, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20503
202-395-5555 (phone) 202-395-5567 (fax)



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D. C. 20530

March 2, 1995

The Honorable Bob Livingston
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We understand that later today the Full Committee will consider a bill that among other things would rescind funding for certain programs established in the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (VCCA).

We want to register our strong objections to these rescissions, which in our view eliminate funding for programs that are essential elements of a comprehensive approach to the crime problem in this country. They undermine important gains made in the VCCA. Indeed, instead of moving forward, these rescissions take us back, reversing the progress that was made in that historic legislation.

If enacted, these rescissions (the savings of which can not be used for programs not authorized in the VCCA) would defund programs that:

- break the cycle of addiction-related crime by providing services to drug abusing offenders with rehabilitation potential;
- take children off the streets, and provide alternatives for at-risk youth;
- establish the operation of a national toll-free telephone hotline to provide information and assistance to victims of domestic violence; and
- coordinate the administration of crime prevention programs.

Before you mark up this rescission bill, we believe that you should fully consider the merits of these VCCA programs and their utility in the fight against crime.

Drug Courts

The decision of the House Appropriations Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary (CJS) Subcommittee to recommend a rescission of the Fiscal Year 1995 appropriation for the Drug Courts Grant Program represents a serious setback for communities around this country working to improve public safety by breaking the powerful connection between substance abuse and crime.

We know that more than half of those arrested enter the criminal justice system with some substance abuse problem. We also know that too frequently, the current criminal justice system functions like a revolving door through which substance-abusing offenders pass without being required to deal with the drug abuse that is inextricably tied to their criminal behavior. Seeking to capitalize on that knowledge, the VCCA established the Drug Courts Grant Program.

Through this initiative, the Department of Justice is poised to fund drug courts that will employ the courts' coercive power to subject non-violent offenders to the kind of intensive supervision that can break the cycle of substance abuse and crime the inflicts suffering in too many communities in this country.

The CJS Subcommittee action -- the rescission of more than 95 percent of the appropriation for the current fiscal year -- is devastating. Since the VCCA became law, the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) in the Department of Justice has moved forward aggressively to implement this initiative. OJP had created a Drug Courts Program Office to administer the program. OJP has published proposed Drug Court Regulations and is currently responding to comments submitted in response to that publication. In addition, OJP has produced and will soon disseminate Program Guidelines and Application Information regarding the Drug Courts Program. The rescission action eviscerates the Department's ability to move forward to help make drug courts -- an important crime fighting tool -- available to our nation's states and localities.

Community Schools Youth Services and Supervision Program & Family and Community Endeavors Schools Program (FACES)

The Labor, HHS, and Education Subcommittee rescinded all Fiscal Year 1995 funding for the Community Schools Youth Services and Supervision Program, administered by the Department of Health and Human Services and full funding for the Family and Community Endeavors Schools Program, administered by the Department of Education. These programs were sponsored by both Democrats and Republicans such as Senators Danforth and Domenici.

A total of \$37 million was appropriated to HHS and the Department of Education to begin implementing these programs during the current fiscal year. We knew the importance these programs would have in encouraging community collaborative efforts to develop and implement youth development and violence prevention programs when the Crime Act was passed and signed into law, but the enthusiasm for these programs by the public has, if anything, exceeded our expectations.

The community schools concept is an important innovation based on the belief that schools are essential to effective participation and overall success of community programs and have great potential for preventing youth involvement in violence and other negative behaviors while supporting positive and healthy youth development. This concept is being tested by a handful of places around the country - New York City's Beacon Schools, California's Healthy Start, St. Louis' Walbridge Caring Communities, New Jersey's and Iowa's School Based Youth Services, Florida's Full Service Schools, Delaware's School and Community Partnership Prevention Program, and Kentucky's Family Resource and Youth Service Centers, to name a few.

These communities are changing the role of schools in their states and cities. Schools are becoming centers of community life - safe, visible places where children and their families come after school, in the evening, on weekends, and during the summer to participate in academic enrichment, recreation of varying types, mentoring, and to obtain other resources and services. Although this kind of activity has begun in a number of places, there are many more communities where a little support could help to get things started.

The Community Schools program, through its formula, would provide at least one grant in each state, thereby serving as a catalyst for communities across the country to begin testing this promising approach. The FACES program complements the Community School program by awarding competitive matching grants to local education agencies or community based organizations to improve academic and social achievement for at-risk children with an emphasis on reducing violent behavior.

To illustrate how these programs are affecting the lives of children and families, we have attached a summary of recent evaluation reports of community school programs. Each has witnessed very important changes in the well-being of the communities and the families who live there. A systemic national demonstration with a comprehensive and rigorous evaluation could enable us to develop a strong research base that shows which program designs in which settings can affect behaviors and improve outcomes for children and families. The two departments

are currently developing such an evaluation, which is a major component of both the Community Schools and FACES programs.

To date, more than 4000 potential applicants have indicated their intention to apply for these two programs, including schools, community-based organizations, local police departments, and youth service agencies, both public and private. These two departments are currently working to meet this overwhelming demand for assistance to prevent crime and violence in our nation's communities and expect to have a program announcement available within the next few weeks.

National Domestic Violence Hotline

By rescinding the total VCCA Trust Fund Fiscal Year 1995 appropriation for the Department of Health and Human Services, the Labor, HHS, and Education Subcommittee eliminated \$1 million to fund the National Domestic Violence Hotline. We consider this rescission short-sighted and entirely ill-advised.

Fully funded by your Committee for Fiscal Year 1995, the Domestic Violence Hotline is one of the initiatives created by the Violence Against Women Act in the VCCA to help combat crime against women. The National Domestic Violence Hotline provides a lifeline for victims of domestic violence and sex abuse. The Hotline will operate toll-free, 24-hours a day and will provide multilingual crisis counseling, problem-solving techniques, and referrals for battered women, their families, and advocates. The hotline will serve the entire U.S. and its territories.

A bipartisan majority of Congress voted last year to create the Hotline -- a simple but necessary tool to reduce violence against women in this country.

We should not be going back but forward in the fight against domestic violence. Quite frankly, the Subcommittee's actions send the message that, once again, women victims must suffer in silence.

The President's Prevention Council

The Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary Subcommittee recommended rescinding all unobligated Fiscal Year 1995 funds for the President's Prevention Council.

Chaired by Vice President Gore, the President's Prevention Council will help coordinate and integrate the administration of crime prevention programs authorized by the Violent Crime Control Act. In addition, the Council will develop a comprehensive

The Honorable Bob Livingston
Page 5

catalog of prevention programs, coordinate planning, and provide training and technical assistance.

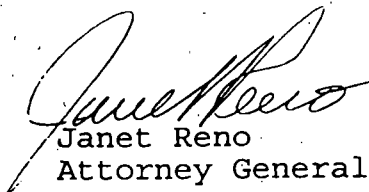
The membership of the Council demonstrates that crime prevention is a top priority for the Clinton Administration. Joining the Vice President as members of the Council are: the Attorney General, the Secretaries of Education, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Labor, Agriculture, Treasury, and the Interior, and the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

During congressional debate last year over the VCCA, opponents often talked about the redundancy of Federal prevention programs that cut across several separate Departments and agencies. By rescinding the President's Prevention Council funding, your committee will accomplish that criticism, for it will prohibit the overall coordination amongst these programs and integration of their services.

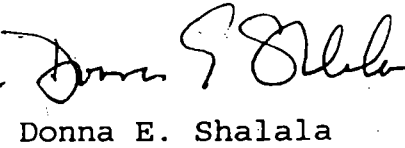
This Administration is strongly committed to streamlining government and reducing the deficit. However, it is also committed to an issue that is so important to each and every American -- the fight against crime. The proposed rescissions from the VCCA Trust Fund that you will be considering today greatly thwart our efforts to fight crime. It sends the wrong message to the American public. We should be moving forward not backward from the gains we made last year.

We appreciate your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,


Janet Reno
Attorney General


Richard W. Riley
Secretary of Education


Donna E. Shalala
Secretary of Health
and Human Services

cc: The Honorable David Obey
Ranking Minority Member

Promising Community Schools Programs

California Healthy Start - Healthy Start began in 1991, as a state level collaboration between Governor Pete Wilson's office, state departments and agencies, and the Foundation Consortium for School-Linked Services. In 1992, they awarded 3 year grants to 40 local collaboratives to implement comprehensive, integrated, school-linked services. Each site was allowed to design the program that best fit the needs of the community; program models include school-site family resource centers, family service coordination teams, and youth service programs. Some of the early results of Healthy Start have been promising. In programs that had an employment-related goal, there was a 14 percent decrease in the number of individuals who were not employed. Student grades also improved. Based on a four point scale, grade point averages for students in grades K through 8 increased from 1.97 to 2.07. Students in grades K through 12 with the lowest gpa's had the largest increase from 1.26 to 1.47.

New Jersey's School Based Youth Services Program - This program was implemented in 1988 and now operates in 30 urban, rural, and suburban school districts, with at least one site per county. Programs are offered at or near secondary, middle, and elementary schools. The program provides young people with a comprehensive set of services including health care, mental health and family counseling, jobs and employment training, substance abuse counseling, and recreation. Because the program has been in operation for six years, they have been able to collect some encouraging data. In Pinelands, the school reported 20 teenage pregnancies in the year before the program, 13 in the start-up year, and only one in the second year. Dropouts and suspensions also decreased dramatically. The number of dropouts decreased from 73 to 24 between the 1989-1990 and the 1990-1991 school years. Suspensions decreased from 322 to 78 during the same period. In Hackensack, the number of fights dropped from 123 to 73 due to an in-school suspension, counseling, and dispute resolution program.

The Children's Aid Society's Community Schools, New York, NY - The Children's Aid Society (CAS) is part of the Beacons Program in New York, where 37 schools have been turned into community schools. The schools are open both before and after the traditional 9 to 3 school day. CAS has fully-equipped on-site medical and dental clinics; activities for young people; and classes and services for parents. Parents who have become involved in the program have taken their involvement out into the community; 25 small businesses have been launched, and better relations have been developed with police in a neighborhood that was marked by riots three years ago. Children's attitudes are changing. Graffiti, truancy, and destruction of property are now non-existent. Children who were considered troublemakers in other schools are now among the positive leaders. Although CAS does not have longitudinal data, student test scores and attendance rates, after one year of the program, are higher at the intermediate school than those at a demographically similar school. The mean score on the eighth grade competency test was 79.3 at the CAS school and 64.2 at the comparison school. Attendance rates at the CAS school were also higher (90 percent versus 85 percent).