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Crime Bill - Daily Talking Points, etc. [binder] [1]

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CRIME BILL -- DAILY TALKING POINTS, ETC.

CRIME BILL -- DAILY TALKING POINTS, ETC.

Daily Talking Points on Anti-Crime Legislation

March 8, 1994

100,000 NEW POLICE OFFICERS/COMMUNITY POLICING

- Putting 100,000 police officers into Community Policing is the foundation of the Administration's overall anti-crime strategy, combining increased police presence with the development of partnerships with communities to create safer neighborhoods. It will not be funded by new taxes, but through reductions in the federal bureaucracy -- 252,000 fewer federal employees over the next five years by attrition. It's a good swap -- the savings we achieve through this 12 percent reduction we will put into fighting crime.
- We need a stronger police presence, not just to catch criminals but to prevent crime. The Administration's Community Policing initiative will put more officers on our streets who know their neighborhoods and how to work with residents to reduce and control crime. This is an approach which will have a truly lasting impact on crime and disorder. Community Policing means police departments forging truly effective partnerships with their communities to bring together tough law enforcement and meaningful crime prevention in a way that meets the specific needs of the community -- everyday.
- Federal funding for this initiative will be linked to a locality's need and its commitment to actively build public safety partnerships with public and private agencies that address the underlying conditions related to crime and disorder.
- The vast majority of the funds awarded under this initiative will help to hire, rehire, and redeploy 100,000 police officers -- money well-spent. Some funds will also be available to help implement community policing, training, and related activities. Multi-year grants to hire, rehire, and redeploy officers may be made for up to five years, over which period federal assistance will decrease as localities assume a larger role.
- We have already made a downpayment on the promise of 100,000 new officers with the first two rounds of grant awards under a smaller, \$50 million program directed by the Attorney General called the Police Hiring Supplement. In the first two rounds of this program, \$76 million has been awarded to 108 jurisdictions nationwide to help pay for the hiring or rehiring of 1,022 additional law enforcement officers. A third round will be announced soon. However, fewer than one out of every ten applications can be funded out this program. Passing the Crime Bill will ensure that we will be able to assist all of the jurisdictions that need help, not just a few.

Daily Talking Points on Anti-Crime Legislation March 9, 1994

ADMINISTRATION BACKS PREVENTION PROGRAMS

- The Administration and the Congress are developing a comprehensive offensive against crime in America that emphasizes the dual approach of **PUNISHMENT AND PREVENTION**. Law enforcement efforts to control crime are essential to making our communities safer, but equally important is developing effective policies to prevent crime.
- The Administration strongly endorses a broad range of new and ongoing preventive policies, from initiatives closely associated with law enforcement, such as community policing, to efforts aimed more toward empowering communities and individuals, like job and job training opportunities.
- Our focus is on those most vulnerable to the distress that crime and violence breeds: young Americans. The Administration supports programs aimed at offering young people real hope and better alternatives by creating youth services, providing educational, job training and placement opportunities, and reducing youth violence and crime.
- Crime prevention efforts are an important component in the Crime Bill. Among the many Crime Bill prevention programs supported by the Administration are:
 - * The Community Policing program which strikes the ideal balance between law enforcement and crime prevention by promising 100,000 more cops walking the beat on America's streets and in her communities;
 - * "Ounce of Prevention" program, providing \$600 million over the next three years to state and local governments, educational institutions, community-based organizations, and other public and private entities for youth-oriented recreational and educational programs (Midnight Sports League, after-school programs, etc.) and youth services (mentoring, job placement, substance abuse and treatment, etc.);
 - * GREAT, Gang Reduction Education and Training Project, which allots \$40 million for 50 projects nationwide aimed at reducing gang activity;
 - * Police Partnerships, giving \$20 million to working partnerships between local law enforcement and public or private organizations formed to help children and families whose lives are beset by crime, through training and crisis intervention services;
 - * Correctional Job Training, job training and placement services provided by Bureau of Prisons;
 - * Juvenile Drug Trafficking and Gang Prevention Grants aimed at reducing the participation of young people in gangs and drug-related crimes through a variety of programs, such as youth training in nonviolent dispute resolution.

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- * Drug treatment for crime-committing addicts, such as that available through Drug Courts; and
- * Safe Schools program to combat crime, violence and drugs in our children's classrooms.
- Other Administration crime prevention measures include:
 - * The Empowerment Zones/Enterprise Communities initiative which targets certain economically distressed communities for revitalization, based on a community-driven, community-based strategy for revitalization;
 - * Job Corps, a highly intensive, residential ("boarding-school" type) program whose services include basic skills, vocational training, social skills training, career and drug abuse counseling, job search assistance and placement. The program's success has led the Administration to propose a \$117 million increase in FY 1995, a boost of 11 percent from the previous year;
 - * The National Service program which provides thousands of young Americans with an opportunity to acquire real skills through public service, while at the same time assisting in their educational costs; and
 - * COMPAC, the Community Partnership Against Crime, which augments the public housing drug elimination program by supporting a community-based approach to public housing crime, including community policing, anti-gang programs, youth programs, and other initiatives that engage such groups and the Boys and Girls Clubs, churches, and private nonprofit organizations; and
 - * Weed and Seed, an interagency initiative in 21 communities nationwide designed to combat crime and revitalize neighborhoods through enhanced law enforcement, community policing and prevention, early intervention, and treatment programs.
- These efforts do not comprise the entire panoply of prevention programs garnering Administration support. They do, however, demonstrate a real commitment to a new, multidisciplinary approach to curbing crime in America.

Daily Talking Points on Anti-Crime Legislation

March 9, 1994

CERTAINTY OF PUNISHMENT FOR YOUNG OFFENDERS

- All too often, young offenders learn that the consequence for committing a crime is to be put on probation. That's it. In other circumstances, young non-violent offenders are thrown in with our most hardened criminals where they learn the "right way" to commit crimes.
- By providing alternative sanctions to probation or hard-core, long-term incarceration, young offenders can learn that there is a certainty of punishment at the initial stages of a criminal career. That lesson learned my nip a new criminal career in the bud. Some alternative sanctions include: shock incarceration, electronic monitoring, weekend incarceration, home incarceration, restitution programs, vocational programs, community service, intensive supervised probation and other innovative and non-traditional options which ensure swift and certain punishment.
- "Boot Camps" are one such alternative which provide penal authorities with a viable sentencing solution for young offenders. Frequently called "shock incarceration" programs, boot camps place young offenders in a quasi-military program similar to a military basic training program that instills discipline, routine, and respect for authority.
- The rationale behind boot camps is four-fold: First, a substantial number of youthful first-time offenders now incarcerated will respond to a short but intensive period of confinement followed by a longer period of intensive community supervision. Second, these offenders will benefit from a military-style atmosphere that instills a sense of self-discipline and physical conditioning that was lacking in their lives. Third, these same youths need exposure to relevant educational and vocational training, drug treatment, and general counseling services to develop more positive and law-abiding values and become better prepared to secure legitimate future employment. Finally, the costs involved will be less than a traditional criminal justice sanction that imprisons the offender for a substantially longer period of time.
- Typically, boot camps target offenders who otherwise would have been sentenced to prison for at least one year. To date, 28 state prison systems are operating 43 boot camp programs with more states planning to follow. While they have their critics, the early data suggests that boot camps are better than prison in terms of recidivism and cost.
- A critical component of boot camps and other alternative sanctions is the intensive post-release monitoring that occurs to ensure that those motivated have every opportunity to get their lives on the right track.

Daily Talking Points on Anti-Crime Legislation

March 10, 1994

PRESIDENT CLINTON ADDRESSES FORUM ON CRIME AND NATIONAL SERVICE

- Bringing people together in their communities and encouraging them to assume some responsibility in dealing with violence are the themes of President Clinton's address today to the Forum on Crime and National Service in New York.
- In his remarks, the President remembers Kitty Genovese, a young woman who was stabbed to death outside of her apartment building 30 years ago this week. Her story reveals the cost violence exacts from the psyche of our nation. Although 38 witness watched or listened as Kitty Genovese's attacker stabbed her several times, not one called the police or came to the woman's aid. No one wanted to get involved. On that night thirty years ago, it seemed as if the value of responsibility meant only being responsible for yourself.
- Today, we often seem to face that same indifference. When we see the tragedy that violent crime perpetrates, our reaction all too often is to hunker down inside, turn our backs, raise the drawbridge and leave the problem to others. We are a nation seized by fear—fear of getting involved, fear of reaching out to one another, fear of walking the streets of our neighborhoods, our city streets and our public parks. And no nation is free when it must hide behind locked doors, imprisoned by its own fear.
- We must change the basic attitudes of our nation. We must learn how to be neighbors once again. Each of us has a serious responsibility to do our part; Government cannot do the job alone.
- The American people can take back their communities, and one of the best ways is through the Administration's national service program, AmeriCorps. Involving 20,000 service workers of all ages and backgrounds, AmeriCorps offers young people an opportunity to serve our country by helping their communities. AmeriCorps service workers engage in substantive, skill-building work, from immunizing our babies, tutoring our children, and cleaning up our parks, to helping make our schools and streets safer. Making a difference by reconnecting with our communities — that's what AmeriCorps is all about.
- This summer, we will also make a difference by giving our citizens something to say "yes" to. Through this year's Summer of Safety, 6,000 individuals will come together across generations, ethnicities, and income levels to engage in direct, locally-based service to strengthen the ability of communities to respond to problems of crime, violence and fear. Participants will help police monitor victim assistance hotlines, clean up dangerous parks and alleys, provide crime prevention workshops to families, and help organize neighborhood watch programs.

Daily Talking Points on Anti-Crime Legislation

Friday, March 11, 1994

ADMINISTRATION ANTI-CRIME PROPOSALS IN SCHUMER SUBCOMMITTEE MARKUP

- Today, the House Subcommittee on Crime and Criminal Justice chaired by Rep. Charles Schumer (D-NY) meets to markup several important parts of the President's anti-crime proposal. They include the following:
 - * The Administration's "Three Strikes and You're Out" mandatory life imprisonment proposal. This provision sends a strong message that violent crime will not be tolerated by targeting truly dangerous criminals and taking them off our streets for good. It has been hailed by Congressman Schumer as a "very carefully drawn" provision which deals with the problems of other proposals "that would have included all kinds of low-level drug dealers."
 - * A broad range of new preventive policies, which underscore the Administration's dual anti-crime approach of punishment and prevention. Among the prevention programs in markup garnering Administration support is the "Ounce of Prevention" program, providing \$600 million over the next three years to state and local governments, educational institutions, community-based organizations, and other public and private entities for youth-oriented recreational and educational programs (Midnight Sports League, after-school programs, etc.) and youth services (mentoring, job placement, substance abuse and treatment, etc.).
 - * Drug Courts and other Supervised Release Programs for drug-abusing offenders. The Attorney General, who has been a pioneer in developing alternative methods for dealing with drug offenders within the criminal justice system, has led the national debate on adopting such programs. Her experience in Florida -- augmented by data from approximately 20 other cities -- reveals that Drug Courts can be successful in preventing drug offenders from becoming more dangerous criminals and can help them turn toward productive lives in society.
 - * Restoration of an enforceable death penalty for the most heinous of federal offenses. As the President has stated, this provision is an important element of a comprehensive legislative anti-crime program.
 - * Police Corps and Law Enforcement Scholarships, which provide higher education assistance to students who make a commitment to work in law enforcement following graduation, as well as scholarships for in-service officers and summer and part-time employment for high school students in law enforcement agencies.

Daily Talking Points on Anti-Crime Legislation Monday, March 14, 1994

HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEES APPROVE KEY ELEMENTS OF PRESIDENT'S CRIME PLAN

- The momentum behind the President's crime proposals is steadily building on Capitol Hill. Markups in House subcommittees last week saw passage of a number of key Administration anti-crime provisions.
- * The President's "Three Strikes and You're Out" mandatory life imprisonment proposal, strongly backed by Rep. Charles Schumer, sailed through Schumer's Crime and Criminal Justice subcommittee on a 10 to 3 bipartisan vote. The message being sent is loud and clear: this Administration will not tolerate violent crime.
- * Several crime prevention elements supported by the President were also approved by Rep. Schumer's subcommittee, including the Ounce of Prevention program, the after-school Community Youth Services program, and Midnight Sports.
- * The President's proposals for Drug Courts and other Supervised Release Programs for substance-abusing offenders, which offer creative and successful method for dealing with drug offenders within the criminal justice system, were likewise ratified by the Schumer subcommittee.
- * A major state prison grant program, which allows states to efficiently lock up more violent criminals more quickly and for a longer period of time than through a federal regional prison system, found bipartisan support in and was passed by Rep. William Hughes's Subcommittee on Intellectual Property and Judicial Administration.
- * The death penalty, an important component of the President's comprehensive anti-crime package, was overwhelmingly passed by the Crime and Criminal Justice subcommittee in a bipartisan vote of 10 to 3.
- * Also approved by the same subcommittee was the Administration's Police Corps proposal, providing higher education assistance to students who make a commitment to work in law enforcement following graduation.

Daily Talking Points on Anti-Crime Legislation Tuesday, March 15, 1994

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

- As part of the President's overall anti-crime strategy, the Administration supports new federal efforts aimed at curbing gender-motivated violence and improving restitution to victims of such crime. The Crime Bill's Violence Against Women provision creates a federal cause of action for violence perpetrated against an individual because of their gender.
- Under the Violence Against Women proposal, victims of a felony crime of violence may bring a civil suit for damages or equitable relief in federal or state court, provided that the crime they suffered was committed because of gender and due, at least in part, to animus based on the victim's gender.
- The Violence Against Women provision is both fair and smart. It's fair because it addresses those situations in which victims are without redress due to inadequate state remedies, and allows victims improved access to federal courts. The proposal is smart because it does not clog federal dockets by automatically labelling whole categories of offenses as gender-motivated; proof of the perpetrator's animus is a prerequisite to recovery.
- The proposal also creates new federal offenses, such as fleeing across state lines in violation of a stay away or protection order.
- The Violence Against Women provision funds grant programs aimed at reducing and preventing violence against women, as well. Programs provided for include:
 - * State grants (\$870 million over three years) to: expand and strengthen victim services and programs, such as rape crisis centers, battered women's shelters, and rape and family violence programs; train law enforcement officers to more effectively identify and respond to violent crimes against women; and expand law enforcement units specifically to target violent crimes against women.
 - * Victim Counselors (\$1.5 million) to help victims and witnesses in sex and domestic violence cases.
 - * Safe Colleges, targeting \$20 million to rape and violence prevention and education on college campuses.
 - * Help for the Homeless and Runaways, which provides \$10 million to help alleviate the problem of homeless and runaway women and girls through street-based education and outreach programs and counseling and treatment for runaway, homeless and street youth who are at risk of being subjected to sexual abuse.

Daily Talking Points on Anti-Crime Legislation

Wednesday, March 16, 1994

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE TAKES UP PRESIDENT'S ANTI-CRIME PLAN

- On the heels of victories in last week's House subcommittees, the President's comprehensive crime package today moves to the House Judiciary Committee for consideration. Among the numerous elements designed to curb violent crime in America as effectively, efficiently and quickly as possible are:
 - * The President's "Three Strikes and You're Out" mandatory life imprisonment proposal, which passed the Crime Subcommittee with bipartisan support.
 - * A broad range of key crime prevention programs, including the Ounce of Prevention program, the after-school Community Youth Services program, and Midnight Sports, which underscore the President's dual punishment-and-prevention approach to reduce crime.
 - * Drug Courts and other Supervised Release Programs for drug-abusing offenders, which offer a sensible and successful alternative to incarceration for drug offenders within the criminal justice system.
 - * Prison grants to states that take appropriate measures to ensure that the most serious violent offenders are put behind bars for a long time.
 - * Restoration of an enforceable death penalty for the most heinous of federal offenses. As the President has stated, this provision, which has garnered clear bipartisan support, is an important element of a comprehensive legislative anti-crime program.

Daily Talking Points on Anti-Crime Legislation Thursday, March 17, 1994

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE APPROVES KEY ELEMENTS OF PRESIDENT'S ANTI-CRIME PLAN

- The President's comprehensive crime package continued to pick up speed on Capitol Hill last night as the House Judiciary Committee passed key elements of the plan. Among the provisions approved are:
 - * Several elements aimed at respecting the needs and rights of crime victims in our criminal justice system which are backed by the Administration.
 - * Administration-supported provisions strengthening laws against child exploitation and increasing maximum penalties for certain assaults against children.
 - * Specific mandatory minimum sentencing reforms. The President has clearly stated that mandatory minimum sentences for certain drug trafficking offenses are an important law enforcement tool which should be maintained. Certain "safety valve" or "carve out" provisions, however, are necessary for particular cases involving low-level, non-violent, first-time drug offenders for whom mandatory minimum sentences are inappropriate.
- Today, the Committee considers the President's "Three Strikes and You're Out" mandatory life imprisonment proposal.

Daily Talking Points on Anti-Crime Legislation Monday, March 21, 1994

SOMETHING TO SAY "YES" TO: THE PRESIDENT'S YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS CRIME REDUCTION PROGRAM

- A major factor underlying the nation's crime problem has been the growing concentration of poverty and sharp erosion in the economic position of disadvantaged youth and young adults. The President's Y.E.S. initiative is a highly targeted program to prevent crime by improving the labor market prospects of at-risk youth in high crime and economically distressed areas.
- By improving the employment and long-term career prospects of youth and young adults, the poverty-crime-violence cycle can be broken. As the President said in the State of the Union address, young people must have something to say "yes" to.
- Unanimously adopted last week by the House Judiciary Committee as part of the Crime Bill's prevention package, Y.E.S. includes a highly leveraged but flexible direct job creation component providing employment opportunities primarily for youth and young adults ages 16-25. Key program features include:
 - * Careful targeting to disadvantaged youth living in high crime, high poverty neighborhoods, including public housing;
 - * Neighborhood-wide interventions, intensive programming and a wide range of services to address the employment related needs of participants;
 - * Tying participation to good behavior, such as completing school, paying child support and avoiding involvement in criminal activity or substance abuse;
 - * Emphasizing private sector job placement, while also supporting some public sector employment linked to placing participants in private sector positions; and
 - * Leveraging other federal, state, local, and private sector resources with matching commitments from the community.
- Proposals for ten renewable (up to four years) grant awards will be evaluated on the basis creativity in leveraging resources; ability to effectively link the program to permanent private sector placements for participants; evidence of need based upon the incidence of crime, poverty rate and other factors; and program design and implementation plan quality.
- Rigorous evaluation will track and assess the effectiveness of the programs, including the extent to which they reduce crime, enhance employment and earnings, promote entrepreneurship, reduce drop out rates, and increase educational attainment.

Daily Talking Points on Anti-Crime Legislation
Tuesday, March 22, 1994

**BRIEF SUMMARY OF KEY ADMINISTRATION-SUPPORTED
PROVISIONS IN THE HOUSE CRIME BILL**

- More Police and Community Policing: The bill funds 50,000 new police officers -- evenly-divided between large and small cities -- deployed in community policing programs.
- "Smart and Tough" Approach to Youth Crime and Violence: The bill focuses on youthful violence in numerous ways:
 - With proven and extensive crime prevention programs (as discussed below);
 - With boot camps for youthful offenders, as a second-chance for kids who get off-track;
 - With drug courts to get young drug users turned around before it is too late;
 - With a ban on juvenile gun possession;
 - ... And, for hardened young criminals, the authority to try 13-olds as adults.
- Measures to Stiffly Punish Violent Crime: The bill includes several steps, including:
 - The President's "three strikes and you're out" proposal for repeat violent offenders;
 - The death penalty for the most heinous of murders, including killing a federal law enforcement officer;
 - A \$3 billion plan for grants to state and local governments to expand prisons to hold 30,000 more violent offenders and criminal aliens.
- A Substantial Crime Prevention Agenda: The bill includes almost \$6 billion in crime prevention programs, including:
 - The President's "YES" program (Youth Employment Skills), to get job training and opportunities to kids in hard-hit, high-crime areas;
 - Ounce of prevention programs to keep schools open after hours, and to expand after-school activities like Boys and Girls clubs, that keep kids off the streets;
 - Innovative alternatives, like Midnight Sports and Police Partnerships with youths;
- Attack on Violence Against Women: The bill includes increased penalties and prevention efforts aimed at domestic violence and sexual assaults.
- Much, Much More: Among the many other administrative-backed provisions are laws to promote victims rights; to prevent child abuse; to provide a mandatory minimum "safety-valve" for non-violent offenders; and to increase penalties for hate crimes.

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Daily Talking Points on Anti-Crime Legislation

Wednesday, March 23, 1994

Pass The Crime Bill - Now!

- The U.S. House of Representatives begins consideration of the crime bill on the floor today. Final passage is expected on Friday.
- Put simply, there is no time for delay. House members must adopt the rule and move immediately to consideration of the bill.
- House deliberations must not get bogged down or stalled. Every day we delay in passing the crime bill is a day that we could have had an impact on crime, and didn't.
- The House bill contains the essential features of a good crime bill:
 - * More Police and Community Policing
 - * A "Smart and Tough" Approach to Youth Crime
 - * Measures to Stiffly Punish Violent Crime
 - * A Substantial Crime Prevention Agenda
- And as another reminder of the importance of acting quickly to pass the crime bill, the Justice Department released new statistics today regarding crime and seniors. A few notable items included in the report are:
 - * When compared to younger crime victims, elderly victims are about twice as likely to suffer broken bones, internal injuries, or loss of consciousness at the hands of an assailant
 - * More than 1 out of 3 violent crimes against those 65 and over is a robbery - a rate 50% higher than the portion of forcible or threatened force thefts from younger people
- We must pass a balanced crime bill -- featuring police, punishment and prevention -- now!

Daily Talking Points on Anti-Crime Legislation

Wednesday, March 23, 1994 (update)

Pass The Crime Bill - Now!

- The U.S. House of Representatives begins consideration of the crime bill on the floor today. Final passage is expected on Friday. There should be no delay in getting a bill passed and signed into law!
- While violent criminals are terrorizing Americans every day, some are still saying "let's wait and work on this some more and think about it some more."
- The fact is, almost all of the provisions of this crime bill have been pending in House Committees in similar or identical form for months, if not years. **It's time for action!**
- There is no good reason for delay. House members must adopt the rule and move immediately to consideration of the bill.
- House deliberations must not get bogged down or stalled. **Every day we delay in passing the crime bill is a day that we could have had an impact on crime, and didn't.**
- Given the seriousness of the crime problem in America and the months during which Members have had to formulate and propose their solutions, it is hard to understand why the House should delay consideration of this important piece of legislation
- We must pass a balanced crime bill -- featuring police, punishment and prevention -- now!

Daily Talking Points on Anti-Crime Legislation
Wednesday, March 23, 1994

Because the Wednesday, March 23 talking points will focus on the rule, the fairness of the rule and the need to pass the rule in order to keep the crime bill momentum going, and because the rule will not be voted out of committee until late this evening, there will be no talking points until tomorrow morning. We will make them available as early tomorrow morning as logistically possible.

Daily Talking Points on Anti-Crime Legislation
Thursday, March 24, 1994

*No Thursday talking
points until late tonight
or tomorrow morning due
to ongoing House
proceedings tonight.*

Daily Talking Points on Anti-Crime Legislation

Friday, March 25, 1994

USA Today's "View" vs. "Our View"

- The criticism of the House crime bill in yesterday's "Our View" column in USA Today ignores critical provisions which work in tandem with objected to portions of the bill.
- **Fiction:** First, the column argues that the Administration's "three strikes and you're out" proposal will create to prison overcrowding, forcing the release violent rapists and murders.
- **Fact:** The federal prison system has never released one of its 60,000 inmates because of overcrowding -- and the additional 200 - 300 "three strikes" convicts each year will not change this. Also, the column fails to mention that the bill makes available \$3 billion dollars for the construction of new prisons to help alleviate state prison overcrowding or prevent the early release of violent criminals.
- **Fiction:** The column decries \$3 billion in spending on "boot camps of dubious worth."
- **Fact:** The \$3 billion dollars is for prisons, boot camps and a wide range of other innovative punishment approaches. By providing an intermediate sanction between probation and traditional incarceration, young offenders can learn that there is a certainty of punishment at the initial stages of a criminal career. The early data suggests that boot camps are more effective than prison in reducing both recidivism and the cost of incarceration.
- **Fiction:** The column complains that the bill provides funding for 100,000 new police officers, but "no one knows where the salaries of these cops will come from . . . in five years."
- **Fact:** The provisions providing funding for new police officers require communities to demonstrate how they will fund the police hires in the long run. There is a genuine federal-state partnership, with the federal government providing the money to prime the police hiring pump.
- **Fiction:** The column declares that there are "concerns" about whether the funding for the bill will really come from a "trust fund" rather than from cuts to other important programs.
- **Fact:** The Administration has indicated time and again that the crime bill will be paid for with funds, placed in a Violent Crime Trust Fund, generated by a 250,000 person reduction in the federal payroll.
- The House crime bill provides a balanced approach -- focusing on police, punishment and prevention. There is no reason for further delay. The crime bill should be passed.

Daily Talking Points on Anti-Crime Legislation

Monday, March 28, 1994

Byrne Grant Funding To Be Returned

- Last week, the Attorney General announced a change in the initial plan to completely eliminate the Byrne Memorial Fund formula allocations. She proposed a new plan, one which restores \$125 million in Byrne Grant Funding -- enough to pay for all existing multi-jurisdictional task forces.
- The elimination of the Byrne Formula Grants would have resulted in the elimination of the extremely effective multi-jurisdictional drug task forces which have been developed across the country. So, reallocations were made and funds were moved to provide the funding, under the Byrne Grant program, sufficient to keep their multi-jurisdictional task forces going.
- Of course, the crime bill's contribution to state and local anti-crime efforts goes much farther than the Byrne Grants.
- The total commitment of federal funds for state and local crime-fighting and crime prevention exceeds \$2.4 billion for next year -- with billions more to come over the next five years.
- The crime bill is a balanced bill, providing money for police, punishment and prevention. Restoring funding which will allow for the continued vitality of the multi-jurisdictional task forces has made the crime bill a better bill.

Daily Talking Points on Anti-Crime Legislation

Tuesday, March 29, 1994

The Administration's Ongoing Fight Against Crime

- Passage of the crime bill will provide critical resources and tools necessary to effectively fight crime in America. But ongoing crime-fighting efforts should not be ignored.
- The Clinton Administration has, from day one, focused resources and innovative programs on catching and punishing criminals as well as on the prevention of crime before someone is victimized.
- At a press briefing today, ongoing crime-fighting efforts by the Department of Justice, the Department of Treasury, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Office of National Drug Control Policy were highlighted in order to demonstrate that Administration crime-fighting programs are producing meaningful results.
- Attorney General Reno discussed the fact that the Administration has, already, awarded 108 jurisdictions around the country over \$75 million to hire over 1000 police officers. With another \$75 million to awarded in April, an important down payment on the crime bill's promise of 100,000 new police officers has been made.
- Ms. Reno reported on the early activity stemming from the Administration's new anti-violent crime initiative announced just last month. Already, every U.S. Attorney in the country has appointed a special anti-violence coordinator charged with the responsibility of bringing together all federal, state and local law enforcement agencies for the purpose of developing strategies to target violent crime -- and the benefits of such cooperative efforts are showing up time and again.
- Treasury Assistant Secretary for Enforcement, Ron Noble, discussed the early successes stemming from ATF's implementation of the Brady Act. Already, thousands of guns have been denied to convicted felons and dozens of fugitives from justice have been identified. Through the continued enforcement of the Brady Act, we can keep guns out of the hands of criminals and catch some fugitives who are foolhardy enough to test the system.

- Mr. Noble also discussed the reclassification of the "Streetsweeper/Striker 12" weapon to tighten access and availability of these frequently used in crime devices. And he highlighted ATF's successful coordination with the New York City Housing Authority to review the validity of Federal Firearms licenses in or near public housing projects, resulting in the revocation of over 200 licenses.
- Secretary Cisneros discussed the ongoing, successful efforts of HUD's "Operation Safe Home". Dedicated to the notion that public housing residents have a right to live in a peaceful and safe environment, this program coordinates federal, state and local law enforcement resources to fight crime in public and assisted housing. The program has already led to the arrest of dozens of drug dealers, the confiscation of dozens of weapons, and the seizure of hundreds of thousands of dollars in drugs and cash.
- Dr. Brown, of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, discussed the Administration's successful High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) program. HIDTA targets resources where they will be most useful, facilitating multi-agency task force operations, intelligence sharing networks, and investigative support centers. This year, the Administration has improved HIDTA by integrating treatment services into the program, with the reduction of hard core drug use throughout a region accomplished through the combination of treatment services and law enforcement programs.
- The crime bill, with its \$22.4 billion in funding over the next five years, is critical to the fight against crime. But it is important to remember and recognize the Administration's ongoing commitment to fighting crime and the efforts which are and have been underway for many months.
- And, it is important to recognize that many of the programs which have only recently begun will grow and improve with funding and other tools provided by the crime bill. We must continue these programs and we must pass the crime bill.

Daily Talking Points On Anti-Crime Legislation

Thursday, March 31, 1994

THE CRIME BILL: FIGHTING CRIME IN SMALL TOWNS AND RURAL AREAS

- Through its support of the Crime Bill, the Administration is taking a balanced approach to fighting crime, ensuring that small towns and rural areas are not left out when it comes to crime punishment and prevention efforts.
- Several elements of the Administration's anti-crime plan directly benefit rural areas and small towns by increasing the resources available to reduce crime. They include:
 - * Putting 100,000 police officers into Community Policing efforts, developing partnerships with rural and smaller localities to create safer communities. Special set-asides in the House Crime Bill target up to 50% of resource allocations for rural areas.
 - * Developing locally-based strategies and providing additional resources which target gang-related and violent crime through the Administration's new Anti-Violent Crime Initiative, which combines the best efforts of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to reduce crime.
 - * Reducing the amount of drug trafficking in rural areas by authorizing additional funds for drug enforcement assistance to rural state and local law enforcement.
 - * Senate Crime Bill provisions which create Drug Free Truck Stops and Safety Rest Areas by enhancing the penalties for distributing drugs within 1,000 feet of a truck stop or roadside rest area.
 - * Provisions in the Senate Crime Bill which redouble efforts to reduce rural domestic violence and child abuse through state and local government grants expanding the investigation and prosecution of domestic violence and child abuse cases, providing treatment and counseling to victims, and developing education and prevention strategies.

Daily Talking Points On Anti-Crime Legislation

Friday, April 1, 1994

CURBING HATE CRIMES: ADMINISTRATION SUPPORTS ANTI-HATE CRIME LEGISLATION

- The Administration's strong support for legislative efforts aimed at curbing hate crimes sends the clear message that discriminatory bias must never be tolerated and will be punished when innocent citizens are harmed.
- The incidence of hate crimes around the country is of growing concern to the Administration. In 1992, for example, over 8,000 hate crimes were reported to the FBI. Of those, nearly 63% were motivated by racial bias. Approximately two of every ten hate crimes were motivated by religious bias, and ethnic and sexual-orientation bias each accounted for one of every ten such crimes.
- However, these statistics paint only a partial picture. The reporting of hate crime data is voluntary, and in 1992 only a quarter of all law enforcement agencies that submit data to the FBI actually supplied information on hate crimes. The actual incidence of hate violence, therefore, is undoubtedly higher than the numbers reveal.
- The types of hate crimes reported in 1992 include intimidation, vandalism and other destruction of property, simple and aggravated assault, robbery, murder, rape, and arson.
- In response, the Administration has backed efforts to significantly enhance the penalties of those guilty of committing hate crimes.
- In addition, the Administration supports provisions in the Senate Crime Bill which expand the collection of hate crime data. In addition to race, ethnicity, religion, and sexual orientation, disability would be added as a hate crime bias motivation category.

Daily Talking Points On Anti-Crime Legislation

Monday, April 4, 1994

FIGHTING GANG VIOLENCE: THE ADMINISTRATION'S ANTI-GANG EFFORTS

- Curbing gang violence, crime and involvement is one of our greatest national challenges, requiring our highest commitment. Gangs rob our citizens of dignity and safety, while at the same time deprive our youth of positive alternatives for success by giving them negative role models and a false sense of hope.
- The Administration's battle to reduce gang involvement by young people and the crime gangs provoke is being waged on multiple fronts. From Administration-led initiatives to programs in the Crime Bill, the challenge of curbing gang violence is being met.
- A key Administration effort in reducing gang terror is the Administration's Anti-Violent Crime Initiative. Focused on developing locally-based strategies and providing additional resources which target gang-related violent crime, the initiative combines the best efforts of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to reduce gang-related crime.
- An additional element of the Administration's anti-gang strategy is the creation of an anti-gang information network, which will allow localities to share information about interstate gang activities and the effectiveness of different law enforcement techniques designed to decrease gang crime and recruitment.
- Efforts to meet the challenge of curbing gang activity are also in the Crime Bill. Administration-supported programs include:
 - * Juvenile Drug Trafficking and Gang Prevention Grants aimed at reducing the participation of young people in gangs and drug-related crimes through a variety of programs, such as youth training in nonviolent dispute resolution.
 - * GREAT, the Gang Reduction Education and Training Project, allots \$40 million for 50 projects nationwide directed at reducing gang activity. This fund, which will go to local law enforcement and prevention organizations, as well as to ATF, represents an expansion of the GREAT program currently run by the Treasury Department.

Daily Talking Points On Anti-Crime Legislation

Tuesday, April 5, 1994

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO TRAVELS THE COUNTRY IN SUPPORT OF THE CRIME BILL

- Today, Attorney General Janet Reno takes to build support for the Crime Bill. Traveling coast-to-coast on a five-day tour through several states, the Attorney General will engage in a dialogue with the American people about how swift passage of the Crime Bill will help the nation's communities reduce crime.
- The Attorney General will travel to Philadelphia, Trenton, Los Angeles, Dallas, Oklahoma City, Memphis, Nashville, and Detroit, and will participate in several town hall meetings and community policing neighborhood walks.
- The town hall meetings will include citizens from the host and surrounding cities, the host mayor, the local police chief, other local law enforcement officers, community leaders, and local branches of state and federal law enforcement, and will focus on the benefit that passing the Crime Bill will have in local jurisdictions around the nation.
- The trip will give the Attorney General an opportunity to interact with citizens who are dealing day-to-day with the problem of crime, and to hear first-hand why localities around the country need prompt, immediate and certain action on the Crime Bill.

Daily Talking Points On Anti-Crime Legislation

Wednesday, April 6, 1994

ADMINISTRATION-SUPPORTED CRIME BILL ASSISTS VICTIMS OF CRIME

- The President's comprehensive anti-crime program does not only ensure punishment to the perpetrator of crime; it also remembers crime's victims. Strong, pro-victim measures are one of the hallmarks of the Administration-supported Crime Bill.
- The Crime Bill empowers victims of crime by greatly expanding restitution rights, creating a victim's right of allocution in sentencing, and providing for victim counseling and other assistance. Under the Senate Crime Bill, restitution for victims of sexual assault includes the cost of lost income, child care, transportation and other expenses related to the investigation and prosecution of sexual assault offenses.
- In addition, victims of gender-motivated violent crimes may seek redress under a new federal civil rights remedy in the Senate Crime Bill. Victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse are protected under several other Senate Crime Bill provisions, as well, including:
 - * Creation of a federal remedy for interstate domestic abuse and a requirement that protective orders issued in one state are recognized and enforced in other states;
 - * Extension of the Victim Shield Law and other prohibitions against the introduction of evidence to show provocation or invitation by a victim of sexual assault; and
 - * Coverage of the cost of HIV testing and counseling for victims of serious sexual assault.

Daily Talking Points On Anti-Crime Legislation Thursday, April 7, 1994

THE MESSAGE FROM AMERICA: ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO HEARS GRASSROOTS SUPPORT FOR THE CRIME BILL

- Attorney General Janet Reno today continues her nationwide tour to build support for the Crime Bill. After stops in Trenton and Los Angeles, the Attorney General today visits Dallas. And wherever she goes, the message is the same: Pass the Crime Bill now.
- Attorney General Reno began her coast-to-coast trip in Trenton, New Jersey, where she participated in a Town Hall Meeting with local citizens, community leaders, and a bipartisan group of elected officials. Along with Governor Christine Todd Whitman, Senators Bill Bradley and Frank Lautenberg, and others, Attorney General Reno talked about the difference that passing the Crime Bill will make to communities throughout New Jersey.
- During the Town Hall, the Attorney General heard from community policing officers who walk beats in New Jersey's neighborhoods. Their message was clear: Community policing, like that provided for in the Crime Bill, is about more than arresting lawbreakers; it's about building partnerships based on trust between communities and local law enforcement.
- Another message heard loud and clear in Trenton was the strong support for the Administration's "Three Strikes You're Out" repeat offender proposal as well as its crime prevention program. Both citizens and law enforcement officials alike voiced backed the President's tough "Three Strikes" bill, saying that it sends a strong message to criminals who fail to change their violent behavior. Likewise, these same individuals applauded the Administration's efforts to pass a crime bill that attempts to deal with the long-term causes of crime by implementing effective prevention programs.
- Most of all, the Town Hall Meeting underscored the message now being heard all across America: We must take real action to reduce crime in America immediately. The people of New Jersey, like people everywhere, do not want quick-fix, feel-good answers. The Crime Bill is a comprehensive, balanced approach to fighting crime on our streets today, as well as preventing criminal behavior tomorrow.

Daily Talking Points On Anti-Crime Legislation

Friday, April 8, 1994

THE MESSAGE FROM AMERICA: FIGHT CRIME THROUGH BUILDING TRUST

- As momentum for the Crime Bill builds across the nation, Attorney General Janet Reno continues her coast-to-coast Crime Bill tour with stops in Los Angeles on Wednesday, Dallas and Oklahoma City yesterday, and Memphis and Nashville today.
- In Los Angeles, the Attorney General met with local citizens, community leaders, and a bipartisan group of elected officials which included Mayor Richard Riordan, Police Chief Willie Williams, and Senator Diane Feinstein. The day's events included a walk through the Pueblo del Rio housing project, where community policing is changing the lives of residents for the better, and a roundtable discussion on the Crime Bill before a packed audience at Cal State Los Angeles.
- Joined by local law enforcement officials in her strong support for the community policing provisions in the Crime Bill, Attorney General Reno noted that trust was the key to building effective partnerships between citizens and police, which will in turn prevent crime. "[I]t is imperative that we build that trust," she remarked. "You can't build that trust if you see somebody driving by in a patrol car and you don't know their name and you can't get their badge number."
- In Dallas, Attorney General Reno heard more grassroots support for the Crime Bill, as small business owners told her of the dividends that community policing has already paid in the city's retail district.
- Putting 100,000 police officers into community policing is the foundation of the Administration's overall anti-crime strategy, combining increased police presence with the development of partnerships with communities to create safer neighborhoods. It will not be funded by new taxes, but through reductions in the federal bureaucracy -- 252,000 fewer federal employees over the next five years by attrition. It's a good swap -- the savings we achieve through this 12 percent reduction we will put into fighting crime.
- Tomorrow, the Attorney General concludes her nationwide tour with a visit to Detroit, Michigan.

Daily Talking Points On Anti-Crime Legislation

Monday, April 11, 1994

PRESIDENT CLINTON COMES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO HEAR ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO'S REPORT ON HER CRIME BILL TRIP

- Today, the President comes to the Justice Department to welcome Attorney General Reno home after her nationwide tour and to rally support for the Crime Bill. This event kicks off a week during which public officials from all over the nation will come to Washington with the same message: Pass the Crime Bill now.
- Over two hundred uniformed officers representing more than a dozen national law enforcement organizations will join the President in welcoming Attorney General Reno home and will show their enthusiastic support for the Crime Bill. The Attorney General will talk about the people she met during her trip and will be joined on stage by individuals whose lives prove that the community policing can make a real difference in neighborhoods across the country. In addition to President Clinton, others giving brief remarks include:
 - * Eddie Cutanda, a Dorchester, Massachusetts teenager whose life has been changed by a community policing program in Boston. Three years ago Eddie was a member of street gang; today, he's participating in local performances for his community, thanks to a community policing program that works with a local youth group to get kids like Eddie off the streets. That kind of hope is what the Crime Bill can bring to communities all around the country.
 - * Earline Williams, a senior citizen whom the Attorney General met while in Trenton last week. Mrs. Williams is a volunteer at her local police mini-station. She's proud of the difference her efforts make, but her message is simple: Her community needs more police officers on the beat. The Crime Bill has an answer for her.
 - * Lt. Ernest Williams, a 14-year veteran of the Albany, Georgia, who knows first-hand the difference a community-oriented policing program like the President's can make in a neighborhood where there once was no partnership between residents and law enforcement.
- In addition, the Attorney General will be joined by 12 police officers -- all cops on the streets of Albany, Georgia as part of the city's new Community-Oriented Policing Program ("C.O.P."). These officers were hired with the funds provided by the Justice Department's first round community policing grants. They are the results of the President's "downpayment" on his promise of 100,000 new cops on the street. Passing the Crime Bill will give hundreds of communities the opportunity Albany has had.

Daily Talking Points On Anti-Crime Legislation

Tuesday, April 12, 1994

FUNDING FOR THE BYRNE GRANT REINSTATED

- Based on input from mayors and governors around the country, the Administration has reassessed its previous position eliminating the Byrne Memorial Fund formula grants from the President's budget, and has restored \$125 million in formula grant allocations to states.
- The restoration of \$125 million in Byrne Grant funding will be sufficient to cover the federal share of all existing multi-jurisdictional drug task forces. However, states will still have the flexibility to spend the restored funding on priority matters of their own choosing.
- The restored Byrne Grant Funds represent a small part of the Administration's overall state and local anti-crime effort. Over \$2.4 billion is slated for crime fighting and crime prevention at the state and local levels for next year.
- The Administration will pay for the restored Byrne Grant funding by making the following reallocations: a \$50 million reduction in the proposed increase in discretionary Byrne Grant funding; a \$25 million reduction in the proposed \$69 million increase in funding for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; and \$50 million from the Crime Bill.
- The Administration will also seek a Crime Bill provision to allow future funding of the Byrne Grant to be provided by the Crime Bill Trust Fund.

Daily Talking Points On Anti-Crime Legislation

Wednesday, April 13, 1994

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S PLAN TO PUT 100,000 ADDITIONAL COPS ON AMERICA'S STREETS

- **National Impact**
 - * Putting 100,000 police officers onto America's streets is at the heart of the President's overall anti-crime strategy. It is not just a "drop in the bucket" as some have suggested. The plan represents a twenty percent increase in the current number local police officers nationwide.
- **How 100,000 Additional Police Stacks-Up Against Current Resources**
 - * Currently, there are 504,000 sworn local police officers nationally. Adding 100,000 new cops is a 20% increase.
 - * Of the 504,000, up to 380,000 work at the street-level. 100,000 new community police officers increases the number of street-level cops by more than 25%.
- **Typical Impact On Cities**
 - * Adding 100,000 more officers to the nation's police forces will make very significant difference to individual areas. For example, a 20% increase in a city like New York with a police force of 30,000 would add 6,000 officers. That's 6,000 more officers patrolling neighborhoods, building partnerships based on trust with communities, and keeping our streets safer for law-abiding citizens.
 - * Likewise, in a mid-size city like Salt Lake City, Utah which currently employs 353 officers, the 100,000 cops program could mean over 70 new cops.
 - * And a small city like Smyrna, Georgia with a total police force of 78 could receive 15 more officers under the program.
- **Additional Cops Where They Are Needed Most**
 - * The President's plan is a competitive discretionary program, which means that jurisdictions will be able to request the amount of support for whatever number of additional police officers they actually need to effectively control crime — some may need a 20% increase, some more, some less, depending upon their individual needs. The President's plan, therefore, is a flexible approach aimed at meeting the different crime control needs of individual jurisdictions.
- **Small States Protected**
 - * Moreover, both the House and Senate versions of the Crime Bill guarantee each state a minimum-level of community policing funding. Therefore, every state will receive at least \$20 million dollars under the House version or \$48 million under the Senate version for new police officers.

Wednesday, April 13, 1994

***** UPDATE *****

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- **America Needs and Wants More Police Officers on the Streets**
 - * There's no question that demand for more police officers is high and continues to rise all across the country. Thousands of Mayors and Police Chiefs have already applied for community policing grants under the Administration's Policing Hiring Supplement Program. In fact, the demand is so great that the Justice Department will have to turn down 9 out of 10 applications due to the Supplemental Program's limited funds of \$150 million. Passing the Crime Bill can change that, because with nearly \$9 billion for 100,000 new officers, every community that needs police can receive help.

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- * The plan's flexibility provides the Attorney General with sufficient authority to waive or modify requirements which might otherwise preclude participation by cities which have been hit hard by both crime and economic dislocation and are struggling financially. For example:
 - The requirement that local jurisdictions match the federal contribution by at least 25% in matching funds may be waived; and
 - The cap on the federal level of funding for salary and benefits per officer may also be waived.
- * The key to the President's plan is flexibility: the 100,000 police program aims to deploy officers in a way that meets the specific needs of local communities.

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Daily Talking Points On Anti-Crime Legislation

Wednesday, April 13, 1994

UPDATED

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Daily Talking Points On Anti-Crime Legislation

Thursday, April 14, 1994

RULE ON CRIME BILL APPROVED -- HOUSE CLEARS WAY FOR DEBATE AND VOTE ON THE PRESIDENT'S ANTI-CRIME PROGRAM

- The President's anti-crime program continues to pick-up speed as the full House today begins consideration of the Crime Bill.
- Yesterday, the House signalled its readiness to consider the most comprehensive anti-crime package in history by approving the Rule on the Crime Bill by a big margin of 244 to 176.
- Some key crime-reduction elements in the House bill include:
 - * **More Police and Community Policing:** The bill funds 50,000 new police officers, evenly-divided between large and small cities and deployed in community policing programs.
 - * **Swift and Certain Punishment for Violent Crimes:** Among the bill's tough provisions are:
 - Tough but smart "Three Strikes and You're Out" mandatory life imprisonment legislation based upon the Administration's proposal;
 - Restoration of an enforceable federal death penalty for the most heinous of federal offenses, another element of the President's comprehensive anti-crime program; and
 - A prison grant program encouraging states to take appropriate measures to ensure that the most serious violent offenders are put behind bars for a long time.
 - * **A Balanced Crime Prevention Agenda:** The Administration's prevention package includes programs such as Y.E.S. (Youth Employment Skills), Ounce of Prevention, after-school Community Youth Services, and Midnight Sports, which all underscore the President's dual punishment-and-prevention approach to reduce crime.

Daily Talking Points On Anti-Crime Legislation
Friday, April 15, 1994

CRIME BILL MOVES IN THE HOUSE

- The full House today began consideration of the President's Crime Bill and made substantial progress, disposing of 42 of the 67 amendments made in order under the rule.
- After general debate on the bill, the House considered and passed a range of amendments which further improved the bill.
- Included among the amendments adopted were:
 - Increased funding for Treasury Department law enforcers -- ATF, Customs, and Secret Service agents -- to make our streets and borders safer. (\$210 million) (Hoyer)
 - Authorization and support for full funding for the Byrne Grant program, so vital to many local communities. (Rangel; Wise; Fazio)
 - A new rural crime initiative, to provide additional efforts to fight crime and drugs in rural areas. Also, special funding to combat domestic violence in rural areas. (\$385 million) (Long/Baesler/Ewing)
 - Funding for Boys and Girls Clubs in public housing projects. (\$12 million) (Rostenkowski)
 - New penalties for criminals who use explosives to commit crimes, and measures to make it harder for criminals to obtain explosives. (Slaughter)
 - Increased border controls, expedited deportation for those denied asylum, and expanded special deportation proceedings. (Becerra)
 - Tougher penalties for visa and passport fraud, which contribute to immigration abuse. (Gilman)
- Among the amendments adopted was an "en bloc" group of 35 amendments, which were approved on a bipartisan 395 to 25 vote.
- Consideration of the Crime Bill will begin again in the House on Tuesday, April 19, with a vote on final passage expected next week.

Daily Talking Points On Anti-Crime Legislation

Monday, April 18, 1994

AMERICANS WANT THE CRIME BILL NOW!

- Across the nation, from Trenton to Los Angeles, the American people have spoken with one voice: We need the Crime Bill and we need it now!
 - Americans want Congress to act swiftly and pass the President's comprehensive anti-crime package. The Administration's balanced approach to fighting crime -- police, punishment, and prevention -- has won broad praise, from everyday citizens to law enforcement officials alike. In fact, community policing -- an integral part of the Administration's overall crimefighting strategy -- has already created success stories around the country.
 - Americans are looking for a long-term solution to crime, not quick-fix, feel good answers. The Crime Bill offers a plan which is both tough and smart, a plan that means quick action to reduce crime today and steps taken to avoid its occurrence in the future. The Crime Bill will provide the critical resources necessary to effectively fight crime in both the short- and long-term.
 - This week, the House of Representatives continues consideration of the Crime Bill. There should be no delay in getting it passed. The President has repeatedly said that as soon as Congress passes his comprehensive anti-crime package, he will sign it immediately.
 - Everyday we fail to pass the Crime Bill is an opportunity to fight crime is lost because of inaction. We *can* reduce crime and make America safer, and we can do it by ensuring that the Crime Bill becomes law. We must pass the Crime Bill.
-

Daily Talking Points On Anti-Crime Legislation

Tuesday, April 19, 1994

HELPING STATES TO LOCK UP VIOLENT CRIMINALS FAST

- The Administration is committed to helping states lock up violent offenders. The federal prison system, with over 80,000 inmates, does not release prisoners early because of overcrowding. By contrast, many states are forced to do so routinely. We want to help states expand their prison capacity so that in the future, violent criminals will not be returned to the streets because of lack of prison space.
- The Crime Bill provides funds to help states lock up violent offenders quickly and efficiently. Currently, there are 13,000 state prison beds which cannot be filled because states lack the necessary operating capital.
- The Crime Bill's prison grant program also aims to strengthen state sentencing schemes. In order to participate in the grant program, states should adopt improved criminal justice policies to protect the public from violent criminals, including "truth in sentencing" reforms. But the conditions of state participation must be reasonable, realistic and practical.
- "Truth in sentencing" provisions contained in both the Chapman and Hughes Amendments will encourage states to move in the right direction -- restoring the credibility of our criminal sentencing system by ensuring that violent inmates serve their time behind bars.
- We must be tough on crime, but we must also be smart. The McCollum Amendment, which requires states to adopt burdensome sentencing policies in order to be eligible for prison grant funds, looks tough but really isn't. The requirements are so costly to meet that few states, if any, would actually participate in the grant program, meaning more violent offenders on our streets.
- The President's anti-crime plan represents a comprehensive, balanced approach to reducing crime in both the short-term and long-term. While the Administration supports increased assistance to states for the incarceration of criminals, spending on prisons alone is not enough. The Administration supports the availability of adequate funding for all components of the President's anti-crime program -- police, punishment and prevention.

Daily Talking Points On Anti-Crime Legislation Wednesday, April 20, 1994

ADMINISTRATION SUPPORTS POLICE CORPS

- The President has repeatedly indicated that he wants crime legislation which is both tough and smart. That is why the Administration supports the McCurdy Amendment to the House Crime Bill, a proposal which ensures that we are smart about the way we fight crime by establishing a Police Corps program and funding Law Enforcement Scholarships.
- We must do all we can to ensure that our law enforcement officials are equipped not only with the weaponry and technology they need, but also with the education and skills necessary to maximize their ability to fight crime. By providing educational funds for individuals committed to joining police departments after graduation, we can develop well-educated police officers who have focused for years on training for that job.
- The McCurdy Amendment creates a Law Enforcement Scholarships matching grant program for current law enforcement personnel and young people interested in a career in law enforcement.
- Law Enforcement Scholarships would provide educational opportunities for in-service officers seeking to improve their skills and abilities, as well as law enforcement related summer and part-time employment for high school students.
- The McCurdy Amendment also establishes a Police Corps program through which state and local law enforcement agencies can recruit young people to serve with local police while simultaneously earning financial aid for a college education.
- The police corps, frequently analogized to the ROTC, would require program participants to participate in police training activities during the summer months of their college education.
- The police corps will develop a new group of well-educated police officers annually available for recruitment into police departments around the country.

Daily Talking Points On Anti-Crime Legislation

Thursday, April 21, 1994

HOUSE POISED TO PASS CRIME BILL

- After making significant progress in their deliberations over the Crime Bill, the House is now on the verge of passing comprehensive anti-crime legislation by week's end.
- The House's work over the last two weeks answers the call echoed around the nation that the nation desperately needs the Crime Bill and wants its passage now.
- The package emerging from the House includes several key crimefighting elements, such as:
 - * A substantial start towards putting an additional 100,000 police officers on our streets, engaged in community policing in both large cities and rural areas;
 - * A "Three Strikes You're Out" measure aimed at repeat offenders;
 - * A program which helps states put and keep violent criminals behind bars for a long time by giving them grants to create much needed prison space and by encouraging them to adopt "truth in sentencing" reforms;
 - * Restoration of an enforceable federal death penalty for the most heinous of offenses, including the killing of federal law enforcement officers;
 - * A balanced crime prevention agenda which gives young people something to say "yes" to, such as after school community youth services, Boys and Girls clubs, Midnight Sports, and other programs which enhance the educational opportunities of youth, such as Police Corps and Law Enforcement Scholarships; and
 - * Measures aimed at stopping violence against women.

Daily Talking Points On Anti-Crime Legislation
Friday, April 22, 1994

HOUSE PASSES THE CRIME BILL

- By an overwhelming margin of 285 to 141, the House of Representatives yesterday voted to pass the Crime Bill. The win is a big victory for Americans around the country who value smart action over mere tough talk on the issue of crime in America.
- The House's action brings the nation a step closer towards fully realizing the President's comprehensive anti-crime program -- a plan which has won broad praise from ordinary citizens to law enforcement officials alike.
- The next task is for House and Senate conferees to hammer out a joint Crime Bill which includes the best measures from both the House and Senate bills and reflects the Administration's balanced approach to fighting crime -- police, punishment, and prevention.

Daily Talking Points on Anti-Crime Legislation
Tuesday, April 26, 1994

Answering the Call

- Yesterday, the New York Times called on the Administration to "stake a legitimate claim to leadership" in the development of the final version of Congress' crime bill. The fact is, the President, the Attorney General, and other cabinet members have staked out dozens of tough positions during debate on the crime bill and have already had a substantial impact on the bill.
- The President and his Administration vigorously supported a balanced approach to the bill, working hard to make sure that the money spent was not just on police, not just on punishment, and not just on prevention, but on all three. Without the President's insistence on this balanced approach, a skewed crime bill might have resulted.
- The President and his Administration helped reign in and fight back the ill-conceived "regional prisons" notion which would have wasted time and money in the effort to lock up violent criminals. With strong support from the Administration, prison funding in the House bill is to be made available in grants to the states for use in the ways most appropriate in each individual circumstance. And the Administration will continue to work to encourage conferees to adopt this approach.
- The President and his Administration designed a more focused "three-strikes-and-you're out" provision, which the Administration will continue to encourage the conferees to adopt. And the Administration has supported a "safety valve" provision, taking low level, non-violent, first time offenders out of the rubric of mandatory minimum sentencing, returning those matters to sentencing under the sentencing guidelines.
- The President and his Administration also continue to fight for the passage of an assault weapons ban, whether adopted as part of the crime bill or adopted as a separate piece of legislation. And, despite the urgings of the Times, the Administration will continue to support "truth in sentencing" provisions so that criminals recognize that there are consequences for their actions.
- The President and the Administration will continue to play the most important role possible in this debate -- keeping it balanced, on course, and moving forward. While even we may not like certain provisions adopted by the Congress, the basic structure of the crime bill is sound. The Congress should not delay in drafting and passing a conference report.

Daily Talking Points On Anti-Crime Legislation Thursday, April 28, 1994

THE REALITY BEHIND THE STATISTICS: BANNING ASSAULT WEAPONS WILL SAVE LIVES

- Critics of a ban on assault weapons continually attempt to cloud the real issues behind the debate by throwing out statistics that reveal only part of the assault weapons picture.
- For example, critics are quick to point to statistics showing that assault weapons make up less than 1 percent of the privately owned guns in America. But the critics won't tell you that these same weapons account for 8 percent of the firearms traced to criminal activities. That means that as one of the weapons of choice for violent criminals, assault weapons make up a disproportionately high number of crime-related firearms.
- Additionally, critics try to minimize the terror that assault weapons cause by arguing that assault weapons were used in about 1 percent of murders nationwide. But behind these numbers are real stories of human tragedy:
 - * Stories such as Steven Sposato's, whose wife, Jody, was among eight killed when a gunman armed with two assault pistols opened fire in a San Francisco law firm last year.
 - * Or the stories of five elementary school children who died, or the 29 others who were wounded, when a man fired 106 rounds in less than 2 minutes into a Stockton, California schoolyard where the kids were playing.
 - * Nor do the numbers tell Ken Brondell's story, whose sister, Los Angeles Police Officer Christy Brondell Hamilton, was killed last February 18 when a teenager fired an assault weapon through the door of her squad car. "If it would save one life . . . obviously the law is worth it," says Mr. Brondell.
- The Statistics the Critics Don't Like to Cite
 - * When the Bush Administration banned the importation of certain assault weapons, the number of imported assault weapons traced to crime declined by 45%, while the number of domestic assault weapons traced to crime remained the same.
 - * There are no current restrictions on the sale of 30, 50 or even 100 round ammunition magazines. They can be legally sold to anyone, yet have no conceivable sporting purpose. They are intended for military weapons designed for combat, not for hunting firearms.

Daily Talking Points on Anti-Crime Legislation

Friday, April 29, 1994

ADMINISTRATION-BACKED ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN PASSES HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

- The momentum behind the Administration-backed effort to ban semiautomatic assault weapons continued to build yesterday as the House Judiciary Committee approved Rep. Charles Schumer's (D-NY) and Rep. Mike Synar's (D-OK) bill to remove assault weapons from our streets.
- The Assault Weapons Ban Bill, which currently has 59 co-sponsors, was passed on a 20 to 15 bipartisan vote, which included the support of Congressman Henry Hyde (R-IL).
- The Schumer bill, identical to the Feinstein amendment to the Senate Crime Bill which passed the Senate last year, effectively bans the future manufacture and importation of semiautomatic assault weapons. Hunting and sporting weapons, however, are specifically exempted.
 - * Although the bill bans the future manufacture and importation of semiautomatic assault weapons, currently-owned guns are grandfathered.
 - * Moreover, the bill uses very specific criteria in defining which semiautomatic rifles, pistols and shotguns would be prohibited.
 - * 650 types of hunting and sporting rifles and shotguns are explicitly exempt from the ban.
 - * The bill also contains explicit exceptions for experimental or governmental use.
- In addition, the Assault Weapons Ban Bill prohibits the manufacture and importation of large-capacity magazines and requires private sellers and buyers of assault weapons to keep a record of the transaction.
- The bill's provisions also contain penalties for those who violate the ban: Up to five years in jail, except for those who violate of the record-keeping provision, who face up to six months in jail.
- The Assault Weapons Ban will save lives by taking weapons intended for military combat off of the streets and out of the hands of violent criminals. Although they represent less than 1 percent of privately-owned firearms, assault weapons account for 8 percent of the firearms traced to criminal activities -- a number which has been on the rise in recent years.
- The Assault Weapons Ban now moves to the full House of Representatives where a vote on final passage is expected soon.

Daily Talking Points On Anti-Crime Legislation

Monday, May 2, 1994

THE MESSAGE FROM AMERICA: BANNING SEMIAUTOMATIC ASSAULT WEAPONS MEANS SAVING LIVES

- The overwhelming majority of Americans supports a legislative ban on semiautomatic assault weapons. Why? Because a ban will save lives, pure and simple. It will take weapons designed for military combat off the streets and out of the hands of violent criminals. In nearly every part of America, the evidence is clear:
 - * A legislative ban would prohibit the Springfield M1-A1 assault rifle -- one of the weapons used by two men last Thursday in a gun battle following a bank robbery in Wisconsin. The gun battle resulted in the murder of a Waukesha, Wisconsin police officer.
 - * The ban would also outlaw the AK-47 -- the weapon chosen by four drug traffickers who engaged in a gun battle with Federal agents outside their drug manufacturing site in Pushmataha County, Oklahoma in 1990.
 - * Also prohibited would be the Intratec TEC-22 and semiautomatic assault pistols manufactured by Norinco -- weapons used by six young men last year to rob seven Ohio banks in six months.
 - * Had a legislative ban been in place in December, 1992, it might have saved the life of a teacher at Atlantic Shores Christian School. There, a student, using a Cobray M-11/9 semiautomatic assault pistol, went on a killing spree, murdering one of his teachers and seriously wounding another.
- Critics are quick to argue that semiautomatic assault weapons represent less than 1 percent of privately-owned firearms. Yet these same assault weapons account for 8 percent of the firearms traced to criminal activities -- a number which has been on the rise in recent years. As the weapon of choice for violent criminals, assault weapons make up a disproportionately high number of crime-related firearms.
- We already know that when the Bush Administration banned the importation of certain assault weapons, the number of imported assault weapons traced to crime declined by 45% in the first year, while the number of domestic assault weapons traced to crime remained the same. We can achieve the same dramatic impact on the number of domestically manufactured assault weapons traced to criminal activity by passing the legislative ban.

Daily Talking Points On Anti-Crime Legislation Tuesday, May 3, 1994

PRESIDENT CLINTON SEEKS SUPPORT OF HUNTERS IN BATTLE TO FIGHT CRIME

- In an open letter to hunters reprinted in Roll Call yesterday, President Clinton sought to enlist the help of hunters to control crime by taking weapons designed for military combat off of the streets and out of the hands of violent criminals. Semiautomatic assault weapons are the "weapons of choice for drug dealers, gangs, and terrorists," wrote the President, "[a]nd every year they kill children and police officers, mothers and fathers."
- As the President has repeatedly noted, the battle to ban semiautomatic assault weapons is not about gun control; it's about crime control.
- "I know the difference between a firearm used for hunting and target shooting and a weapon designed to kill people," the President wrote, who himself has been a hunter since he was 12 years old. Semiautomatic assault weapons "have no place on a deer hunt, in a duck blind, or on a target range -- and they certainly don't belong on our streets, in our neighborhoods or on our schoolyards."
- The Administration-supported legislative ban specifically safeguards hunters' rights. Over 650 hunting and recreational guns are explicitly exempted from the ban.
- Moreover, not all semiautomatic firearms are covered by the ban; only semiautomatic assault weapons -- weapons designed for military combat on the battlefields of war -- are prohibited. Hunters, wrote President Clinton, "know the difference between a hunting rifle and weapon that was designed for the battlefield," and he urged hunters to make that difference known to members of Congress.

Daily Talking Points On Anti-Crime Legislation Wednesday, May 4, 1994

THE ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN: A VOTE FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT, A VOTE AGAINST CRIME

- Thursday's House of Representatives vote on legislation to ban semiautomatic assault weapons is not about controlling guns; it's about controlling crime.
- Semiautomatic assault weapons are the weapons of choice for drug dealers, gangs, and terrorists. While they represent only one percent of privately-owned firearms in this country, assault weapons account for eight percent of the firearms traced to crime -- a disproportionately high number which has been rising in recent years.
- And every year, these weapons kill police officers -- men and women who put their lives on the line everyday to keep our communities safe. They are the ones who are out-gunned by the firepower that street criminals now wield with assault weapons.
- This was tragically demonstrated last week in Waukesha County, Wisconsin, when a police officer was murdered -- the first officer in ten years to be killed in the line of duty in Waukesha -- during a gun battle involving a Springfield M1A1 assault rifle.
- As a result of this and too many incidents like it, law enforcement officials have been unified in their support of taking these weapons off of the streets and out of criminal hands. We cannot ask them to risk their lives in the fight against crime -- and then deny them the help they need.
- Today, Attorney General Reno carries that message of support for the nation's law enforcement community to Capitol Hill. She, along with Congressman Chuck Schumer (D-NY), Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Senator Metzenbaum (D-OH), will reiterate the Administration's support for a legislative ban on semiautomatic assault weapons.
- The Administration-supported legislative ban prohibits weapons designed for military combat, but specifically safeguards hunters' rights by explicitly exempting over 650 hunting and recreational guns. Moreover, not all semiautomatic firearms are covered by the ban; only semiautomatic assault weapons -- weapons designed for the battlefields of war -- are prohibited.

Daily Talking Points On Anti-Crime Legislation
Friday, May 6, 1994

**PRESIDENT CLINTON VICTORIOUS AS
HOUSE PASSES ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN**

- Standing with the law enforcement community, the vast majority of American citizens, and the national interest, the House of Representatives yesterday voted 216 to 214 to pass Administration-backed legislation banning the future manufacture of semiautomatic assault weapons.
- Led by Rep. Charles Schumer (D-NY), House supporters of the ban were able to reverse momentum against the legislation and produce a victory.
- Also instrumental in persuading House members to support the legislative ban was the persistent leadership of President Clinton and members of his Cabinet, led by Attorney General Reno and Treasury Secretary Bentsen.
- The bipartisan anti-crime vote is a triumph for every American who desires safe streets, and particularly for those who know first-hand the tragedy that semiautomatic assault weapons can cause. Parents who've lost children, individuals who've lost spouses, police officers who've lost partners -- all know that taking assault weapons off of the streets and out of the hands of violent criminals means saving lives.
- The House members who supported this legislation, as President Clinton noted right after the historic vote, "demonstrated extraordinary courage in the face of extraordinary political pressure to walk away."
- As part of a larger, comprehensive Administration anti-crime strategy, the House's action brings the nation closer towards controlling violent crime on America's streets.

Daily Talking Points On Anti-Crime Legislation

Tuesday, May 10, 1994

THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION SUPPORTS HELPING STATES KEEP VIOLENT CRIMINALS BEHIND BARS

- The Administration is committed to helping states that are struggling to keep violent criminals and criminal aliens from being released prematurely because of overcrowding. While the Federal Government builds enough prisons and detention facilities to insure that federal inmates are not released early for lack of space, many states are forced to release criminals routinely due to space limitations.
- States must also contend with severely shrinking resources. There are currently over 15,000 state prison beds which cannot be filled because states lack the necessary operating capital. The safety of our citizens depends upon states being able to keep violent criminals behind bars to do their time.
- Both the Senate and House versions of the Crime Bill provide funds to help states lock up violent offenders quickly and efficiently. The best way to accomplish this objective and make our streets safer is by providing assistance to state correctional and detention systems at a level which approximates that contained in the Senate Crime Bill -- \$6.5 billion. Such funding, when made available to the states on a discretionary basis, will allow states to build and operate appropriate facilities for housing serious drug and violent offenders -- including boot camps, prisons, jails, and community detention facilities.
- Moreover, the Administration believes that the prison grant program should also be used to encourage states to adopt "truth in sentencing" policies and other criminal justice system improvements to insure that violent criminals remain locked up for a long time.
- Towards that end, the Administration supports the concept behind Congressman Chapman's (D-TX) "truth in sentencing" provision in the House Crime Bill, which aims to restore the credibility of our criminal sentencing system by ensuring that violent inmates serve their time. This approach is more effective than the Senate Crime Bill's Regional Prisons alternative -- a proposal that is inefficient, unduly expensive, and will fail to get violent criminals off of the streets quickly.
- Locking up the largest number of violent offenders and criminal aliens, as quickly as possible, at the lowest possible cost: this is the Administration's objective in seeking a Crime Bill that combines the best of both the Senate and House proposals -- the prison grant programs authored by Senator Biden (D-DE) and Congressman Hughes (D-NJ), coupled with reasonable "truth in sentencing" provisions.

Daily Talking Points On Anti-Crime Legislation Thursday, May 12, 1994

ENHANCING LAW ENFORCEMENT'S ABILITY TO FIGHT CRIME

- The Clinton Administration's Crime Bill is a blueprint for the effective reduction of crime in both the short- and long-term. Part and parcel to the bill are specific authorization requests that will give law enforcement the resources it needs to successfully implement the President's comprehensive anti-crime plan. Crime Bill authorizations supported by the Administration include:
 - * Nearly \$9 billion to put an additional 100,000 local police officers on the nation's street -- a twenty percent increase in the current number of local cops nationwide;
 - * Funds to hire more prosecutors for gang prosecutions, as well as the support staff and resources new prosecutors require;
 - * Additional funding to hire more Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents to curb drug trafficking on our streets;
 - * Additional funds for law enforcement components and functions of the Treasury Department to help meet their increased law enforcement responsibilities;
 - * \$250 million targeted for rural law enforcement grants to reduce drug trafficking in rural areas;
 - * A comprehensive grant program with increased funding for criminal justice and law enforcement assistance in sexual and domestic violence cases;
 - * \$300 million in increased judiciary funding for effective crime bill implementation;
 - * Grants administered through the Gangs and Juveniles programs to local prosecutors who are trying to deal with the serious and growing problem of juvenile violence;
 - * \$3 billion for state grants to construct prisons, build boot camps, and otherwise expand their capacity to ensure that criminals do their time;
 - * Authority necessary to increase the number of Border Patrol agents by 6,000 over the next five years; and
 - * Grants for computerized automation and other technological improvements in law enforcement, as well as for an expansion of federal training programs for state and local law enforcement officers.

Daily Talking Points On Anti-Crime Legislation

Friday, May 13, 1994

WHY REGIONAL PRISONS WON'T WORK

- Around the country, states are being forced to prematurely release violent criminals from prison due to lack of space. The Clinton Administration is committed to halting this trend by making it easier for states to get violent offenders off the streets quickly and efficiently and to keep such criminals locked up for a long time. The Administration-backed state prison grant program would accomplish these objectives by providing assistance directly to states, enabling them to expand their correctional capacity.
- By contrast, the Regional Prisons proposal in the Senate Crime Bill sounds tough on crime but really isn't. For example:
 - * Building and opening ten, federally-administered regional prisons would take a long time. As a result, states would not be able to benefit from additional prison space for at least several years. That means more violent criminals on our streets for a longer period of time. On the other hand, the prison grant program supported by the Administration would facilitate states' ability to bring new prison space on-line quickly, because it allows both for the new construction and the expansion of existing correctional facilities.
 - * Moreover, many states have existing prison space that can be immediately activated, but are unable to fill this space because of sparse resources. Over 15,000 state prison beds cannot be filled because states lack the necessary operating capital. The Regional Prisons proposal does nothing to help those states fill their existing space, while the Administration-supported state prison grant program will assist such states in meeting their operational needs.
 - * In addition, the Regional Prisons proposal is inefficient. It involves a massive and uncontrolled expenditure of precious crime-fighting dollars. The state prison grant program, however, will lock up more violent criminals much more quickly and at a much lower cost. Allowing states to administer their own correctional systems for their own prisoners is far more efficient than deeply involving the federal government in a cumbersome, costly, time-consuming and marginally beneficial venture of building and running big regional prisons.
 - * Finally, operating a federally-administered regional prisons system is fraught with difficulties. Differences in state correctional policies and the difficulties and risks of transporting inmates to and from centralized federal facilities make the administration and safe operation of a regional prison system extraordinarily difficult and expensive.

Daily Talking Points On Anti-Crime Legislation

Monday, May 16, 1994

PRESIDENT CLINTON MOVES CLOSER TO PUTTING 100,000 POLICE OFFICERS ON AMERICA'S STREETS

- President Clinton last week made another important downpayment on his promise to deliver 100,000 police officers to the communities of America. Last Thursday, the President announced the final round of Police Hiring Supplement grants to communities around the country. The 142 law enforcement grants, distributed through a competitive program, comprise about \$74 million and will put 1,001 cops on our streets.
- Overall, 250 police departments, sheriffs' departments, and other law enforcement agencies received police hiring grants totalling \$150 million. These grants are being used to hire over 2,000 police officers and will enable the American people to become partners with law enforcement to help end the crime and violent plaguing their neighborhoods.
- Across the nation, city and county officials, law enforcement officers, and ordinary citizens recognize the need to hire more police officers. As a result, the response to the Police Hiring Supplement program has been overwhelming. Unfortunately, this grant program has only enough money to fund fewer than one in ten of the nearly 3,000 applicants who applied.
- Passing the Crime Bill can change that, because with nearly \$9 billion appropriated for hiring new police officers, every community that needs police can receive help.

Daily Talking Points On Anti-Crime Legislation Wednesday, May 18, 1994

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO VISITS AFTERSCHOOL PREVENTION PROGRAM

- Highlighting the difference afterschool prevention programs can make in the lives of young Americans, Attorney General Reno yesterday visited a local Boys and Girls Club at the Montana Terrace Public Housing Project.
- Joined by young program participants, the Attorney General heard first-hand how the Boys and Girls Club serves the more than 500 kids who live in the housing development, as well as young people living in adjacent public housing and low-income communities of Northeast Washington, D.C.
- Montana Terrace is one of the District's most high-risk areas due to the violent and drug-related crime plaguing the neighborhood. The Boys and Girls Club at Montana Terrace offers young people an afterschool haven by providing them with a variety of programs from tutoring to dance to classes about abstinence from drugs and sex. Through these and other activities, young people are given an alternative to life on the streets -- an alternative which can save lives.
- Providing much-needed funds for programs like Montana Terrace's Boys and Girls Club is part of the President's sensible and balanced approach to fighting crime. It's a strategy that recognizes that in addition to enhanced law enforcement and certain, swift punishment, real crime reduction requires strenuous efforts to keep young people from travelling down the criminal path.
- The Crime Bill now in Conference offers the Congress an opportunity to help steer young people away from crime and drugs and give them instead, as the President often says, "something to say 'yes' to." Congress must not lose this chance.

Daily Talking Points On Anti-Crime Legislation
Thursday, May 19, 1994

**ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO TRAVELS TO PHILADELPHIA
IN SUPPORT OF THE CRIME BILL**

- Today, Attorney General Janet Reno travels to Philadelphia to promote swift Conference action on the Crime Bill. She will visit a southwest Philadelphia neighborhood and a police mini-station to talk with residents and law enforcement officials about local community policing efforts.
- The Philadelphia Police Department is implementing a community policing strategy with 14 additional officers, hired with a \$1 million grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance. Police mini-stations in various neighborhoods and business districts around the southwest area have already enjoyed community support. Such mini-stations -- now staffed with more officers -- will continue to help local citizens protect and revitalize their neighborhoods.
- Passage of the Crime Bill will help other jurisdictions around the country build partnerships between law enforcement and local citizens by providing the nation with 100,000 new police officers. These officers will help departments establish effective community policing programs -- an indispensable part of the President's balanced anti-crime strategy.

Daily Talking Points On Anti-Crime Legislation
Friday, May 20, 1994

**ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO VISITS
NEW YORK CITY BEACON SCHOOL**

- Emphasizing the difference that school-based community centers can make in young lives, Attorney General Reno joined scores of young people last night and kicked-off the "Peace Makers Tournament." A four-week, 3-on-3 midnight basketball tournament, the program is designed to prevent youth violence by teaching sportsmanship, teamwork and conflict resolution.
- The "Peace Makers Tournament" will involve approximately 120 young people between ages of 12 and 18 and will be held at P.S. 194, a Beacon school facility located in an area plagued with violent and drug-related crime. By offering evening activities to young people in the community, P.S. 194 is a safe haven for many kids, helping them to stay off the streets and out of trouble.
- The Attorney General's visit underscores the challenge now facing Congressional conferees: To pass a Crime Bill which fights crime and saves lives by funding prevention programs for at-risk youth. Such programs are an essential ingredient of the President's balanced anti-crime legislation.

Daily Talking Points On Anti-Crime Legislation

Monday, May 23, 1994

CONGRESSIONAL CONFEREES PREPARE TO HAMMER OUT DETAILS OF THE CRIME BILL

- Now that both Houses of Congress have passed versions of the Crime Bill, House and Senate conferees prepare to work out the details. Facing the Congressional conferees is a special opportunity and responsibility: To create a Crime Bill that adopts the national consensus now developing about how best to keep our neighborhoods, our homes and our families and friends safe from criminal activity.
- That consensus recognizes that old single-minded approaches aimed at suppressing crime won't work. Instead, we need a Crime Bill that strikes a balance between more law enforcement, certain and appropriately severe punishment, and strenuous efforts to keep young people from travelling down the criminal path.
- President Clinton's anti-crime strategy offers America just such a Crime Bill. Comprised of three key components -- police, punishment, and prevention -- the President's Crime Bill is a tough, effective, and sensible approach to reducing crime in America.
- The Crime Bill emerging from the Conference should include these key elements of the President's plan:
 - * Efforts to put 100,000 police officers onto America's streets, a twenty percent increase in the current number local police officers nationwide. The nearly \$9 billion requested by the President for this program will enable the Administration to help every community in the country that needs and wants assistance to strengthen its police force to improve public safety;
 - * A "Three Strikes You're Out" measure aimed at repeat offenders;
 - * A grant program which helps states put and keep violent criminals behind bars for a long time by giving them resources to create much needed prison space and by encouraging them to adopt "truth in sentencing" reforms;
 - * Restoration of an enforceable federal death penalty for the most heinous of offenses, including the killing of federal law enforcement officers;
 - * A balanced crime prevention agenda which gives young people something to say "yes" to, such as the Youth Employment and Skills program, after school community youth services, Boys and Girls clubs, Midnight Sports, Police Corps and Law Enforcement Scholarships, and other crime prevention programs that enhance the employment, educational and recreational opportunities of youth;
 - * Measures aimed at stopping violence against women.

Daily Talking Points on Anti-Crime Legislation

Tuesday, May 24, 1994

PROTECTING AGAINST GENDER-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

- Protecting women against gender-motivated violence and improving restitution to victims of such crime is part of the President's overall, anti-crime strategy. Conferees from both Houses have the opportunity to ensure that the Crime Bill includes a strong Violence Against Women provision, one which creates a federal cause of action for violence perpetrated against an individual because of their gender.
- Under the Administration-backed Violence Against Women proposal currently in the Senate bill, victims of a felony crime of violence may bring a civil suit for damages or equitable relief in federal or state court, provided that the crime they suffered was committed because of gender and due, at least in part, to animus based on the victim's gender.
- The proposal would also create new federal offenses which protect victims of gender-motivated violence, such as fleeing across state lines in violation of a stay away or protection order.
- Such victim-protection measures are both fair and smart. They're fair because they address those situations in which victims are without redress due to inadequate state remedies, and allow victims improved access to federal courts. They're smart because they do not clog federal dockets by automatically labelling whole categories of offenses as gender-motivated; proof of the perpetrator's animus is a prerequisite to recovery.
- Also supported by the Administration are Violence Against Women grant programs aimed at reducing and preventing violence against women through state grants expanding and strengthening victim services and programs, funds to train law enforcement officers to more effectively identify and respond to violent crimes against women, and resources to prevent rape and violence on college campuses through education.

Daily Talking Points on Anti-Crime Legislation

Wednesday, May 25, 1994

WHY LAW ENFORCEMENT NEEDS THE PRESIDENT'S CRIME BILL

- President Clinton's comprehensive anti-crime strategy is not only supported by citizens nationwide; it also enjoys the backing of law enforcement. Why? Because the President's Crime Bill gives law enforcement officials the tools they need to do their job effectively.
- It's up to Congressional conferees to adopt the President's plan and ensure that the Crime Bill emerging from Conference contains provisions which give law enforcement the assistance they need and deserve. Among the provisions supported by the Administration which help law enforcement the most are:
 - * Nearly \$9 billion to put 100,000 more police officers on America's streets, ensuring that every community that needs police can receive assistance;
 - * Additional funding to hire more Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents to curb drug trafficking on our streets;
 - * Restoration of a workable, constitutional death penalty for the most heinous crimes, such as killing a federal law enforcement officer;
 - * A ban on assault weapons — the weapons of choice for drug dealers, gangs, and terrorists — which continue to kill police officers out-gunned by the firepower such weapons produce;
 - * Funds to hire more prosecutors for gang prosecutions, as well as the support staff and resources new prosecutors require;
 - * Additional funds for law enforcement components and functions of the Treasury Department to help meet their increased law enforcement responsibilities;
 - * Law Enforcement Scholarships and the Police Corps program to provide police departments with officers who have the education and skills necessary to maximize their ability to fight crime; and
 - * Grants for computerized automation and other technological improvements in law enforcement, as well as for an expansion of federal training programs for state and local law enforcement officers.

Daily Talking Points on Anti-Crime Legislation

May 26, 1994

ADMINISTRATION-SUPPORTED IMMIGRATION PROVISIONS IN THE CRIME BILL: AN AGENDA FOR CHANGE

- The Administration has a fair and forceful immigration policy. Our plan will regain control of our borders, revitalize and modernize the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and encourage legal immigrants to turn in their green cards in exchange for United States Citizenship. To accomplish these goals, the Administration needs to improve the tools we use to enforce our immigration laws.
- The Crime Bill contains a number of key provisions to strengthen immigration enforcement measures and to provide the funding necessary to meet the unique law enforcement challenges illegal immigration poses.
- It is essential that we have adequate resources to enforce our immigration laws. The Immigration and Naturalization Service has watched its resources dwindle and its equipment grow old at the same time that the number of illegal immigrants crossing our borders has multiplied. The House and Senate Crime bills will help change that. Both bills authorize appropriations to improve border controls, reform our asylum system, expeditiously deporting criminal aliens and to effectively track and identify criminal aliens.
- The Crime Bill also contains a number of provisions that assist states particularly burdened by the problem of illegal immigration and strengthen our immigration laws to assure that violators will be punished and will be promptly deported from the U.S. These include the following:
 - * Funding to reimburse states for the costs of incarcerating criminal aliens;
 - * Increases in the criminal penalties for visa and passport document fraud and for alien smuggling;
 - * Streamlined deportation for aliens who commit serious crimes; and
 - * Self-Petitioning for Abused Alien Spouses, which allows certain battered alien spouses to obtain legal immigration status in the U.S.

Daily Talking Points On Anti-Crime Legislation

Wednesday, June 1, 1994

FIGHTING DRUGS THROUGH THE CRIME BILL

- The President's anti-crime strategy recognizes that there is a clear link between drug use and criminal activity. A major component of the Administration's anti-crime effort, therefore, is devoted to breaking the chain between drugs and crime.
- Various Administration-supported proposals in the Crime Bill offer drug-dependent criminal offenders an opportunity to beat their addiction. They include:
 - * Drug Court programs to intensively supervise and treat drug offenders and get them turned around before they commit more serious crimes, including the integrated administration of drug testing, substance abuse treatment, potential prosecution or incarceration for non-compliance with program requirements, and related programmatic and aftercare services;
 - * Drug testing of Federal offenders on post-conviction release;
 - * Expanded drug treatment for Federal prisoners and increased support for state correctional drug treatment programs; and
 - * Proven and extensive drug prevention and crime prevention programs, such as those administered through the Ounce of Prevention Council, that target young people and give them something to say "yes" to.
- In addition, the Crime Bill also includes Administration-backed provisions which assist law enforcement in their efforts at fighting drug traffic. Among these proposals are:
 - * Additional funding to hire more Drug Enforcement Administration agents to curb drug trafficking on our streets;
 - * \$250 million targeted for rural law enforcement grants to reduce drug trafficking in rural areas; and
 - * Increased penalties for drug trafficking in or near schools and public housing.

Daily Talking Points On Anti-Crime Legislation

Thursday, June 2, 1994

CURBING YOUTH VIOLENCE

- One of the most disturbing trends in recent years is the increasing incidence of crime committed by young Americans. Often, that crime involves young people victimizing each other.
- The President's comprehensive anti-crime plan addresses the particular challenge that youthful offenders face by combining swift and certain punishment with crime prevention programs that work.
- The Administration's strenuous efforts to divert young people from travelling down the criminal path include smart incarceration programs and tough alternative approaches, such as:
 - * Boot camps that provide the discipline and training necessary to deter young people from embarking on a life of crime;
 - * Discretionary authority to prosecute hardened young criminals, 13-years-old and above, as adults for serious violent offenses; and
 - * Measures to keep guns out of the hands of kids, such as the Youth Handgun Safety Act, which bans selling handguns to minors or the possession of firearms by minors except in limited, authorized circumstances.
- The Administration's anti-crime plan also challenges House and Senate conferees to create a Crime Bill that will help steer young people away from crime and drugs and give them instead something to say "yes" to — programs that give our youth real opportunities for employment, education and recreation.