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Crime Bill/Justice Department [1]

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DRAFT OF April 8, 1994 3:08pm

**CRIME BILL FORUM WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
 GREAT HALL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 MONDAY APRIL 11, 1994
 12:00 NOON**

11:57 A.M.

Participants file on stage: Eddie Cutanda, from Boston, MA, Ms. Emma Lloyd from Dallas, TX, and 13 police officers from Albany, GA.

12:00 Noon

The President and the Attorney General enter.

12:01 P.M.

The **Attorney General** gives remarks (3-5 minutes) about her just-concluded travels around the country to promote the Crime Bill. She will refer to her experiences with citizens and police officers who favor passage of the Crime Bill to increase community policing, enhance prevention programs, and ensure appropriate punishment of offenders.

12:06 P.M.

The **Attorney General** introduces (1 minute) **Eddie Cutanda**, a teenager from Boston, MA.

12:07 P.M.

Eddie Cutanda, talks (2 minutes) about how he was distrustful of police officers, but through community policing he has now made friends with Police Officers Harold White and Tony Platt [the police officers will stand in the audience] and he is introducing his friends to police officers.

12:09 P.M.

The **Attorney General** introduces (1 minute) **Earline Williams**, a senior citizen who has been involved in community policing though her work for many years in a Trenton, NJ substation.

12:10 P.M.

Earline Williams, talks (2 minutes) about her experiences with community policing and how more community policing resources are needed.

EARNES
 WILLIAMS
 LT, AC
 GA
 PD

12:12 P.M.

The **Attorney General** introduces (1 minute) the police officers from Albany, GA and makes reference to Roy Lane, the Albany City Manager, and the Chief of Police [in the audience.] Twelve (12) of these police officers [on stage] were hired through the \$150 million supplemental grant. The Attorney General will then ask _____ a veteran of the Albany police force to speak.

12:13 P.M.

_____, a veteran of the Albany, GA police force talks (2 minutes) about the difference the grant money has meant in terms of getting more cops on the street in Albany and how the funds and the new cops have already had an impact. _____, will then introduce the President (1 minute).

12:16 P.M.

The **President** speaks (___ minutes) about how important it is that the Crime Bill be passed by Congress.

12:___ P.M.

The **President** ends the program by thanking everyone for attending.

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
CRIME BILL FORUM
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
APRIL 11, 1994**

[ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO; EDDIE CUTANDA, A YOUNG MAN WHO HAS MADE FRIENDS WITH OFFICERS THROUGH COMMUNITY POLICING; EARLINE WILLIAMS, A SENIOR CITIZEN INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY POLICING; AND, THE OFFICERS FROM ALBANY, GEORGIA.]

Like the Attorney General, I've used this Congressional recess to visit communities across America. I've had a chance to listen to the hopes -- and some of the fears -- of the American people. I'm here today because improving law enforcement and preserving the fabric of our society is probably more important to the American people -- and to our future -- than it has ever been in the history of America.

The fact is crime and violence don't take a recess. They continue to destroy our lives and communities. Generations of politicians -- of both parties -- have denounced crime. But that's a far cry from doing what's right and what needs to be done -- and the American people know it.

We've got to put more police on the street and more criminals in jail, and we've got to do it now. I've come here today to ask Congress to consider the crime bill immediately, and the Speaker has agreed.

The American people have waited on a solution long enough. Let's not waste their time and risk their safety with frivolous and political amendments. We don't need to take months on this. We can have this on my desk in weeks, and I will sign it in a minute -- and give the American people some of the solutions they want and deserve.

This has been a good year. We've reduced the deficit. The economy is growing. Twice as many private sector jobs have been produced in fourteen months than in the previous four years.

It took us 7 years and a change of Administrations, but we finally turned the Brady Bill into the Brady Law. It's already working to stop felons and fugitives from purchasing handguns. I'm proud that we passed it with the help of America's police officers.

But everything we do to move America forward will fail if we continue to let crime and violence tear us apart.

The number of murders each year has nearly tripled since 1960. So has the number of crimes per police officers. Death by gunfire will soon surpass death by car-accident. Almost one-

third of all Americans have had someone in their family victimized by crime, or been victimized themselves. And one in twenty children carry a weapon to school each day in this nation. It's surely time to act.

This crime bill is balanced. It's tough and it's smart. This is what it does.

First, it gives us a much stronger police presence in America. This bill adds 100,000 police officers over five years, for community policing, and community policing works.

In community policing the police know the neighbors, they know the children, they understand the problems and personalities that they are dealing with. 100,000 more police will make a big difference if they are in touch with their communities and deployed where the problems are greatest. The Mayor of Houston put another 655 police on the streets. Crime dropped 22 per cent and murders dropped 27 per cent in 15 months. Every town that the Attorney General and I just visited would like to do this. We must pass this bill and give them that chance.

Eddie Cutanda has a different attitude about the police because community policing gave him a chance to get to know Officers White and Platt as persons. These fine officers from Albany, Georgia -- who have already reduced crime in Albany because Congress wisely made a downpayment on community policing last year -- can now do the job they were trained to do and that the taxpayers of Albany want them to do. Community policing has engaged them as professionals and as citizens. Community policing is an American solution, based on community values and mutual respect and personal responsibility.

If Congress passes this bill soon to give the American people more officers, I'll make this commitment to the American people: I'll cut through the bureaucracy and red-tape in Washington so that within a year 20,000 of these new officers will already be hired and trained to make our streets safer.

The second thing the Crime Bill does is stiffen penalties. It does add capital punishment for a number of crimes. In my opinion when someone kills a law enforcement officer in the line of duty we need a completely clear and unambiguous deterrent, and it should be the death penalty.

We must also find a way to protect ourselves from repeat offenders, the relatively small number of criminals with no conscience who prey on us again and again. If they keep doing these things they've got to know that what's in store for them is certain and severe punishment, and not another parole. Ever. For us, baseball season just began. But for them it's going to be "three strikes and you're out at the old ball game."

Third, this is also a crime prevention bill. We know prevention programs work, especially for young people -- who have no greater advocate than the Attorney General. We want to invest a billion dollars in jobs for young people in high crime neighborhoods, and in recreation programs and summer programs. We've got to give them skills and something to say yes to, or the pressures of broken families and jobless communities will suck them into drugs and crime -- and then our work will be much more difficult and expensive. We can do better.

A big part of prevention is making our schools gun free, drug free, and violence free. If our kids can't go to school safely, we can't prepare America for the twenty-first century. We've got to make our schools safe, and this bill provides more resources to do just that.

That's our plan. More police. More punishment. Better prevention.

It is a big commitment in a time of very tight budget constraints. It is a lot more money for state and local governments. But we must do it, so the police and the courts can be tougher, and every American can be safer.

This Administration will use every resource it has to fight crime and violence -- from public schools to public housing.

Just a few days ago a Federal District Court declared the Chicago Housing Authority's policy of searching for guns in public housing to be unconstitutional. Within hours I asked the Attorney General and Secretary Cisneros to develop another policy that is constitutional and effective. Thirteen people died violently in Chicago the last weekend in March, three of them in the Robert Taylor Homes. More than 300 incidents were reported to police. There has to be a way to stop this madness, and we're going to find it.

The next few weeks are very important. Congress will soon consider health care and welfare reform and other very important matters. But we cannot be distracted. The American people have waited too long for a tough crime bill.

This is a Congress that hears the American people. In our first year we had the best cooperation in thirty years between a White House and Congress. I challenge Congress to meet the same standard, to forget politics and partisanship, and pass the crime bill now. We can put more police on the street. We can put more criminals in jail. We can keep more kids out of trouble. And we can start now. Let's do it.

Thank you very much.

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

08-Apr-1994 05:34pm

TO: Alan J. Stone

FROM: Jonathan M. Prince
 Office of Communications

SUBJECT: CHA

The bite:

We can't allow criminals to find shelter in the public housing communities they terrorize.

It's not "community" like it reads in the statement, as if we want criminals to find shelter in OTHER public housing communities -- just not the specific ones they terrorize.

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

07-Apr-1994 06:29pm

TO: (See Below)

FROM: David Leavy
 Office of Communications

SUBJECT: POTUS Stm. on Chicago Housing Authority

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release:

April 7, 1994

STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT ON THE COURT DECISION REGARDING
THE CHICAGO HOUSING AUTHORITY'S "OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP"

Just hours ago, a Federal District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, declared the Chicago Housing Authority's (CHA) search policy in violation of the Fourth Amendment.

I am ordering Attorney General Reno and Secretary Cisneros to develop promptly a search policy for public housing that is both constitutionally permissible and effective, and that can be implemented on a nationwide basis. We must not allow criminals to find shelter in the public housing community they terrorize.

I have also asked the Attorney General and Secretary Cisneros to explore what other resources we can provide for sweeps by localities and by federal agencies.

During the last weekend in March, 13 people died violently in Chicago -- 3 of them in the Robert Taylor Homes -- and more than 300 gun incidents were reported to local police. The people in the Robert Taylor Homes have asked us to help protect them, and within constitutional limits we will do so.

-#-#-#-

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The President of the United States
Opening Remarks for Town Meeting
Charlotte, North Carolina
April 5, 1994

I am glad to be here in Charlotte. Obviously, after last night, I'll never forget this place. Judging by the look of South Tryon Street--'The Street of Champions'--you won't forget last night anytime soon either.

I want to talk with you about the work we are doing on behalf of the American people. And I hope you will tell me how we can do it better. That's important, because I am determined to take advantage of the best moment in decades to come to grips with issues that deeply affect the way we think about ourselves as a country.

One reason we have this chance is because our economic plan continues to move America forward. Nothing could be finer than to be in a state that created 120,000 jobs in the last year, three times the rate of growth during the previous four years.

The revival across America and the fundamentals of this economy are strong. In 14 months, the economy has created more than twice as many new private sector jobs as in the previous four years. I am proud of every one of North Carolina's Democratic members of Congress for voting for our plan and helping to create jobs and keep inflation low.

We're working hard to build on that strength, to give middle class Americans a fair shot at a better future.

I just signed the Goals 2000 education law. For the first time in United States history, without forcing a single mandate on the states or local school districts, we have set world-class standards for what every child in America should know in order to learn for a lifetime and to compete in the global economy.

Later this year, Congress will pass and I will sign a law guaranteeing health care security to every American, expanding on what already works in this country. We are preparing comprehensive welfare reform. Around the world, we are standing firm to promote peace.

~~But all of this work will fall short if we do not deal with one overwhelming force. That force is the crime and violence tearing our communities apart and driving fear into our hearts.~~

If we can't calm our classrooms, we can't teach our children. If we can't reduce the costs of crime, we can't ease the burdens on our public health system. If we cannot shake off the sense of fear, we cannot come together to solve our problems.

You know that toll here. You know about the three area police officers killed recently, the last by a parolee who had served only 10 months of a 10 year term. You know about the serial killings that have terrified this community. North Carolina knows the effect of a violent crime rate that has gone from 40th in the country to 16th in only 14 years.

You aren't alone. Americans feel their zone of safety growing smaller and smaller. Last week, the Justice Department said carjackings--most of them involving guns--are now as common as fatal car accidents. And barely a mile from the White House, nine people were gunned down as they did their shopping.

We have heard lots of talk about these problems. One reason I'm here tonight is because this state has shown the nation that we can't sit still and wait any longer. Your governor Jim Hunt saw the corrosive fear and called a special session of the legislature on crime. In seven weeks, your lawmakers passed a package balancing punishment and prevention.

America has waited six years for that kind of tough and smart comprehensive national crime law. Speaker Foley promised me the crime bill would be item number one when the House returns from its recess. So I'll make a promise: If Congress sets aside partisan differences to pass this crime bill, I'll move the bureaucracy to get the job done. That is what the people want. They want 'three-strikes-and-you're-out' as the law of the land, 100,000 more officers on the streets and more prison cells. And, as you are doing here, they want us to build on preventive programs to give our children a future to say yes to.

Government cannot do that alone. The most law-abiding societies are not those with the most jails. They are those with the strongest families and the strongest values about helping, not hurting, one's neighbors. Our job is to teach all of our children the full meaning of opportunity and responsibility and community.

When I was young, I read a book by a fellow Southerner that I'm sure many of you love as much as I do. The writer was James Agee and the book was 'Let Us Now Praise Famous Men.' It was the story of desperately poor people here in our region during the Great Depression, a time when it was hard to hold fast to strong values. Agee wrote then what might be a challenge for us now:

'In every child who is born, under no matter what circumstances and no matter what parents, the potentiality of the whole human race is born again. And in him, too, once more and in each of us, a terrific responsibility toward human life, toward the utmost idea of goodness, of the horror of error, and of God.'

We ought to remember those words. We have to do right by our children, by our communities and by one another. I hope this evening that you and I can talk about how to do just that.

2ND STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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MARCH 14, 1994, MONDAY

SECTION: IN THE NEWS

LENGTH: 3409 words

HEADLINE: REMARKS BY
PRESIDENT CLINTON
AT A FUND-RAISING DINNER FOR
THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE

BODY:

PRESIDENT CLINTON: (Applause.) Thank you. Thank you, Mayor, for your strong and supportive words and your good leadership and for the wonderful, wonderful entry into Boston today. When you had the boat out there spewing water and all the thousands of people and all those young people from City Year out there cheering, I began to feel like a real president. (Applause, cheers.)

I thank you for Leah Salonga (sp) for traveling thousands of miles to sing for me tonight, and I'm glad I got to shake your hand. You're a great talent, and we were graced by your music. Thank you so much. (Applause.)

I want to thank Alan and Fred and Elaine and my good friend Paul Montrone (ph) in his absence and all rest of you who made this dinner possible tonight.

I want to thank David Wilhelm for the hard work that he's given to the Democratic Committee and for that fine film that makes my speech irrelevant. (Laughter.) It was wonderful, wasn't it? It was a good movie. It reminded us of the -- (cheers, applause) --

I thank Senator Kerry for his remarks and for his leadership, for his defense of the spirit and the objectives of this administration on the floor of the Senate and his leadership in so many areas, but especially now in trying to enact a crime bill that is both tough and intelligent, and his belief that we could enact a major of anti-crime legislation that would really begin to attack some of the root causes of crime and to adopt some things that actually work to reduce the crime rate instead of just to raise the decibel level of the rhetoric that is in the air.

John Kerry was the first member of the Congress who convinced me we might actually be able to persuade people of both parties to approve a bill in the range of \$22 billion and that we might actually be put 100,000 more police officer on the street and take these assault weapons off the street and give our young people some things to say yes to and have adequate drug treatment and do some things that really make sense. The whole country is in his debt, as am I and are you. (Applause.)

I want to thank, too, as strongly as I can say your senior senator, Ted Kennedy. I'm glad that he seems to be well on his way to a strong reelection. (Applause, cheers.)

You know, long before I had ever really thought about the obligations of this country in the area of health care, when I was the youngest elected governor in America but not yet in office, in 1978, the Democratic Party had a midyear convention in Memphis, and I received a call from the White House when President Carter was in office asking me I would moderate a discussion of this issue featuring Joe Califano, the then secretary of health, education and welfare, and Senator Kennedy -- neither of them being shrinking violets. (Laughter.) I was 32 years old at the time and mortified, so, of course, I said I would do it.

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(Laughter.)

And people were there from all over the country. I only had to cross the Mississippi River from home to be there. But I remember -- it's been 16 years ago now -- as vividly as if it happened yesterday, when Ted Kennedy said, for the first time I think to a truly national audience, that the health care that had been given his son when he was desperately ill should be available to every American. He said it then, and we're going to make it happen now.

(Applause.)

The film was about what we did last year, only a little about what we're trying to do this year. I can say that in a couple of minutes and then make the one central point I wish to make to all of you tonight. Last year, we had a very good. This year, we have to keep working on the economy. If we can keep the growth going, we'll have a very good year indeed. We've had 2.1 million new jobs in 13 months, 90 percent of them in the private sector. Most job growth was in state and local government in some years of the 1980s, or at least a huge percentage of it was.

And we want to keep that going. We want to pass health care, health security that is always there, in a way that keeps what is best about health care, which you can appreciate in this shining tribute to the American health care triumph, and fix what is wrong. We want to pass a comprehensive welfare reform bill that will liberate people from the dependence of a system that has aggravated some of the worst pressures in the breakdown of the family in this country. We want to pass this crime bill. We want to pass, as John Kerry said, a campaign finance reform bill, a lobby reform bill.

We want to pass a comprehensive overhaul in the unemployment system, which is designed for a time which no longer exists. It used to be when people went on unemployment, they needed a little money to get by on until the economy picked up again and they were called back to their old jobs. Now the huge majority of people who are unemployed don't get called back to their old jobs. They have to find new ones. It's wrong to tax employers to pay for an income system that's inadequate, that is leading nowhere. We need to change the whole system and begin immediately to prepare people when they lose their jobs for another -- a different job, one in which they can succeed and win in the global economy. These are all things we need to do, and we mean to do them this year, in spite of the fact, or maybe because of the fact, that it is an election year.

Now, this is a Democratic Party dinner, and it occurred to me that those of you who are here have supported this administration and me personally and the fine people who are associated with our efforts in spite of the fact that on April the 15th almost all of you will get a higher tax bill, because you know all the money's going to reduce the deficit and you know it's meant lower interest rates, record high markets, new investment and a growing economy.

As has already been said, our trading partners around the world beat on us for a decade to get the deficit down. If my new budget passes the Congress, and it's well on its way already, we'll have three years of deficit reduction for the first time since Harry Truman was president and we will have laid the foundation for a strong private recovery. These things are terribly important, but that's not the point I want to make tonight.

The point I want to make tonight is that there have always been differences between Democrats and Republicans, and these differences have taken different forms at different times. On occasion, the Republican Party has been the party of truth and progressive change. The best example was, of course, the first and greatest Republican president, Abraham Lincoln.

Another example was Teddy Roosevelt, who helped to usher in the modern era of new presidents -- of activists presidents, a man who wanted to save much of our natural resources -- a man without whom there would be no buffalo in America

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today just for example, and many of our national parks would not be there; a man who understood the dangers of great concentrations of power, whether in government or in the private sector.

People like President Eisenhower, who really tried to build a bipartisan foreign policy, to help to move us away from the military industrial complex but leave us strong enough to win the Cold War.

Even Richard Nixon, though he's been much maligned, signed a bill to create the Environmental Protection Agency and first proposed that all employers should continue to their employees' health insurance so that everyone could be covered. I say that to point out that there have been good and bad ideas embraced, I guess, by both parties at different times. I'm a Democrat by heritage, instinct and conviction because I believe most of the time in American history we've been on the side of ordinary people, on the side of bringing people together and on the side of the future. We have been the party of change in a constructive and profound way.

I thought when I ran for president I would have a chance to enter one of the great debates and we would see what would happen, whether I was right and wrong or my ideas were right and wrong. Almost from the beginning I saw a very different edge to the Republican Party in this time -- not the party of Lincoln or Roosevelt or Eisenhower, but the party dedicated just to being against whatever we were for and committed to the politics of personal destruction. They were so busy with it they even tried to look in my passport file in the campaign in '92, something that didn't bother me, I was happy to have them rummaging around in my passport file instead of coming up with a good idea that might sound better than one of my ideas. (Applause.) Let them go.

Now, as you pointed out, they are at it again. They are at it. They have a little health retreat and they can't agree on a health care plan, so they come back and get at it again. I just want you to know something, you look at the people that are in our administration. They get up every day and try to make something good happen for America.

Senator Kennedy mentioned my wife, well known to many of you here because she went to Wellesley (sp) and has spent a lot of time in Massachusetts, who just committed herself in a passionate way to trying to figure out how to solve this health problem, to give ordinary people the chance to get health care. Let them come and debate her. Do they want to do that? No. They'd rather take out after her. It saves them the trouble of having to come up with an alternative health care plan.

The vice president of the United States, I think the ablest and most influential person ever to hold that office and someone who has been a credit to this country, who cares passionately about what he is doing.

Eli Seagal (sp) from Boston -- we passed the national service bill. It will stand as the symbol of what this administration tried to do. (Applause.)

Did you see those kids holding that sign when we came in the harbor today?

"Thank you for believing in the youth of America"? This is a big deal. This is a very important time in our history -- sweeping changes going through our economy and society, terrible problems that beg for honest debate from people of different perspectives.

Even if we get the economy going, even if we provide health care to all, even if we revise the unemployment system, if we do all the things I said, how can we survive as a country if within a few years over half of our kids are born into families where there was never a marriage? How will we transmit the kinds of coherent values to our people? How can we expect the young people, if they are born into fairly chaotic circumstances where they are not isolated so someone can come in and help them, to behave in 15 years from now?

These are profound problems. They beg for a debate. We need to think about

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new and different things in totally different ways than we have the past. No one, even our party -- let's be honest about it -- we don't have all the answers. We need an honest debate about the future of family in America, about how we're going to rebuild our communities in America. People say they're concerned about crime and violence. They ought to be. But you tell me how you can avoid it if you have people living in square block after square block where the family, the community, and the work base is broken down and where vacuums are created into which drugs and crimes, gangs and weapons lose. We need a serious debate about that.

We need a serious debate about the fact that wage earning -- hourly wagers have been working in this country for 20 years now with virtually no increase in their income and that every country -- I just came from Detroit from our G-7 jobs summit. Every wealthy country in the world is now having trouble creating new jobs, even when their economy is growing. We have always known in the past that productivity was good for jobs and incomes. I came from a part of the country where everybody used to work on the farm. You can't go back more than one generation older than me without finding somebody in your family that was on the farm. The far jobs went away, people went to Detroit and Chicago and got jobs in the plants.

Those economic changes have always happened. And every time technology and productivity took away jobs in one sector, more were created in another sector. Now we find that these wealthy countries are really having trouble with the explosion of technology, the explosion with the technology, the exposition of productivity, and the globalization of the economy creating new jobs.

Is something new happening in world history? I don't think so. I just think there are different lags. But the point is no one knows for sure. This begs for honest, political debate and genuine conflicts of ideas. Why then are we confronted in this administration with an opposition party that just stands up and says no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no. (Cheers, applause.)

When I was a Democratic governor and they had the White House, I constantly sought them out, engaged them in debate, offered to work with them on issues from education to welfare reform, to

crime to you name it. I never did them the way they are doing us in Washington, DC, today. It is wrong and it is not good for the United States of America. (Cheers, applause.)

I'll tell you something else. The mayor talked about me being a marathon runner. The marathon comes from a certain place inside me. I am an old-fashioned, really old-fashioned American. I believe more than half the tie in the contest between good and bad, good wins. In the contest between truth and falsehood, the truth wins out. I believe that most people want something that will elevate them and bring them together with different people instead of something that will demean them and divide them from others. That's what I believe.

I believe fundamentally in the common sense and the essential core goodness of the American people. Don't forget that Alexis de Tocqueville said a long time ago that America is great because America's good and if America ever ceases to be good she will no longer be great. We have to appeal to what is good in this country. And we have to ask people to face hard truth and debate hard issues and come together and think new thoughts about problems that we are frankly not solving today. That is what I wanted to do when I became president and what I am doing my best to do.

And I am only sorry that too often in too many ways on too many days it is a debate which engages only members of my party. I will say this: Senator Kennedy has had some good success in getting a substantial number of Republican senators to talk seriously about health care. We are having some help in dealing with

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the issues of crime. But this overriding negative, intensely personal, totally politically, devoid of principles attack is not good for the country, and it is inconsistent with the tradition of Abraham Lincoln and Teddy Roosevelt. (Applause.)

And I can tell you, if I ask you to go home tonight and make a list of the greatest presidents who ever served here and the greatest things that were ever done in Washington for the American people, you would have members of both parties on your list, but every one of them would have done something good for the American people, tried to elevate the dignity and the human potential of the men and the women of this country, tried to give the children of this country a better future than their parents had.

I got into this work because that's what I wanted to do. And I am old-fashioned enough to believe that in every age and time the central purpose of our common political life will be to find new and important ways to get people together and to get things done so that we can elevate the meaning and content and direction of people lives and do right by our children and by our future. That is what I think, and I'll tell you something. In 1994, in 1996, if there is only one party that believes that, the American people in droves will come to us. Thank you, and God bless you all. (Applause, cheers.)

END

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: March 15, 1994

The President of the United States
Opening Talking Points for Town Meeting
Charlotte, North Carolina
April 5, 1994

Basketball Opening:

After what you saw last night, you know how glad I am to be here in Charlotte. Actually, believe it or not, there were a few times last night when I thought about our health care reform plan. I kept wondering if my current plan covered heart attacks.

(Any other basketball comments from you.)

Reason for Town Meetings This Week

Out in the country, I keep hearing: "We wish folks in Washington would keep their minds on the people's business." Whether it's in places like Troy, N.C. where I visited a rural hospital today, or here in Charlotte or Austin or Bristol or Roanoke, it's so clear to me that the American people want us not to lose sight of the human face of our problems and to work hard to give more Americans a fair shot.

I'm here tonight and I'm attending town meetings throughout the country this week to tell you we are fighting hard on your behalf and we are getting major work done on many fronts. I hope you will tell me how we can do that work better.

I want you to know that I am determined to take advantage of this rare moment in our history to deal with issues that deeply affect the way we think about ourselves as a country.

Economic gains

One reason we have that rare opportunity: Our economic plan continues to move America forward.

Our budget plan is moving ahead in Congress. It will give America three straight years of budget deficit reduction for the first time since Harry Truman was in the White House.

In the previous four years, the economy created barely 1 million new private sector jobs. In the last 14 months alone, the economic revival during this administration has created 2.3 million private sector jobs.

The health of the economy is more than a day by day test. We should keep focused on the longterm fundamentals in this economy that are producing strong job growth and low inflation, the keys to providing a decent future for more Americans.

Domestic Agenda: Working hard to build on that strength

We're building on that foundation to help middle class Americans make decent futures for themselves.

I just signed the Goals 2000 education law, for the first

time in U.S. history setting world-class standards for what every child in America should know in order to learn for a lifetime.

My administration is preparing comprehensive welfare reform.

We've made progress on lobbying reform.

Later this year, Congress will pass and I will sign a law guaranteeing health care security to every American. We're going to expand on what already works in this country and fix what doesn't so that Americans will know that their health care can never be taken away.

Crime and violence

All this work will fail if we do not deal with the overwhelming force of crime and violence tearing our communities apart and driving fear into our hearts.

If we can't calm our classrooms, we can't teach our children. If we can't reduce the costs of crime, we can't ease the burdens on our public health system. If we cannot shake off the sense of fear, we cannot come together to solve our problems.

One reason I'm here tonight is because North Carolina has shown the nation how to move from talk about crime to action. Your governor Jim Hunt saw the corrosive fear and called a special session of the legislature on crime. Then, your lawmakers

passed a package balancing punishment and prevention:

In seven weeks, they passed:

"Three-strikes-and-your're out",
Tougher gun laws, and
Programs to help deter N.C.'s
children from becoming criminals, including a
an after-school program to supervise
students.

America has waited six years for tough and smart
comprehensive national crime law. When Congress gets back from
its Easter recess next week, that bill will be item one on its
agenda. The American people want a crime bill without gimmicks
that will really help lower crime on our streets. They want:

"Three-strikes-and-you're-out' as the law of the land,
100,000 more officers on the streets
More prisons.

And, preventive programs to give our children a future to
say yes to.

You know that government cannot do that job alone. The most
law-abiding societies are not those with the most jails. They are
those with the strongest families and the strongest values about
helping, not hurting, one's neighbors. Our job is to teach all of
our children the full meaning of opportunity and responsibility
and community.

Conclusion

So often in Washington, the real world hopes of all you people get lost in the hot air. On crime and health care reform and preparing our workers for the next century and many other fronts, we are not going to let that happen.

I hope this evening we can talk about how to do just that.

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.

Please fill out this form to help us ensure that everyone involved in the execution of this event ^{NOON} are working towards the same goals.

EVENT "MESSAGE" FORM

EVENT: Justice Event
DATE: April 11
RESPONSIBLE FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM: David Dreyer or: Prince
RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO EVENT COORDINATOR

EVENT COORDINATOR: hee
DEADLINE: April 7 9:00
INITIALED BY SCHEDULING DIR: _____

DESIRED "HEADLINE":

~~PRESIDENT CALLS ON CON~~

PRESIDENT: CRIME BILL IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN POLITICS

MESSAGE THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL CONVEY:

AS AG & CLINTON RETURN FROM A WEEK TALKING TO REAL PEOPLE,
THEY URGE CONGRESS TO MOVE SWIFTLY TO PASS A CRIME BILL; THE
PEOPLE WANT IT — CRIME DOESN'T TAKE A RECESS

DESIRED VISUAL FOR EVENT:

PRESIDENT & AG SURROUNDED BY COPS

DESIRED AUDIENCE AT SITE:

COPS

CONCISE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION, "WHY ARE WE DOING THIS EVENT?":

TO SET THE STAGE FOR CONGRESS' RETURN, URGING THEM TO
MOVE BEYOND POLITICS AND PASS SWIFTLY A TOUGH, SMART
CRIME BILL THAT PUTS 100,000 COPS ON THE STREET.

Wilkie draft of 4/8/94 10:00 a.m.

The President of the United States
Radio Address to the Nation
Oval Office
April 9, 1994

Good Morning. This past week, I travelled across our country and spoke with Americans face to face about what we're doing to create jobs, reform health care and make our communities safe again.

We recently got great news on the jobs front. America gained 456,000 new jobs last month alone -- the largest jump in new jobs in six years. That brings the total number of jobs created in the private sector during my administration to 2.3 million.

Our budget is moving through Congress swiftly, because it brings the deficit down. Again. In fact, we'll see the deficit go down for three straight years for the first time since Harry Truman was in the White House.

Like Harry Truman, our job is to fix the fundamental things that will keep America strong and strengthen the great American middle class for a generation to come.

But all of this work can only be successful after we confront the crime in our streets, the violence in our schools, and the drugs that tear our communities apart when they ought to be coming together.

If we don't stop people from shooting each other up, then our hospital bills will never go down. If we don't stop children from bringing guns into school, then our classrooms will never be places for students to learn. If we don't remove people's fear and replace it with hope, we can never expect good jobs to take the place of crime and drugs.

America needs a comprehensive responsive to crime that is both tough and smart. For six years, we've waited for a national crime law. And we shouldn't have to wait much longer.

When Congress comes back into session on Tuesday, the crime bill will be item number one on its agenda. Next week, police officers and mayors from across America will join me here in Washington, because all of us want the Congress to pass the crime bill when they get back.

The crime bill I want is tough. Right now, a small number of dangerous criminals keep committing a large number of violent crimes, because our system doesn't put them away for good. The crime bill sends them a very simple message they can understand: three strikes and you're out. Commit three violent crimes and you go to prison for life.

Americans deserve a criminal justice system where people who commit crimes are caught, where the guilty get convicted, and where criminals serve their time.

The crime bill will help states build more prisons and boot camps for first time offenders. America must lock the revolving door that swings so freely and lets most criminals think they'll be back on the street in no time.

The crime bill I want is tough. And it's smart. Boot camps, for instance, will give us a place to send first time offenders who might otherwise go free. They also give young people a second chance to avoid a lifetime of trouble. A chance to learn discipline, and how to act and behave responsibly.

The crime bill will help us put another 100,000 more police on our streets. A beefed up police presence can catch more criminals. More importantly, it prevents crime from occurring in the first place.

We know what works when police walk the streets. They get to know the neighbors. They win the respect of local kids. They focus on high crime areas, and work with parents and business people. Done right, more police in our communities means less crime.

The men and women in blue put their lives on the line to protect us every day. That's why the crime bill bans 28 kinds of assault weapons whose only purpose is to let gangs run around better armed than the police. It's time to get the assault weapons off the streets.

The crime bill encourages young people to stay off the streets, too, through employment opportunities, after school activities and by letting them spend more time with role models to look up to.

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

You and I both know that government can't do the job alone. The most law-abiding societies are not those with the most jails. They are the ones with good jobs. Where work is valued. Where family life is treasured. Where the rights of the community are respected.

Let's face it. Crime and drugs and violence now fill the places where work, family and community used to be. Our job is nothing short of rebuilding the American way of life.

When it comes to crime, the task is so urgent that everyone in Washington should put their partisanship aside. The American people don't want politics. They don't want gimmicks. They don't want more division. They want what works.

The crime bill works. It's tough and it's smart. And next week, it's time for Congress to be tough and smart by passing the crime bill when it comes back into session.

Thank you for your help, and thanks for listening.

4TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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FEBRUARY 15, 1994, TUESDAY

SECTION: WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING

LENGTH: 4297 words

HEADLINE: REMARKS OF PRESIDENT CLINTON
TO THE PEACE OFFICER ACADEMY
LONDON, OHIO

BODY:

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Thank you, thank you very much. (Applause.) Thank you very much. Thank you Ray Skiller (sp) for that introduction and even more important for your personal endorsement of community policing. I'm glad to be here with John Lenhardt (sp) and Greg Merritt (sp) and my long-time friend, Attorney General Lee Fischer. I thank him for what he said and for the work he is doing with all of you here in Ohio in Operation Crack Down and many other anti-crime initiatives.

I thank Senator Glenn and Senator Biden for coming down here. Senator Biden doesn't represent Ohio, except he represents all the law enforcement people in Ohio as the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, and I appreciate him taking the whole day off from this break and coming down and being with Senator Glenn and me, and being here with your congresswoman, Deborah Pryce. The three of them will have to vote to produce a crime bill that will deal with the issues I came here to discuss with you today.

I also want to say a special word of appreciation to all the state officials who have come out either here or at the airport, and to Ron Noble, the assistant secretary of the treasury who came down with me, he has a lot to do with not only the Secret Service, who are my law enforcement detail, and that's a job in itself from time-to-time, but also with the work we're doing to try to stiffen the regulations on gun dealers. I want to say a little more about that in a moment.

And finally, let me thank the leaders of the police associations who are here, the FOP president, Dewey Stokes from Ohio, the head of the National Association of Police Officers, Bob Sculley, who came down with us, and your state FOP president, Steve Young. I thank all of them.

I came here today because your work, all of you who are in law enforcement, is probably more important to most Americans today than it has ever been in the whole history of the country. We know what crime and violence is doing to our people. The good news is that they know what it's doing to them, and they really want us to do something about it, and maybe for the first time the American people are willing to do their part too.

This is a moment of great hope and opportunity for America. Everywhere I go it's what people want to talk to me about.

The other day I flew into Shreveport, Louisiana, and the front page of the newspaper had a letter that a teenaged girl had written to me. So she came out to meet me at the airport, this young girl, and her letter said this: "If I could meet the president I would ask him to make his top priority crime.

Crime is so bad I am afraid to go outside. I really didn't pay attention to crime until someone shot and killed my friend who was one of my church members. My concern is -- "listen to this. "My concern is I won't have anyone to marry because all the nice young men will have been killed, incarcerated or

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in a gang. If I could give only one gift to America and the world it would be no guns, no killing, just peace."

Over the weekend four people were shot and a little girl was killed in an apartment complex in Usiris, not too far from here. This morning I met a widow and the father of officer Chris Clites (sp) of the Columbus police department, who was killed in the line of duty.

I met a 14-year-old girl named Sarah Johnson (sp) from Cleveland, who saw a friend of hers being beaten by three juveniles and two adults and she ran into the crowd and threw herself on the body of her friend, unfortunately too late to save his life. And too bad no adults would follow her example, and maybe the child would be living today.

I met a woman named Ann Ross (sp) from Dayton, whose life has been threatened repeatedly because she began a program called Ravenwood 2000. It works with police to close crack houses in her neighborhood, something the Attorney General has worked so hard on.

I met a man named Jim Johnson (sp), who is from the (Driving Part ?) area of East Columbus, who is devoting much of his life now to crime patrols and helping citizens work with police officers to reduce the crime rate.

In the last three decades, violent crimes have increased by 300 percent. Over the last three years, almost a third of Americans have either had themselves or someone in their families victimized by crime. Yesterday was the 65th anniversary of the St. Valentine's Day Massacre in Chicago, which captured the entire nation's attention. The country was riveted by the St. Valentine's Day Massacre. Some of you may be old enough to remember it as children. I have seen movies about it. It absolutely galvanized the nation. In 1929 seven people were killed. That was a massacre in 1929; in most cities today, it's a normal weekend.

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

I care a lot about this problem. The first elected job I ever had was as attorney general of my home state. I was a governor for a dozen years.

I was a governor for a dozen years. I know what it means to double the prison capacity of a state, sign laws toughening crimes, and carry out the death penalty, to add to the stock of police officers and try to deal with all the problems that are facing you.

I know this is a tough problem. I also know it is a complicated one. It's easy to demagogue, easy to talk about, and quite another thing to do something that will make a fundamental difference in the lives of the people of this country. You have to help us to do something that is tough but that is also smart, something that will actually make a difference to every one of you. When you get up in the morning and you put on your uniform and you put on your weapon and you go out and put your life on the line, you need to work with us to make sure what we do makes a difference to you and to what you're doing, that it's not just another bunch of political speeches that sound good and score 90 percent on the polls but may not make a difference. You need to make sure we make a

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difference.

The purpose of all public service, your work and mine, should be to get people together and to get something done. That is what we are trying to do here.

(Applause.)

First of all, it's clear that to reduce crime significantly in America we have to reduce hard-core drug use. Last year our drug policy director -- last week our drug policy director, Lee Brown, who was the chief of police in Houston, Atlanta, and New York and one of the pioneers of the community policing concept that Patrolman Skiller (sp) talked so eloquently about, announced along with our strategy on drug control and drug abuse.

It focusses on hard-core drug use because that's the worst part of the problem. Heavy users -- just for example, heavy users are about 20 percent of all cocaine users, but they consume two-thirds of the available cocaine. And more than 50 percent of the people arrested for crimes now test positive for drugs. We have got to get these hard-core users off the street. For those who are going to be back on the street, we have got to get them into treatment. We want to help them get the treatment they need, but if they don't get the message, we have to use the courts, the jails, the prisons to make sure they do. Our budget and the crime bill if they both pass will help us to get another 140,000 hard-core drug users into substantial treatment programs that have a chance to work per year. (Applause.) There are two other things that we have emphasized. First of all, there is a disturbing bit of evidence in this last year that casual drug use among young people is beginning to rise again. And we have to get the message out to them. The only policy to follow is no use. Drugs are dangerous, drugs are illegal. It cannot become acceptable among young people to use drugs again. We have got to send the message out loud and clear.

We know the most powerful tool we have over the long run is changing the whole culture in America. I don't know how many of you have been active in the DARE program, but when my daughter was in the fifth grade, I heard her and her classmates give me no less than ten speeches about the officer that came on a regular basis in the DARE program. It makes a difference whether kids are told early and clearly by someone they really respect that the only sensible policy is no use.

And finally, we're going to try to alter our policy relating to controlling the supply of drugs coming into this country.

(Audio break.)

(NOTE: Audio difficulties at Ohio site are beyond the control of FNS. We apologize for the inconvenience.)

PRESIDENT CLINTON: (In progress) -- again today is we need your help to pass a crime bill that makes a difference.

Last summer I stood with police officers and leaders of the police association, along with Senator Biden, as the chair of the Judiciary Committee and the long-time, strongest, most consistent proponent of getting a new crime bill, to propose a comprehensive plan to put more police on the streets -- (audio break) -- working with the attorney general and with members -- (audio break) -- for another hundred thousand police officers on the street, or a ban on assault weapons, or an enormous increase in the investment that the federal government makes to the states, or alternatives to imprisonment, like boot camps for young people -- (audio break) -- the House has not yet succeeded in passing all the elements of the crime bill so that the Senate and House can then get together, agree on a common bill, pass it and send it to me for signature.

The American people have waited on this bill long enough. It was almost pass 1 -- or a previous version of it, in 1992, and it didn't pass. This bill need to be passed, on my desk for signature soon. This is not something we should take all year doing. We should take a few weeks, do it right, and send it to the

president's desk. (Applause.)

I'll make this commitment: if Congress will pass the bill soon, I will respond by cutting through the red tape and the bureaucracy in Washington so that within a year 20,000 new police officers are hired and start the training that they need to make our streets safer. (Applause.)

We need some clear things in the crime bill that come out of both the Senate and the House. What's the bottom line? One, we've got to have a stronger police presence, not only to catch criminals but to prevent crime. The Senate's approved and the House should approve another hundred thousand police officers over the next five years. It will be paid for not by new taxes, but through a violent crime trust fund that will pay for the entire crime bill through reductions in the federal bureaucracy -- reductions by attrition. We have proposed to reduce the number of federal employees over the next five years by 252,000 -- that's a 12 percent reduction that would make the federal government the smallest it's been in 30 years -- and take the entire amount of money we get from the savings and put it into fighting crime. I think it's a good -- (applause).

But if we do it, then it's important that the local departments do what Ray Skiller (sp) talked about. We've got to have more police officers on the street, people who know their neighbors and know the children, and understand when there are problems, and listen to people when there's a stranger in the neighborhood, and do things that are necessary to keep crime from happening in the first place as well as to catch criminals quicker. We know that works. We know that works.

The mayor of Houston was recently reelected with 91 percent of the vote. You can't get 91 percent of the people to agree that the sun's coming up tomorrow morning. (Laughter.) Why? Because he put another 655 police officers on the street, and in one year, 15 months, crime dropped 22 percent and the murder rate dropped 27 percent. Why? Because the police officers did two things; they got back in touch with the community, and they were heavily deployed toward the areas where they knew the biggest problems would be.

We can do this. We can do this. We'll provide the people; you have to deploy them properly. But we can do it. (Applause.)

Now, once again, this is an issue where the people may be ahead of Washington. We've got a smaller program that the attorney general runs that the Congress has provided for us to put more police officers on the street. It's a grant program, and communities of all sizes all across America apply for it. We have given out 100 grants to cities and communities nationwide, including four in Ohio -- to Cleveland, Mansfield, Newark and Xenia. Now, that's the good news. The bad news is we have received applications from 3,000 communities, and instead of making people happy, every time -- because there is so much focus on this at the grass roots. Every time we announce these grants, I get 10 calls from mayors saying, "I helped you in 1992, I've got a problem, where's my money?" The answer is: Your money's in the Crime Bill, help us pass it so we can help all of America and not just a few. (Applause.)

Second, the Crime Bill stiffens penalties. It does add capital punishment for a number of crimes, and some of them are quite appropriate. When someone kills a law enforcement officer in the line of duty, I think the penalty for that ought to be death. There ought to be a deterrent that is clear and unambiguous. (Applause.)

But even more significant, perhaps, is the concept that is now sweeping America that is known under the slogan of "three strikes and you're out." And I want to talk about it because I support it. A significant percentage of the violent crimes in this country are done by a very small percentage of the total criminal population. Most criminals are non-violent. Most criminals

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who commit violent offenses are not committing life-threatening offenses or rape. We know that. We know that there are a core of people who are predisposed to do things which are horrible, and that is the genesis of the "three strikes and you're out." If people cannot stop doing things that threaten other people's lives, they simply shouldn't be eligible for parole.

Now, the important thing about this is if we're going to pass it in the Congress, we ought to do it right. There should be no partisanship in this, no politics, no posturing. We ought to do what is right for America. We ought to pass a tough, good, clear bill, but we shouldn't litter it up with every offense in the world that the average police officer would tell you on the front end shouldn't be part of it. In other words, we need to draw this properly and right so we can set a standard that says three strikes and you're out and it means something that every American can agree with.

And then we have to recognize, as all of you know, that most laws, criminal laws, are state laws, and most criminal law enforcement is done by local police officials. And therefore, we have to hope that what we do in the Congress will set a standard that all other states then across the country will embrace so we can identify the relatively small number of people that are wreaking heartbreak and devastation and death and put them behind bars and keep them there. (Applause.) When we do that, we also have to help you with more space for dealing with some of your prison problems, and we're debating what the best way to do that is.

I want to say on the way down here today Senator Glenn gave me a speech -- I could tell he had given it before, but it still was good -- (laughter) -- about the Ohio prison overcrowding problem and how we ought to have non-violent offenders in less expensive construction.

He said, "You know, when I was a Marine, a Quonset hut was good enough for and it ought to be good enough for criminals as well." (Applause.) Because I was a governor and attorney general, I could write you a book on the cost of building penitentiaries and what's wrong with it, but I won't do that today.

The fourth thing we need to do is to make sure that criminals are not better armed than police officers. We ought to pass the assault weapons ban. The Senate bill -- your other senator, who is not here today, Senator Metzenbaum, has worked so hard on -- bans the manufacture, transfer and possession of deadly, military-style assault weapons and large-capacity ammunition-feeding devices. These weapons have become the weapons of choice for drug traffickers, street gangs and paramilitary extremist groups. Just ask the leaders of the police organizations that are here. Ask Bob Sculley (sp) and Dewey Stokes (sp) what they know about this as a national problem, not just an Ohio problem, as a national problem. The leaders of the police organizations in this country have told Congress, time and time again till they're blue in the face, that these weapons cannot be allowed on the street, that it is wrong to send police officers out to fight people who are better armed than they are. This has nothing to do with sportsmanship. (Applause.)

Now, the fifth thing we need to do is to make our schools gun-free, drug-free and violent-free. If kids can't go to school safe, this country cannot move into the 21st century in good shape. (Applause.) It sounds like a simple thing, but there have been schools in this country where people do bullet drills. I met, in one of my town meetings in California, this really eloquent young man stood up and said, "My brother and I, we don't want to be in a gang, we don't want to have guns, we don't want to do wrong, we want to stay in school and make something of ourselves, and we left the school in our neighborhood because it wasn't safe, we went to another school because we thought it was safer, and a nut walked in that school when we were registering, shooting a gun, and shot

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

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

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

Another thing that's in this crime bill that's been a cause for Senator Biden I wanted to mention is that it makes a special effort to prevent crimes of violence against women, who are especially vulnerable to violent crime. This crime bill increases sentences for rape, requires rapists to pay damages to victims, protects women against domestic violence, and creates training programs to help judges learn more about this, because a lot of judges don't know how to handle these things as well as possible. If you haven't read much about this -- but this provision, dealing with crimes against women, I think, is one of the more important things in the crime bill over the long run. We have got to be more sensitive there. (Applause.)

Again, let me say, finally, we have to do more to prevent crime. There have got to be more things done that provide alternatives for kids. This crime bill has summer youth activities, recreation programs in high-crime areas, and after-school programs. We need to do more on that.

This year the National Service Program that I worked so hard to start has 3,000 young people going out all across America, in their communities, to work on trying to give young people something to do that will prevent crime -- a summer of safety and service to America.

I'm very proud of it. We need more of that all across the country. Now, let me say I know the crime bill won't solve all the problems, but it will make a beginning. Our HUD secretary, Henry Cisneros, has a safe homes initiative in public housing projects. The Treasury secretary is tightening up on federal licensing of firearms dealers. There are more gun dealers in America than there are people running filling stations, or something I know more about, people who own McDonald's. (Laughter.) You laugh about it, but that's stunning, isn't it? It's stunning. And we have to do something about it.

We are doing what we can to try to deal with this. We also recognize that

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crime is highest in areas where families are weakest, communities are weakest and where there are the fewest jobs. We know that. We know that a lot of the problems move in almost pulled in by the vacuum created by the breakdown of family, community and work. And we have some strategies designed to encourage the business community in this country to invest in putting people back to work in these areas where chronic unemployment is so high. It is -- (interrupted by applause.) Thank you.

America, out of its generosity, has spent a lot of your money in the last 10 to 15 years trying to get American businesses to invest in the Caribbean, to invest in the developing world, to give people a chance to grow, in the idea that it was good for our long-term self interest; that if these people had jobs and incomes they would buy more American products. In America's cities today and in our devastated rural areas there are people who would love to buy American products if they had the jobs. We ought to have the same policy for them we do for countries abroad. (Applause.)

The last thing I'd like to say is we need help. We need you to help us pass the crime bill. But we also need the American people to recognize that you cannot do this alone. The most law-abiding societies are not necessarily those with the biggest police forces, they're those that have the strongest families, the strongest values, the strongest code of conduct against hurting their neighbors. We need help, and every American that is willing to support this crime bill and stand up and shout hallelujah when more police officers are hired on the street, needs to be not only law-abiding but law supporting.

Every American can be part of a crime control unit. Every American can be part of doing something in the neighborhood school to help those kids who don't have parents to teach them right from wrong. Most of them are still real good kids and they're doing the best they can early on, and they need help. Every American can do something to restore these values.

And let me say, when I see what has happened in the crime area -- three times as many murders today as in 1960, three times as many violent crimes per police officer as there were 30 years ago, and three times as many births outside marriage, where there has never been a marriage -- also related to the ultimate crime problem -- I realize that a lot of these things are going to require the American people to get together and get something done. They can't just look at you. They can't just look at me. They can't just look at your members of Congress. We have to look inside, too. Yes, there's a role for the Congress. Yes, there's a role for the police. But there's a role for the American people, too. You can't make me believe that we can't take our street back and give our kids their futures back. And we're going to do our best, starting with the crime bill. We want you to help us.

Thank you and God bless you. (Applause.)

END

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MARCH 17, 1994, THURSDAY

SECTION: WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING

LENGTH: 3175 words

HEADLINE: REMARKS OF PRESIDENT CLINTON, VICE PRESIDENT GORE,
ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO, ALICIA BROWN (SP), PHIL GEYER (SP)
AND JACK CALHOUN (SP)
AT THE UNVEILING OF ANTI-VIOLENCE PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

BODY:

VICE PRESIDENT GORE: Please be seated, ladies and gentlemen. Let me welcome you to the White House. We're delighted that you're here today. We have several people who are going to make brief remarks, but I would like to begin by acknowledging the boys and girls from the Jelleff (sp) and Annapolis Boys and Girls Clubs. We're delighted that you could join us here. We're also joined by those who will be speaking, including Attorney General Janet Reno; and also by Secretary of Health and Human Services, Donna Shalala; the director of the National Drug Control Policy Office, Director Lee Brown; deputy secretary of education, Madeleine Kunin; and a number of other officials in the administration who are active participants in our efforts to deal with the problem of violence and violent crime and the related problems that lead to violence.

I'm going to be introducing Phil Geyer (sp), who will introduce Jack Calhoun, then Attorney Janet Reno will speak, and Alicia Brown will introduce the president.

Let me say briefly that we all know that violent crime and the fear that it provokes is devastating to our nation. We could go around this auditorium and ask for personal testimonies from individuals who have been touched by violent crime in the last year -- a member of their family or a close friend, and we could spend all day today and all day tomorrow hearing about the devastating impact it has on victims and those who are close to them. It is vitally important that we continue our efforts at reversing this mindless violence. The Ad Council's public service announcements featuring President Clinton and 8th grader Alicia Brown are another tool that we can use in our nation's efforts against violent crime. One man who understands that and stands committed to our efforts to stamp out violent crime is the current director and chairman of the Advertising Council, Phillip H. Geyer (sp). In addition to his work with the Ad Council, Phillip serves as chairman and chief executive officer of the Interpublic Group of companies, a very large advertising group. He's also involved with Sloan (sp) Kettering Memorial as a trustee, and serves as the director of the Whitney Museum of Art and the Woolworth and Fiduciary Trust. It is my great pleasure to introduce to all of you Phillip Geyer.

(Applause.)

MR. GEYER: Not long ago, the -- President Clinton characterized violence as one of the nation's number one health problems.

And gunshots already are the leading cause of death among several demographic groups of boys and young men. The frightening toll of death by gunfire is rising to the point where it soon will surpass the number of highway fatalities -- fatalities.

If violence is an epidemic disease, information is an antidote. Today we are

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unveiling an advertising campaign that hopes to influence individuals, families, and communities to take action together in the interest of preventing crime. In America we do this well because we have a swift and efficient privately-supported communications system not rivalled in the world. Volunteers and companies donate their resources and their talent to make the ad council work. Last year we leveraged more that \$2-1/2 million of corporate contributions and more than \$650 million of donated advertising time and space. The networks are our largest contributors both in time and financial support. And thanks for the ad council to Saatchi & Saatchi advertising, the volunteer agency that created this work. We hope it will help heal the psychological wounds so many young people like Alicia Brown have suffered and prevent further harm to their friends.

Now I'd like to introduce the executive director of the National Crime Prevention Council, Mr. Jack Calhoun. (Applause.)

JACK CALHOUN (DIRECTION, NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL): Thank you very much.

Mr. President and friends, we extend our deepest thanks to you for your passionate commitment to stopping crime and building communities: the human face of our shared challenge, an eight-year-old boy from Hartford -- Evan -- who, when asked about school said "I like school, but I have to worry about making it home alive," a woman in Chicago who cautioned "If you shop after 4:00, take Jesus with you," a boy in the Bronx who when asked what he wanted to be when he grew up said "To be an adult" -- not what he would be, but whether -- and the resulting human face of our mission, to return to Evan a safe, sustaining neighbor, to return to that woman in Chicago her freedom, her citizenship, and to return to that boy in the Bronx his childhood, his future. If everyone pledges to act -- everyone, young, old, churches, businesses, school, police, all -- crime will be reduced.

We gather to thank the advertising council for its terrific leadership. The Saatchi & Saatchi, Vernal-Runitis-Moya (sp) advertising, to my staff at the National Crime Prevention Council and board, 122-member coalition, our partner, the Department of Justice, the Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance, our corporate partners who helped support federal funding with their contributions, and to 1,200 attendees who join us by satellite from Miami at the Seventh National Youth Crime Prevention Conference, and to Alicia for the courage to tell her story so that individuals in society might heal.

Crime claims two victims: first that which is countable -- property, a victim; second, the community -- people now isolated, unable to attend civic meetings, the PTA, church, sports clubs, bonds holding us together as a civic family ripped apart by crime and violence. We have two distinct traditions in this country: one symbolized by the individual, proud and alone, and the other by barn-raising -- collective efforts for a massive job. There is too much of "me" of late.

Crime's greatest deterrence is not a loose collection of "me's" by a vitalized community whose residents first think of "we". We can stop crime and create communities in which isolated, scared individuals can again become involved, become citizens, communities in which young children are not frightened and imprisoned but nurtured.

Thank you.

Ladies and gentlemen, I'm pleased to introduce the Attorney General of the United States, Janet Reno. (Applause.)

ATTY GEN. RENO: Mr. Calhoun, I'd like to thank the National Crime Prevention Council, the television networks, the Advertising Council and all the volunteers who have made these television announcements possible. I think it's an example of what we can do when we come together to use this wonderful medium in the

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right way. And I want to especially thank Alicia and all the young people of America, who have the strength and the courage to speak out to say that we can make a difference, that we can do something about violence, and she is an example for us all of the splendid efforts on the part of so many young people throughout America. And to you and to all those youngsters who care, thank you for making a difference.

Alicia is 14 years old. She's a junior at Elliott Junior High School here in Washington. She has seen more violence than most people see in a lifetime. Since the age of 12, violent death has been a common part of her life. Guns have claimed the lives of five of her friends, including one whose death she witnessed in person. This is a sad commentary on our society. But the president, coming into office, began to speak out, began to say that coming together, we could make a difference; that by punishing those who hurt and harm and kill, and making sure that the punishment meant what it said, we can make a difference; that by reaching out to communities throughout America and to our young people to give them a chance to grow in a strong, constructive way, we can make a difference. The president has spoken to the millions of Americans, saying that in our families, in our neighborhoods, in our communities, we can cc again to trust each other, to put people first and to make a difference. Congress is working on a crime bill now as we speak which will address the issues of punishment and prevention, but laws alone are not enough. To defeat crime, America must come together. We must reach people in their homes, in their communities, and we need them to get involved. Too often, people are afraid to come out, and the wonderful medium for going in has been television. And through these announcements, I think we will give the American people an opportunity to see what can be done if we communicate and come together. I think that this is a wonderful step forward as part of the many steps that we must all take to end this particularly epidemic violence amongst our youth in America, and I'm proud to introduce you to these spots.

(Applause.)

(Begin video segment.)

PRESIDENT CLINTON: (Off mike) -- this nation are being held prisoner. Their captors are fear and violence. Their playgrounds are no place to play in. As a parent, I want this violence to stop. As your president, I'm committed to ending it.

We must strengthen our families, neighborhoods and communities. We must give our children a future. We must take away their fear and give them hope.

ANNOUNCER: Do something now. Call 1-800-WE PREVENT.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: We must give our children back their childhood. Working together, we can.

(End of video segment.)

(Applause.)

(Begin video segment.)

ALICIA BROWN: I used to look forward to Friday nights and seeing all of my friends together, the fun we used to have -- looking right, you know -- I danced -- and just having a good time. There was a knock at the side door -- the music was loud -- the boy that opened it -- we was laughing and -- teasing one another -- gunshots -- three shots -- three shots fired. He was killed. There's somebody that you knew of was now gone. It really hurt. Why did this have to happen?

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Unfortunately, Alicia's story is all too common. Too many children have had their childhood taken from them. Fear of violence is robbing our nation's children of their future. We must take away that fear and give them hope.

As a parent, I want this violence to stop, and as your president, I'm

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committed to ending it. We must give Alicia and all our children back their childhood. Working together, we can.

ANNOUNCER: Do something now. Call 1-800-WE PREVENT.

(End of video segment.)

(Applause.) ALICIA BROWN: Good morning. My name is Alicia Brown. I am 14 years old. I am a junior at Elliot (sp) Junior High School here in the District. Guns have been a part of my life since the age of 12. Already six of my friends have been killed by gunshots. I know how important it is for me to be here to -- I know how important it is for me to be here because last week my classmate was shot down. Later this afternoon my family and friends will attend her funeral.

That's why I was glad when I was asked to appear in a PSA with President Clinton to address this problem of violence.

Something has to be done. We need to stop seeing our friends killed. This isn't make believe, this is real. I hope a lot of you will call the 800 number to learn what we can do to protect yourselves and to prevent crime. That's why I hope a lot of the media will broadcast the messages.

I hope a lot of you will not have to lose somebody close as I did. I hope a lot of you give me and friends back our childhood.

Thank you. (Applause.)

Now here's the President of the United States of America, President Clinton.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Thank you very much, Alicia. I think your family is here with you. Your family members -- could you all stand up? Thank you for coming here with her. (Applause.)

I want to thank Alicia for that remarkable performance. You know what I said to her when I saw the PSAs? The same thing all of you are thinking I said: "The one with you in it was a whole lot better." (Laughter.)

This is the culmination of a long effort by good people who want to do something about this terrible problem. I thank Phil Geyer (sp), the chairman of the ad council, and all those who comprise that council and who support this work. I want to thank Jack Calhoun for the work he's done and the 123 organizations that make up his crime prevention coalition and for his remarkable remarks here today. I thank Saatchi & Saatchi for the work they did and others, members of the creative community who are here with us today who have done their own public service announcements, changed their programming, made a common commitment in an earlier meeting with the vice president and me to try to make a sustained effort to change the culture of violence that is gripping our country.

I want to say a special word of thanks and greeting to the chairman of our Corporation for National Community Service, Eli Segal, who is in Miami at the Seventh Annual Youth Crime Prevention Conference with 1,200 officers, teachers, community leaders, and others active in crime watch projects, peer counselling, drug prevention programs and others.

These people are going to have to carry a lot of the future of our common efforts to reduce violence in America.

You know, if you just read the big headlines in the papers today, a lot of them are very good. There's more growth, more jobs, more opportunity, a real sense of recovery in the country. But we will never become the country we ought to be if we lose another generation of our children to the violence that kills so many and holds the rest hostage. I can tell you as the father of a teenager, every teenager in the country talks about this issue at home at night, discusses it over the dinner table, is concerned about it, worries about whether they have friends that are going to fall victim to crime. And this is an incredible burden -- the burden you can see in the eyes and hear in the voice of Alicia, one that imposes on those of us who are grown an inordinate responsibility to

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change the conditions and the attitudes which have produced this incredible range of violence.

We now have a higher percentage of our people in prison than any country on the face of the Earth. No other nation has so high a percentage of their people in prison, and yet we worry that we don't have enough jail space. And we have to build more.

The broadcast, the cable networks that are here who are supporting this effort and who will make time available are helping us to begin to make a difference. I want to say a special word of encouragement and thanks to them because they've done so much to help change our country for the better with other such campaigns -- the campaigns to reduce smoking, the campaign to increase seat belt use, the campaigns to remind so many young people that a mind is a terrible thing to waste, or friends don't let friends drink and drive.

President Roosevelt once said if he hadn't gone into politics, he would like to have had a career in advertising. President Kennedy generated his first Peace Corps volunteers through ads like this. Messages can speak to dreams and respond to fears and bring people out of their shells. I hope that we can do that here today.

This industry, the entertainment industry, is working hard now to help America reduce violent behavior. By showing young people that there are alternatives to violence, they can help us in the search for a safer and a saner land.

To change, people have to have a willing heart. We're working hard here on a crime bill which I hope so much will be passed soon to put more police officers on the street, to take more assault weapons off the street, to try to change the conditions in communities that exist by giving communities opportunities to help young people have something to say yes to instead of just something to say no to.

But we have to have more willing hearts.

The cable industry will air these ads on 32 cable networks. The networks themselves have committed a high-level of exposure. Already 2,000 movie theaters have agreed to show the PSA on their screens, and we are now getting offers to put these PSA on movies that are rented at video rental stores. The Motion Picture Association of America, under the able leadership of Jack Valenti, and the video software dealers are really going to do a lot of good work on this.

These commitments are new and unprecedented. I think they reveal an understanding by people in the entertainment industry that our children have and share with us daily. We somehow have to find a way to encourage young people to settle arguments with words instead of weapons. We also have to encourage their parents to do the same thing for domestic violence is still the cause of a lot of these killings. We have to show adults how common sense can ease tensions.

We have to help communities set up programs to deal with this.

Last week I was in Brooklyn College with nine people who are giving their lives to various efforts to help people turn away from violence. I just want to mention two of them to you.

I met a woman named Clementine Barfield (sp) from Detroit who had two sons -- two of her teenage sons shot and one killed in gang fighting. She is devoting her life to trying to reach kids to make sure not only that they don't become victims like her son, but they don't become killers like the people who killed her son.

I met a young man named Sherman Spears (sp) from Oakland, California, who is confined to a wheelchair, has one leg amputated, lost the use of one of his eyes, often still in pain, because he was caught in the crossfire of a gun shooting. He is devoting his life to an organization which reaches out to victims and tries to tell them not to retaliate, not to seek vengeance, not to

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seek revenge, that no one ever gets even and you have to go on with your lives. These are the kinds of people we want to support. We will send specific suggestions to anyone who responds to the 800 line. It's 1- 800-WE PREVENT. It's mentioned in the ad, and it's very important because the people who are going to air the ads can't do the grass roots, one-on-one work after the air is quiet.

In closing, let me just say this. You probably heard Alicia Brown say this. I want to reemphasize it. In a few moments, she is going to the funeral of her sixth friend to die from gunshot wounds -- a 14-year-old child -- not in a war zone in a faraway country, not in Somalia, not in Sudan, not in Angola, not in Burundi, not in Sarajevo, but in the capital of the greatest nation on the face of the earth.

That is what has become of childhood, my fellow Americans. While the rest of us have pursued our dreams in life, had our families, raised our children, enjoyed the fruits of freedom, that is what has become of childhood. It is indecent, it is unacceptable. We can do something about it, and we owe it to them to do it. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

END

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MARCH 10, 1994, THURSDAY

SECTION: WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING

LENGTH: 3266 words

HEADLINE: REMARKS BY PRESIDENT CLINTON
AT THE PUBLIC SAFETY FORUM
BROOKLYN COLLEGE

BODY:

PRESIDENT CLINTON: (Applause.) Thank you very much, President Latin (ph) and my good friend, Congressman Chuck Schumer. And in a moment you'll hear from Eli Seagall (sp), who is the head of our national service effort, and so I won't introduce him more now. I want to thank all the members of all the service groups who are here from -- not only from New York, but many from other states, and recognize the chair of the board of the Corporation for National Service, Mr. Jim Josephs, who came. Thank you for being here, sir. (Applause.) I also want to thank three distinguished New Yorkers for their presence in the audience -- your new attorney general, Oliver Koppell (ph). (Applause, cheers.) New York City's public advocate, and my long-time friend, Mr. Mark Green. (Cheers, applause.) The man who first introduced me to the local government of the city of Brooklyn, the Brooklyn borough president, Howard Goldin (sp). Thank you. (Cheers, applause.) Before Chuck Schumer sits down, I want to ask him to come back up here to show this man has a broken arm, as you can see, and he's slightly incapacitated. (Laughter.) So I asked him if I could join his two children and sign his cast. (Laughter, applause.) I do this to make a point -- I try to make it every speech -- which is that government cannot solve all the problems of America. That's why we need all of you in service. And government cannot solve all these problems either, because he is not the victim of a crime but his own awkwardness. He fell. (Laughter, applause.) This is a problem I can't solve, so I'm just putting my stamp approval on the treatment of it. (Laughter, applause.)

REP. CHARLES SCHUMER (D-NY): Mr. President, what I wanted to say is you saw our senator wearing a cast, but he broke his arm the Republican way, skiing in Vail. I broke -- (laughter, applause) -- I broke my arm slipping on the ice 11:00 Saturday night to go to a community event at the Good Shepherd School in (Sheepshead ?) Bay. (Cheers, applause.)

PRESIDENT CLINTON: That wasn't on the program. (Laughter.) But it was pretty funny. (Laughter.)

Ladies and gentlemen, this is the first of a national series of programs on our national service program, which we called Americorps. The topic we're here to discuss today is how to bring people together and communities together to encourage them to assume some responsibility for dealing with the violence that has become all too common in almost all American communities.

It's appropriate that we begin here in New York City and we begin in Brooklyn in the congressional district of Chuck Schumer because he has been the architect and the strategist behind almost every major anti-crime initiative that Congress has dealt with in recent years. It took seven years and a change of administrations, but we finally got the Brady bill to become the Brady law. (Applause.) And I might say, there were skeptics who said this will not make

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any difference, but you ought to see the results in just the first couple of weeks of the Brady bill's becoming a law. All over America in little communities and big, people who had criminal records were actually buying guns, formerly legally, in gun stores; they were found out, illegal guns were collected, criminals were apprehended. This law is going to make a difference.

Chuck Schumer has also worked for community policing and for safe schools and for the ban on assault weapons that he talked about so strongly. That ban on assault weapons is in the crime bill that has already passed the United States Senate, and tomorrow Mr. Schumer goes back to Washington to work with a subcommittee to begin to mark up the crime bill that also will put another 100,000 police officers on the street, ban 28 kinds of assault weapons, and give us the chance to give people like you the chance to do some things to prevent crime from happening and give our young people something to say yes to, as well as to say no to. (Applause.)

I'd also like to say a special word of appreciation for the work that has been done by New York Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan on this issue. (Applause.) He asked me to say to you how sorry he was he couldn't be here today. He had originally planned to come with me, but had an obligation in Washington which prevented him from leaving. But for 28 years, he's been warning us about the fragile state of families and communities, the social institutions that hold us all together.

About a year ago he gave a speech at the 50th anniversary of his own high school graduation from Benjamin Franklin High School in East Harlem. In that speech, he talked about how much New York had changed in 50 years. In 1943, he said, there were exactly 44 homicides by gunshot in the entire city of New York, when the population then was only 150,000 more than it is now, but was more. In 1992, instead of 44, there were 1,499. He sent me a chart that tracked the murder rate in New York since the turn of the century, and it was only a generation ago that the murder rate began to explode.

About that time, on a New York night 30 years ago this very Sunday, a 28-year-old woman known to the neighborhood as Kitty Genovese (sp) parked her car outside her home as she always did. She was coming home after a long day working as the manager of a nearby bar. She had come to New York to work to make a life for herself in this great city, drawn like so many before and since by the power of opportunity and enthusiasm that I see in this room. As she walked to her building a man grabbed her and stabbed her. She cried for help. She screamed for help so loudly that it woke people up in the middle of the night. Lights came on in the apartment building, a window opened, the attacker got nervous and left. Now this was 30 years ago, not 30 days ago. But not a single person came to the aid of the woman as she tried to get herself to safety. So the man came back and stabbed her again. As 38 witnesses watched or listened from the safety of their own homes, Kitty Genovese (sp) screamed that she was dying, so the attacker fled again. But still, no one came to the rescue. No one even called the police at a time when the average response time was two minutes. So the attacker came back a third time, stabbed Kitty Genovese (sp) again and killed her over 20 minutes after she first cried for help. A call to the police would have brought a patrol car in two minutes. But as one of the investigators, "I don't want to get involved."

Well, that story shocked us all 30 years ago, not just because of what happened to that woman, as tragic as it was, but also because of what had happened to her neighbors. It sent a chilling message about what had happened at that time in a society suggesting that we were, each of us, not simply in danger but fundamentally alone. It was a message that was both resonant and at odds with the times. I still remember it as if it were yesterday, even though I was

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much younger then than almost all of you are now.

Modern technology was connecting everyone even then, with the television set, a telephone and an automobile. New highways let us reach out to each other faster than ever before. Rockets were already taking astronauts into space. Even the moon was getting closer. These new inventions made the world a smaller place. We were becoming more aware of the great diversity of America -- people who lived beyond the borders of our neighborhoods or past the railroad tracks at the quiet end of town. More Americans of more races and backgrounds than ever before even then could chase the promise that lay before them. Young families left their streets or their farms in search of better jobs in the cities. Factories hummed. Industries then, as now again, were the envy of the world.

But the unintended result of all this chasing around is that we became uprooted. The more folks moved around, the more they became strangers to their neighbors. More doors were shut, more locks were bought and turned, more curtains were drawn, as they were on the night that Kitty Genovese (sp) was killed. On that night, it was as if the value of responsibility had already come to mean only responsibility for yourself.

Four years after that incident, a young United States senator from New York, running for the office I now hold, said this: "The real threat of crime is what it does to ourselves and our communities. No nation hiding behind locked doors is free, for it is imprisoned by its own fear. A nation which surrenders to crime is a society which has resigned itself to failure. Thus, the fight against crime is, in the last analysis, the same as the fight for equal opportunity, or the battle against hunger and deprivation, or the struggle to prevent the pollution of our air and water. It is a fight to preserve the quality of community which is at the root of our greatness, a fight to preserve confidence in ourselves, in our fellow citizens -- a battle for the quality of our lives."

Two months later, the man who spoke those words, Senator Robert Kennedy, himself lay slain, and a line of mourners more than a mile long wrapped around Saint Patrick's Cathedral, tied to his coffin in their common grief, but still too far apart from one another.

Many, many times in the years since, in this city and in others, we have honored memories of the fallen, but we have failed to heed their warnings or finish their work. Time after time we hear the lonesome sound of pipes at the funeral of a police officer killed in the line of duty, we hear the soft sobs of a mother bearing another child gunned down on another city playground or in another school, we read the tragic news of the young student shot while simply riding a van across the Brooklyn Bridge. This very morning, back in Washington, people are reading about how one student shot another student four times yesterday in an argument arising out of the fact that they bumped into each other in a school hallway in what we all thought was perhaps our safest public high school in Washington.

Too often our reaction to the violence is to simply hunker down and turn our backs, raise the drawbridge, buy a better lock, and leave the problem to others: the thin line of blue or the grey mass of government.

Justice Edwin Torres (sp), who grew up in the barrio and is now a justice of the New York Supreme Court, sees this problem in his courtroom every day, and he wrote a stunning letter to Senator Moynihan not too long ago in which he described people so beaten down by the daily barrage of violence that they almost apologized for being the victims, as if if you were smart enough or strong enough, no matter how bad things got you could just figure out a way not to be a victim. No citizen of this great nation should ever have to apologize for that, and no American should live in fear. No one should surrender to any

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of this for a moment.

And so I come to you to ask for your help and those like you all across America to take back our neighborhoods, to take back our future, to take back the basic quality of our lives.

Thirty years ago if Kitty Genovese's (sp) murder taught us that we can't look away, the years since surely teaches that we cannot look to others. Thirty years ago her life might have been saved if she had simply called -- or had someone who was looking at the whole thing unfold call the local police. Today even that is not enough. We have to help, each and every one of us, to reclaim our streets, our schools, our communities, and our lives. This is not a call for blind heroics, but practical action if we want to save our own citizenship. I have some heroes who deserve our praise. I met when I came to New York a few weeks ago the three men who subdued the gunman on the Long Island Railroad. I met in Ohio just three weeks ago Ann Ross (sp) from Dayton, who organized a neighborhood group to sweep drugs off their streets. They've taken down the numbers of license plates of drug dealers. They've shared photographs of dealers with the police. They've shut down crack houses and turned them over to families who don't deal drugs or use them, all the while having their lives threatened -- she, her husband, and the others whom she's mobilized.

Two weeks ago in Chicago I met a woman named Carol Ridley (sp) whose own son was shot by someone who said he was his son's best friend when the boy was only 22 in a foolish argument. But instead of withdrawing into her own grief she's gone outward, working in save the children seminars to try to stop children from killing other children, to try to end the madness of all these weapons being in the hands of people who shouldn't have them and to try to teach young people that there are other ways in which they can deal with their anger and frustration.

These ordinary people have done extraordinary things. The first is to prove that there can be something more powerful than fear, and that is our will and our collective ability to change the way things are.

We have reached a time when we have to change not only our laws, not only the Brady bill and the crime bill and put more police on the street, we've got to change the basic attitudes of this country, not only about crime and violence but about how we think about ourselves and one another. None of us any longer can pretend not to hear these cries for help. And each of us has a serious personal responsibility to do our part. Government cannot do this job alone, neither can the police forces themselves.

But together there are things we can do, and one of the best is this new national service program, Americorps. It represents the best of our country. It will give Americans, especially the young, a chance to serve our nation by helping their communities, helping to make our schools and streets safer, immunizing our babies and turning our children into better students, cleaning up our parks, and caring for the elderly.

Today, we'll hear from Americans from all walks of life who are as different in background, age and experiences as the Americorps can possibly be. Some will have had the fabric of their lives ripped by crime. But what makes them alike and what makes me so hopeful is that out of their tragedies they each made a choice to make a difference.

As extraordinary as their stories are, keep this in mind: There are thousands, indeed tens of thousands, legions more, like them everywhere in this country in every community -- ordinary Americans doing extraordinary things, Americans reconnecting others in their communities. That's what Americorps is all about. For all the miracles of mankind's technology and discovery, nothing, still nothing, connects us to one another like an outstretched hand, an open heart, and the certainty that each of us has made a difference.

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We will make a difference if we can give our young people something to say yes to, introduce them to people they can look up, give them a chance to live and learn the meaning of responsibility and opportunity and community.

When I was a young man, I read a book by a fellow Southerner named James Agee called "Let Us Now Praise Famous Men." It was the story of desperately, desperately poor people in my region of the country, the South, during the Great Depression. It remains a book as powerful today as the day it was written. You cannot imagine, I don't think, what it was like to live in times when whole states had half the people living below the poverty line; when there was massive stretches of communities where more than half the people were out of work; where people could only eat because they were able to grow a little food in the ground that they held onto. And in that time, James Agee wrote this, and I think it is something that we ought to remember as we drive up and down Flatbush Avenue in Brooklyn. Listen to this:

"In every child who is born, under no matter what circumstances and no matter what parents, the potentiality of the whole human race is born again. And in him, too, once more and in each of us, are terrific responsibility toward human life, toward the utmost idea of goodness, of the horror of error, and of God." It is not enough for any of us ever to say again what was said here 30 years ago, "I don't want to get involved." We must not only want to get involved, we must be involved. We must be good neighbors again, and in being good neighbors we will reclaim for ourselves the promise of this great nation.

Thank you all, and God bless.

(Applause.)

HECKLER: President Clinton, as you've been speaking thousands of people across this country and around the world are dying of AIDS. During the campaign you promised -- (inaudible) -- to cure AIDS. (Inaudible) -- is the AIDS cure project detailed in the AIDS Cure Act introduced by Jerry Nadler in Congress. Why haven't you come out and supported that publicly? Have you read it? Why aren't you publicly supporting the AIDS Cure Act introduced by Jerrold Nadler? Answer the question. People are dying across this country and around the world and you have not publicly come out and said that you support this plan. It's the only plan that will come up with a cure for AIDS. The (NH ?) will never come up with a cure for AIDS, and you have not publicly come out and supported this plan. It's the only plan that's viable and it's in Congress right now as we speak -- H.R. 3310, and is not yet renamed. How come you have not come out and publicly supported this plan?

PRESIDENT CLINTON: I'll be glad to talk to Mr. Nadler about that. Every time --

HECKLER: Have you read it?

PRESIDENT CLINTON: No. Nobody's ever mentioned it to me before. But let me say this --

HECKLER: (Off mike.)

PRESIDENT CLINTON: I listened to you, will you listen to me? Will you listen to me? I've listened to you. (Applause, cheers.)

It is all very -- always convenient to me when you interrupt my meetings how often you ignore what has been done.

HECKLER: I --

PRESIDENT CLINTON: The first AIDS czar, the first time we have ever had a really national strategy, dramatic increases in funding in research, dramatic increases in funding in funds to care for people with AIDS, dramatic increases in efforts to prevent AIDS from occurring. We are doing far more than has ever been done before.

I will be happy --

HECKLER: (Inaudible.)

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Listen to me -- I listened to you. I let you interrupt

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this meeting and I let you talk, and you have taken up all the time of all the people that are in here.

HECKLER: I -- (inaudible) --

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Now -- no you haven't, you're trying to interrupt me.

HECKLER: (We let him speak ?) --

PRESIDENT CLINTON: They let me speak. They invited me here, not you.

(Applause, cheers.)

So, I have told you, I will be -- I will be glad to discuss Mr. Nadler's bill. No! Leave him alone, don't hurt him! Don't hurt him. He's got a right to be here.

(Inaudible comments shouted by heckler; inaudible comments by audience members.)

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Go ahead.

(Off mike comment, followed by laughter.)

PRESIDENT CLINTON: What did he say? What did he say? I didn't hear what he --

(Inaudible comments, laughter, followed by applause.)

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Hey -- let me ask you this, wouldn't you rather have him in here asking me to do something than standing outside convinced I wouldn't do anything, no matter what? (Cheers, applause.) I think it's good. It's America. END

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SECTION: WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING

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HEADLINE: REMARKS BY PRESIDENT CLINTON,
VICE PRESIDENT GORE,
AND LEE BROWN,
DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY
RE: THE 1994 NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY
PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY CORRECTIONAL CENTER

BODY:

MR. BROWN: Let me express our true gratitude to Mr. Mundo (sp) for his very enlightening and moving testimonial.

Mr. President, Mr. Vice President, members of the cabinet, let me start by thanking everyone who is here today to join us in announcing the administration's 1994 National Drug Control Strategy. We have worked long and hard since you first asked me to join your cabinet, Mr. President, to get to this point. And I am both proud and honored to be here today with you, the vice president, my colleagues from the cabinet, and all of our other guests. When I started this job some 7 months ago, I brought with me the perspective of a career law enforcement official whose experience started on the streets of San Jose, California, as an undercover narcotics officer, and most recently ended as New York City's police commissioner.

Thirty years ago when I confronted drug dealers on the streets, this nation had a different drug problem than it has today. Back then, fewer than 4 million persons had tried illegal drugs, and most people didn't question that drugs were dangerous, physically harmful, and yes, illegal. I didn't have to fear for my life on the streets back then.

Today our drug situation has dramatically changed. Nearly 80 million Americans have tried illegal drugs and the news on most fronts remains quite bad. Chronic hard-core drug use, in particular, continues unabated. It fuels the demand for drugs, it drives up the numbers of crimes and the incidents of violence in our communities. It increases health costs for all Americans, and puts a continued drain on the engine of our economy. And two weeks ago, we received the bad news that after years of casual drug use generally declining, more of our young people have either used drugs or think it might be okay to use them.

But perhaps the saddest truth about today's drug problem is that not only do I and others fear for the lives of police officers who've taken my place on the streets, we fear for the lives of our children when they are in school, and even our family members when they walk out the front door of their homes. It should not be that way.

With the 1994 National Drug Control Strategy, we've confronted these issues as never before. The strategy takes on the difficult problem of the chronic hard-core drug user, the heart of the nation's drug problem, and sounds the alarms of setting a strong no-use message to our young people about the dangers of drugs and guns and gangs.

It tells our communities that we will be partners with them, helping them put more police on the street, and more. It tells other countries equally committed in the fight against drugs that we will keep our commitment to help them take

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on the drug traffickers and cartels.

This is a realistic, balanced approach to dealing with the drug problem. And despite tough fiscal times it is backed by the funds required to put it into action. It is the most comprehensive strategy ever and it represents an unprecedented level of cooperation between the cabinet agencies under the leadership of the president to take on this nation's drug problem. And now, it's my honor to introduce and present the Vice President of the United States. (Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT GORE: Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you very much, Dr. Brown. It is a great honor to join you and the president and the members of the cabinet and the members of Congress who are here today and to join everyone present in the announcement of the administration's 1994 drug strategy. And in just a moment I will introduce the person who, together with Dr. Brown, is leading this country in the fight against drug abuse and addiction and drug-related crime: Bill Clinton. But before I do that, I'd like to say just a few words about the others who have been working together very hard to help the president and our team develop the drug strategy for 1994.

First of all, allow me to thank on behalf of our administration the many state and local officials who are committed to eliminating the scourge of drugs in our communities and who are working with the president to get drugs out of our schools and off our streets. And I know there are quite a number present, and forgive me for not acknowledging them. I saw Paris Glendening and Mike Miller earlier, and I know there are many that I didn't have a chance to see personally. But I want to single out the members of the Senate who are here, beginning with the two outstanding senators from here in the state of Maryland, Senator Paul Sarbanes and Senator Barbara Mikulski, right here in the front row. Why don't you stand up? (Applause.) And the chairman of the Judiciary Committee who has worked tirelessly with Senator Sarbanes and Senator Mikulski and who has provided outstanding leadership for many years on this question, Senator Joe Biden, who is chairman of the committee. (Applause.)

They have been joined in this fight by their colleagues in the House: Congressman Al Wynn, whose district we're in, Congressman Steny Hoyer, who is the next-door neighbor -- and could the two of you stand up -- from here in Maryland. (Applause.)

And I want to especially acknowledge Chairman John Conyers and Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee Neal Smith, both of whom have worked very hard on this whole topic. (Applause.)

Now, I wish to thank Samuel Saxton and Adele Hayes and Joe Mundo for their contribution to today's announcement.

And now I'd like to especially single out some individuals who were referred to earlier by Dr. Brown as his colleagues in the Cabinet, and I want to say just a word about what I think is a rather extraordinary occurrence in this administration. When we need to work together as a team, the members of President Clinton's Cabinet are incredibly unselfish with their time, every time there is a major priority where everybody has to pull together. I know it may sound like it's just a matter of course for so many Cabinet members to come to an event and show up, but it's really unusual if you look back through history for a Cabinet to work together the way this Cabinet does.

And I'd like to ask you to hold your applause, but I'd like to ask the Cabinet members who are present to stand beginning with Attorney General Janet Reno, Secretary of Education Richard Riley, Secretary of HHS Donna Shalala, Secretary of Transportation Federico Pena, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Henry Cisneros, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jesse Brown. Would you join in thanking these members of the president's Cabinet? (Applause.) Really and truly, the kind of cooperation that we have seen in the many, many hours of

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negotiations to carve out the drug strategy budget is unprecedented, and it is that cooperation and that budget and the strategy which comes out of it that is so critical.

There are, of course, many others who have worked tirelessly to make the plan a reality, including police officers, judges, community organizers, and members of the drug treatment and prevention communities, all working to help put an end to drug abuse and addiction. And there are, incidentally, a lot of people who play key roles in the administration who I'm not even going to try to acknowledge here from various departments and agencies -- the Coast Guard, the CIA. You could go right down the list. And the entire team is here because this is -- the IRS. I mean, you can put this whole team together right here and see what is unprecedented about it.

Now, perhaps most importantly, hard-core drug use is linked to a disproportionate amount of crime and violence. As Mr. Mundo (sp) bravely and honestly told us a few moments ago, drug treatment reduces criminality. It's just that simple. If we can stamp out drug use, we can start to stamp out crime in America. President Clinton has made this point repeatedly. He has elevated the war against crime and the war against drugs to the very top of our national agenda with a new approach that he is going to describe here this morning and that we're kicking off here this morning.

And we came here for a reason, because here we can see reason for hope on the drug front. Through programs like Awakening, we can fight drug abuse and addiction and the crime that results. And many are not aware of the fact that these new kinds of approaches are producing tremendous success in an area that used to be fraught with hopelessness and despair.

And one thing we've learned in the last 20 years is that in order to succeed we cannot approach these problems in isolation; we have to look at them in context. We have to take a holistic approach. We have to look at empowering communities and building the strength of families. And in the context of what the country needs to do, we've got to pass the budget, which is the foundation for this strategy; and we've got to pass the crime bill that these members of the House and Senate have labored so hard to produce.

The old ways are just not enough. The thrust of our national performance review to reinvent government was that we've got to cross the boundary lines between departments and agencies and develop the kind of teamwork that you see so evident here today. And for the problem of drugs, we have done just that, under the leadership of the person who is driving this entire effort and who is determined to see our nation succeed in the war against drugs and the war against crime.

And it's now my pleasure to present to you that person, the president of the United States of America, Bill Clinton. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Vice President. And Dr. Brown, thank you for all the work you've done to develop the drug strategy. Thank you, Adelle Hayes (sp), for the fine program we came here to celebrate today. Thank you, Mr. Saxon (sp), for having us here. I was a little uncomfortable about how hard you all laughed at -- (laughter). It occurred to me that this could be one of the great moments in American history for people who hate politicians. You've got the president, the vice president, half the Cabinet and a substantial portion of the Congress all in jail at the same time. (Laughter.)

I want to say a special word of thanks to Joseph Mundo (sp) because I know how hard it was for him to stand up here and give that talk, and I thank you, sir, for doing it. (Applause.)

We have introduced a lot of people here today and I don't want to lengthen that, but there are two people that I think it's very, very important to recognize

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as I get into what our administration's approach to the drug issue will be because it is clear to me and has been for some time from personal experience that we have to have in order to succeed here an enormous effort across this country that goes way beyond the federal government and way beyond law enforcement, that involves citizens supporting our common efforts and that involves some pretty sweeping cultural changes.

And there are two Americans here who have done as much to try to fight the drug problem in that way as any people who live in our country, and I'd like to ask them to stand and be recognized. The former secretary of what was then the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, the director of the Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, Joe Califano. (Applause.) Thank you, Joe. And one of our country's most distinguished business leaders and the chairman of the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, Mr. Jim Burke (sp), who is also here. (Applause.)

Ladies and gentlemen, we came here for a real purpose, to announce our anti-drug strategy. I do believe it is the most comprehensive one ever. But we wanted to come here to illustrate that this is an issue which must be dealt with person by person, one at a time; that this is a very human problem, and that it requires those of us who are trying to deal with it to take certain steps, and those who have already suffered from alcohol or drug abuse to take even stronger steps. I believe very much in what we are doing today from two angles. One is the first job I ever had courtesy of the voters was the job of attorney general. I started out in a law enforcement job. The second is that I have the questionable privilege of living in a family that has dealt with both alcoholism and drug abuse. I know treatment works. I also know that it is important to be tough as well as caring. And what we are trying to do today is to start our government on a course that offers the promise of real results for the American people.

When I asked Lee Brown to come and be head of the Office of Drug Policy, I told him that for the first time ever I would make the director a member of my Cabinet, that I recognized it was folly to believe 100 or 125 or, for that matter, 1,000 people working in a federal office in Washington could change the habits and the policies of the American people, that we had to enlist the entire government. And I dare say this is the -- probably the first time that we've ever had seven Cabinet members on a stage at the same time, all manifesting their commitment to dealing with this issue. And there are many others. We'll have a total of 10 just in the next two days who will be announcing their part of this battle to implement this strategy.

We also have -- (applause) -- thank you. We also have here the director of our AIDS effort, the head of the Internal Revenue Service, the head of the Secret Service. We have an enormous number of federal officials here who are not on this stage who have a big part of this endeavor. I say this to illustrate the fact that we have really tried to be very realistic, very hard-headed, to try to take some time to think about what it is we can do and what it is the rest of America has to do to reinvigorate this nation's fight against the scourge of drugs.

We know we have to build on the works of parents and community leaders who did so much to bring down casual drug use in the 1980s. We know we have to add to the success of law enforcement authorities who have proved there are things you can do that work. We know that where energies have been deployed effectively, whether it was cracking down on pushers, cracking down on drug networks, or building up people -- like this man who spoke so eloquently today -- that they can make progress.

We also know some pretty tough facts. We know that hard-core drug abuse in America has continued unabated. We know that its persistence represents the

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threat to the stability of our society and the economic future of our country. We know that no nation can fight crime and drugs without dealing honestly and forthrightly with the problem of drug addiction. As I said in my State of the Union Address, we need an approach to crime and drugs that is both tough and smart.

We very often have one without the other, and we've paid a price for that as well.

The crime bill and this strategy we announce today puts more into law enforcement than we've ever put before. It does more to keep drugs off the street, it does more than ever before to help hard-core drug users into treatment programs where they belong. It is a new national attack on drug addictions.

The craving for drugs is an enormous factor in a lot of our problems: the rise of violence, the spread of AIDS, the spiralling costs of health care. Every time I have one of my town meetings on health care I tell the American people we have to do some things to provide health care to all Americans and bring down the costs, but we have to be honest. No health care proposal can solve all the problems that lead American health care to be more expensive than any other country, and one big one health care cannot solve is the fact that we pay more for violence because we got our emergency rooms full of people who have been cut up and shot, we pay more to deal with AIDS, and both those things are the direct result in large measure of our very high rate of drug abuse. You know it and I know it. So if we want to deal with this problem, we have to erase it.

(Applause.)

You also heard Mr. Mundoz (sp) say in such powerful terms that he lost everything. We know that drug abuse is a big factor in the breakdown of families, in the increase in joblessness, in the increase in homelessness. How many people -- every day when I go out for my run at the White House, I see what seems like an ever-increasing number of people who are living homeless within three or four blocks of the White House, and you know every one of them has a personal life story, many of them a story that involves drugs.

We know if you go to any children's hospital in any sizable city today and you go to the ward where the little babies are, you'll see baby after baby after baby born with an addiction to drugs.

We know that now many of our streets are too dangerous to walk and our schools even dangerous to attend. I met a young man about a year ago from Chicago who was a big, strapping, handsome young fellow who wanted to really make something of his life. And he said that he knew he had to get an education to do it, but he was scared to walk from home to school to get the ticket out of his neighborhood. I've had that scene replayed many times just in the last year with other people. If we want to, therefore, reduce crime and cut health care costs and reform our welfare system, if we want to rebuild our families and our communities, all these things require a serious effort to curb the use of drugs. Part of it is enforcement.

The crime bill now before the Congress is part of that strategy. It would put another 100,000 police officers on the street. It would provide boot camps for juvenile offenders. It would provide dramatic increases in support for drug courts, very successful drug courts like the ones in Florida, New York, California and the District, where court-ordered rehabilitation programs have cleaned people up and freed prison cells for truly violent criminals. The Miami drug court has treated 4,500 first offenders since 1987, with a rearrest rate of only 11 percent. (Applause.)

We know these kinds of initiatives will support the efforts of community grass-roots efforts, like the one sponsored by Monsignor Easton and his parishioners in Washington, who started an orange-hat brigade where community

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leaders patrol streets in bright orange hats, sending a message that drugs and drug trade won't be tolerated.

There are thousands of groups like this all across America, who work with police to shut down crack houses and take their neighborhoods back. Last Friday the vice president and the Cabinet outlined our new plan to help residents of public housing rid themselves of crime and drugs. We can't do that unless people at the grass-roots participate and take the lead. But we have to also do our part. The most effective things mobilize all the resources of the community, and that's what our strategy seeks to support.

We also seek to support a new, more drug-free America through prevention. We need to reach people before they get started, through prevention and early intervention, especially among our young people, before they enter middle school, much less high school or college. The latest statistics show an increase in drug use among the young. Our children need a constant drumbeat reminder that drugs are not safe, drugs are not good, drugs are illegal, there will be consequences for using them.

I know a lot of these programs work. I saw them work in the schools where my child attended, when she was very, very young. I saw the impact that a law enforcement officer in a uniform talking to children who had never before had a positive human personal relationship with an authority figure could have in these schools.

I know we can do it. And our proposal provides a substantial increase in funds to support those kinds of activities. (Applause.)

We also know we have to do more in the workplace. Drug-free programs at work can be every bit as important and effective as drug-free programs at school. Our strategy supports programs like these and calls on everyone in a position of influence to do their part.

Finally, we have to have some more effort at treatment. This strategy recognizes that drug addiction is a disease, that it can and should be treated, and that treatment can work, as Adele (sp) said. We're letting hard-core drug users know that if you're an addict caught in the cycle of drug abuse, we can help you to get the help you need. Our goal is to get 140,000 more hard-core users into treatment in the next year -- 140,000 more -- (applause) -- targeting chronic hard-core users, including adults and juveniles under the supervision of criminal authorities, along with pregnant women and children.

Every dollar we spend on treatment will save \$7 America is losing today. It will make up for lost productivity. It will save money we are using now to fight the problem instead of to prevent it. This target is a significant start that allows us to expand programs as the effectiveness of service and research findings grow.

One of the most important parts from your perspective of our health care proposal is that it would include drug treatment as part of health care coverage. This is a very important thing. We have to recognize that until we have the appropriate level of treatment on demand without delay, we will continue to pay for a problem that we can reduce. You know treatment works. It's time for the Congress to recognize it in the form of the budget we have presented and for American to aggressively embrace it in the way you have at this institution. (Applause.)

We also recognize we need to try to do something to control the supply. The strategy calls for what we strongly believe is an improvement of our international drug control programs, shifting away from a policy that was focused largely on interdiction -- that is, stopping the drugs when they were on the way to the United States -- to a three-pronged approach: working with countries in which drugs are grown, that have the political will to go after the kingpins in those countries -- (applause); destroying the cartels that grow

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rich from supplying our people with drugs -- (applause); and continuing our interdiction effort, hopefully with better technology and smarter efforts that allow us to interdict even more drugs.

That is very important. We should not stop it, but we must supplement those efforts so that we can be more successful. (Applause.)

As Dr. Brown has said, yes, we want to continue our presence at the border to interdict drugs, but we don't want to wait for people at the border any more. He says he's tired of swatting hornets; he'd rather go after the hornets' nest. And that's a pretty good line. (Applause.)

And I might say our friends and neighbors beyond our borders should welcome this. We have seen in nation after nation how international drug trafficking is a threat to democratic institutions. It fuels human rights abuses and terrorism against the innocent. It undermines legitimate, broad-based economic development, it contributes to regional instability. Many of the countries that deal with this problem will never become what they want to be until they are able to be rid of it. We ought to help them, for ourselves and for their own people as well.

This is an important part of our foreign policy toward major source countries and major transit countries. We have to make it an important part of our commitment to promoting democracy, economic reform, and human rights. None of that's going to happen in countries dominated by people who dictate events because of the profits of the drug trade.

Finally, let me end where I began. From my own personal experience in my family as well as my work in law enforcement, as an attorney general and a governor, I believe still that, once it occurs, drug addiction has to be overcome one person at a time. In the past year, as president, I've spoken about drugs on 85 separate occasions, and I can keep talking about this until I once again lose my voice. (Laughter.)

But you and I know that we're not going to make a dent in this problem except by having it happen one person at a time. If this man had not chosen to take so much responsibility for his own life, then this fine program would still be just another expenditure of taxpayer money. (Applause.)

The newly-inaugurated mayor of Detroit, Dennis Archer, offered a challenge to his city when he was sworn into office. I'd like to quote it for you now, because it equals what I think we're facing. He said, and I quote, to the people of Detroit, "Stand with me when I tell the dope man to get off our streets, to leave our children alone, to get out of our way. We're taking back our streets and we're taking back our children."

Well, Mayor Archer can't do it alone, Monsignor East (sp) can't do it alone, but this administration and the entire weight of state and local government can't do it alone, either. The people of this country have got to take responsibility for themselves, their children, and their neighbors. If we work with them, if we say we know hard-core drug users can't do it alone, the help they need is treatment. The help they need is support. Then I think we can make a real, profound difference.

I want every American, every member of Congress, every state official, everybody who works for a mayor or a city government to join me in putting this strategy to work. This is a national strategy, not a federal strategy. I don't want it to become partisan in any way, shape, or form.

This should unite us in America. People in the private sector, people in government, people at the local level, people at the national level, Republicans and Democrats, people who are inside this institution and people who are beyond its walls, we have a common interest in saving our country. And all of us have a personal responsibility to pursue. This drug strategy we announce today is our attempt to be your partner and to pursue our personal responsibility. And

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together -- together -- we can do it.
Thank you very much. (Applause.)
END

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