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Cutting Crime May Be a Priority Among Voters, But Finding a Solution Remains an Elusive Goal

By JAMES M. PERRY

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WASHINGTON — Public-opinion polls and Tuesday's election returns demonstrate that Americans are fed up with living in the most violent society in the industrialized world, and want their leaders to do something about it.

Easier said than done.

Nothing is simple about crime in America. Surely, Americans insist, crime is soaring. Not so. The crime rate in America is actually stable, or even falling a little. Surely, too, there are widely accepted ways of dealing with violent crime. Not so, again. The country's leaders, and the experts who advise them, still can't agree on how to stop the carnage.

This week's elections, highlighted by gubernatorial races in New Jersey and Virginia and the mayor's race in New York City, swirled around the crime issue. Democratic candidates sought to capitalize on public outrage by calling for passage of a five-day waiting period for the purchase of legal handguns. Republicans, surprised at finding themselves on the defensive on an issue they thought they owned, fired back with their own anticrime proposals, such as Virginia Gov.-elect George Allen's call for the abolition of parole for violent offenders.

Perhaps the biggest demonstration of the power of the crime issue was a Washington state ballot initiative calling for anyone with three felony convictions to be sentenced to life in prison. It carried with more than three-quarters of the vote, and Douglas Bailey, publisher of Hotline, a computerized daily political newsletter, predicts that "you're going to see this passed by maybe 48 states in the next 18 months."

The White House hears the message. It plans to move crime up on its agenda after listening to reports that Congress is in a "feeding frenzy" to shove more money at the problem.

Picking at the Edges

But the basic Clinton crime bill mostly picks at the edges of the problem. It would impose a five-day waiting period for the legal purchase of handguns, the so-called Brady bill, spend more money to put additional cops on the street in cities with populations of 50,000 or more, require drug treatment for federal prisoners and pay for more metal detectors to track down guns and knives in the nation's schools. Few people believe that most of these measures will do much about the estimated 23,000 homicides or the more than six million other violent episodes — rapes, assaults, robberies — that occur annually in the U.S.

These are extraordinary figures. No other industrialized nation comes close. Canada is a distant second, with one-fourth the number of homicides and one-half the number of robberies per 100,000 population as the U.S. Spain is third.

Yet, for all the outcry, the murder rate in this country, while oscillating from year to year, has remained relatively unchanged for the past 20 years. In 1973, for example, there were 9.4 murders and nonnegligent manslaughters for every 100,000 Americans, according to FBI figures. The rate peaked in 1980, at 10.2; in 1992, it was back down to 9.3. According to the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics, all crime, from homicides to car thefts, generally rose from 1973 until 1980 and then began to decline. It's down 6% over the last 10 years.

Why, then, are Americans so aroused? Perhaps, says Jeffrey Roth, a law and public-policy expert at the research firm Abt Associates, "it's because the victims seem to get younger every year, and so do the killers." Another possible answer: Violent crime is more violent than ever. "People perceive that crime these days is a lot more vicious than it used to be," says Ted Robert Gurr, a government professor at the University of Maryland and a student of the history of crime in the U.S.

Role of Mass Media

The mass media, the experts say, play a role. "The mass media daily trumpet the most recent violent events in the world, and violence is an essential ingredient for many viewers of video screen drama," notes a report by the National Research Council, the operating arm of the National Academy of Sciences. "News of a relatively few violent crimes attracts a disproportionate amount of attention, compared with the more numerous violent events known only to the family, friends and acquaintances of particular victims and perpetrators."

The TV pictures, says Mr. Gurr, "scare hell out of people." But there's more to it than that. Americans sense something has changed. "It's a loss of values," Mr. Gurr thinks. People seem to kill people for no very apparent reason; violent crime, then, becomes random and unexplainable.

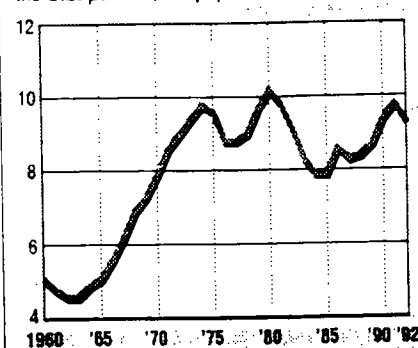
In addition, many Americans may feel that where they live is more dangerous than it used to be simply because it looks more dangerous. "People see their streets deteriorating — homeless people, trash flying around — and they think crime," says John Fyfe, a former New York City police lieutenant and now a professor of criminal justice at Temple University. "I was a police sergeant working Times Square 20 years ago, and people were scared stiff, but there was virtually no violent crime there at all. Now a lot of places look like Times Square."

The surge of the baby boomers, the generation born between 1946 and 1964, partly explains the high rate of both violent and property crimes through about 1989. The murder rate, for example, peaked in 1980, when baby boomers born in the late '50s and early '60s were in their most violence-prone years. Then it began declining, only to jump significantly between 1985 and 1991. (It began dropping again, mysteriously, last year.)

But as baby boomers passed out of their most violence-prone years, they have been replaced in the crime statistics by the upsurge in crime among young blacks in the inner cities. "Blacks are disproportion-

The Murder Toll

The rate for homicides and manslaughter in the U.S. per 100,000 population



Source: Uniform Crime Reports, FBI

ately represented in all arrests, and more so in those for violent crimes than for property crimes," notes the National Academy of Sciences report. "The arrest rate for violent crimes is about six times greater for blacks than whites."

Question of Intervention

The experts differ on what should be done about violent criminals. Some argue for what they call intervention: dealing

with inner-city youths with violent characteristics — aggressive behavior, lack of fear — when they are still children. The Head Start program, these people say, does some good in dealing with these aggressive, at-risk children.

Others argue that the best answer is incarceration. The theory: If they're in jail, they're incapacitated. And it seems to have worked, up to a point. Between 1975 and 1989, the number of jail cells nearly tripled — the country's largest low-income housing project, critics say — and more jails are being added every month. Without the extra cells, the rate of violent crime probably would have grown by 15 percentage points, some analysts believe. Instead, with the new cells, the rate has remained stable.

But research is often misleading; data are confusing. Great gaps remain in what students of crime know about criminal behavior. Why, for a crucial example, do violent crime careers last, on average, only seven to nine years? What causes these young men to turn away from violence at the end of that time?

"It's a mystery," says Mr. Roth, the crime researcher who was co-editor of the National Academy of Sciences report. "Nobody knows."

Halfway-House Use Rises, but for Whom?

Critics Say Wrong Inmates Benefit

By RICHARD PÉREZ-PEÑA

In "The Grapes of Wrath," Tom Joad was released from prison with nothing more than a cheap gray suit and a few dollars, and was left to hitchhike his way home.

These days, there is an alternative to the abrupt return to society experienced by John Steinbeck's hero. Michael Milken and Pete Rose got it, Sol Wachtler wants it and Leona Helmsley has it.

A halfway house, like the one in midtown Manhattan that Mrs. Helmsley moved into last week, gives inmates a few months to acclimate themselves to a world that in its own way can be as frightening as the concrete-and-barbed-wire confines of any prison. Underlying the arrangement is a belief that prisoners who make a gradual transition, aided by a lot of counseling, are more likely to

find jobs and less likely to resort to crime than their counterparts who go cold turkey — though statistics on the subject are hard to come by.

Yet no one suggests that Mrs. Helmsley had to be deterred from robbing liquor stores, that Mr. Milken might have taken up mugging, or that either of them left prison desperately in need of a job. In fact, a convict like Tom Joad, who killed a man with a shovel blow to the head in a drunken brawl, would be unlikely to go to a halfway house even today.

Political Choices Alleged

John Larivee, who heads the Crime and Justice Foundation, a policy study group in Boston, says that for purely political reasons, precisely those inmates who are most in need

of halfway house services are routinely denied them.

In Federal prisons, where wardens decide who goes to halfway houses as their sentences near completion, inmates who have committed violent crimes generally are not even considered for the program, said Greg Bogdan, a spokesman for the Federal Bureau of Prisons. The same policy is applied in many states. In New York State, where 13,600 state prisoners took part in a similar program of work release in 1992, inmates must have good behavioral records to qualify, and those convicted of violent sex crimes and other brutally violent crimes are not considered. From 4 to 5 percent of those in the program are arrested while on work release, according to state officials.

Mr. Larivee said that fear of "another Willie Horton" keeps Government officials from extending the programs, which leave inmates unsupervised during the day but require them to return to halfway houses at

night. "I think everybody should exit our prisons through a halfway house program," he said. "Some are going to fail. Some are going to do some nasty things. No one in Government wants to take that risk."

Violent offenders need a slow transition to freedom most, he said, because they serve the longest sentences and leave prison with the fewest resources. He noted that for those prisoners, a halfway house stay, typically two to six months in the Federal system, does not significantly reduce the amount of time spent behind bars. But releasing someone like Mrs. Helmsley, who is seen as posing no threat to the community, is politically easier, he said.

'Community Objections'

Mr. Bogdan conceded that those who have been in prison longest might benefit most from halfway houses, but he said, "There have been community objections to that."

Halfway houses originated in the 19th century, but their use was very limited until fairly recently. The Federal Bureau of Prisons began using them for adults in 1963. The practice

has grown hugely, to the point that two-thirds of prisoners in the Federal system — including Mrs. Helmsley, Mr. Rose and Mr. Milken — are released through halfway houses. Similar arrangements are used to varying degrees in every state.

There are 4,600 people in Federal halfway houses, compared with a Federal prison population of 80,000. An inmate usually goes from prison to a halfway house near the end of a sentence, Mr. Bogdan said, but a few convicts with sentences of a year or less are permitted to spend their entire terms at halfway houses.

Halfway houses provide counseling on topics ranging from job searches to easing back into family life or staying drug-free. While at the houses, inmates are neither truly free nor in prison. Still technically serving their sentences, they are subject to strict curfews and other rules, and Spartan conditions, but they can leave unaccompanied during the day, hopefully to hunt for work.

"The halfway house provides some structure and supervision that inmates may not want or like, but that

they probably need, coming from such a regimented life," Mr. Larivee said.

The LeMarquis Hotel in Midtown Manhattan, current home of Mrs. Helmsley and former address of the former Bronx Democratic leader, Stanley M. Friedman, is one of 300 Federal halfway houses around the country, ranging in size from 5 beds to more than 100. All are privately owned and operated, and run under contract with the Government.

There are just two halfway houses — the LeMarquis and the Brooklyn Community Correction Center — for people being released to New York City, several counties north of the city, Long Island and northern New Jersey. There is just one for all of Connecticut, in Hartford.

Most halfway houses, like the LeMarquis, are down-at-the-heels converted hotels or apartment houses, and most are in urban areas. A few operate in suburbs or small towns, often in large houses or old motels.

"The Bureau of Prisons wants just about everyone to go through a halfway house to get the benefit of those

facilities," said Richard Luna, the bureau's Community Corrections Administrator for the New York metropolitan area.

But that policy also confers on the Government benefits that have little to do with a prisoner's welfare: It helps relieve prison crowding, and it saves money.

The daily cost of running a halfway house, Mr. Bogdan said, is \$37 per resident, compared to an average of \$51 for a Federal prison, and more for most state prison systems. And in halfway houses, some of that cost is paid by the inmates, who, if they find jobs, pay 25 percent of their earnings back to the Government during their stays.

While the Bureau of Prisons takes the position that in helping former inmates adjust to society, halfway houses make them less likely to turn again to crime, Mr. Bogdan said he knew of no studies to prove or disprove that notion.

"The old way, you come out with no job, maybe no place to live, maybe enough bus fare to get downtown," Mr. Larivee said. "It doesn't give you much of a chance."

IN AMERICA

Jackson crusade: End black self-destruction

By Bruce Frankel
USA TODAY

NEW YORK — In his new national crusade against black-on-black violence, Jesse Jackson exhorts high school students to end their "code of silence" and begin exposing those who carry drugs or guns.

In strikingly blunt terms, Jackson warns black youths that their entire generation is being destroyed — not by segregation or lynchings — but by their own self-destructive behavior and violence.

"We lose more lives annually to the crime of blacks killing blacks than the sum total of lynching in the entire history of the country," says Jackson. The epidemic of violence now demands the same urgent attention blacks once gave to fight for civil rights, he says.

The issue of violence is of heated concern to black communities nationwide. In a USA TODAY/CNN/Gallup Poll, 41% of black respondents said there had been violent crimes in their neighborhood during the last 12 months. That compared with 30% for whites.

The concern is evident in Atlanta, Buffalo, Detroit, Houston and New York, where black mayoral candidates have topped their platforms with calls for more police.

The issue of crime and what to do about it has renewed debate in African-American communities, troubled by the high number of young black men already behind bars, but fearful of the escalating violence.

While supportive, many doubt that even Jackson's charisma can unleash a "victim-led rebellion" in a culture dominated by violent media images, undermined by economic deprivation, divorced from traditional African-American religious and moral values, and increasingly hostage to young men ready to settle disputes with gunfire.

"They have seen people gunned down in cold blood" for turning drug-dealers in, says Ronald Walters, chairman of



By H. Darr Beiser, USA TODAY
JACKSON: Calls for end to black-on-black violence

the political science department at Howard University.

Jackson says his campaign is a "painfully logical" next step in light of President Clinton's failure to produce an urban agenda and promised investments in crime-ridden government-abandoned areas.

"If there had been as many blacks killed by whites, or whites killed by blacks, there'd be riots. But since it's blacks on blacks, there's a cultural concession to the killing," he says.

In New York City, 362 blacks under 21 have been killed by other blacks this year. In 1992, blacks were victims of about half the nation's 23,760 homicides. The same homicide rate for the whole population would result in 295,000 killings.

"The reality is that black life is cheap. People don't go to prison for long terms for killing other blacks," says homicide expert Paula McClain of the University of Virginia.

But McClain is concerned by the growing public and political obsession with police, prisons and an end to parole. While nearly as great among blacks as whites, she says "it will do nothing to directly reduce the level of violence in urban black communities. ... It's just digging us deeper."

Cleveland Mayor Michael White, who advocates bounties and death penalties for major drug dealers, says violence will



only increase without meaningful job creation programs for chronically underemployed black neighborhoods.

"There's a tear in the social fabric and playing on the edges won't fix it," he says. "I worry that Congress won't get it until half our cities are burned down."

The answer to crime and violence in black communities isn't sending more federal money to the cities, says Robert Woodson, president of the National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise. It's directing funds to neighborhoods experiencing the problems.

Only 12% of federal grants to cities were spent in crime-ridden, low-employment urban neighborhoods, a center study found. He says support should go to grass-roots leaders already putting themselves at risk fighting for their communities. "The real leaders are the ones who share the same zip codes with those they are leading," he says.

Rev. Calvin Butts of Harlem's Abyssinian Baptist Church also believes that the best hope for curbing violence lies in creating real jobs, but he says restoring order with swift and sure punishment is critical.

"The intensity of violence has increased to a point where everyone is frightened," he says. Earlier this year, he began a national boycott against certain rap artists, who, he says promote misogynistic, anti-social and violent behavior.

"The black community has been screaming for help in preventing violence for a long time," says Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif.

"We have to really put resources into developing a connection between police and the community, so they no longer regard each other as enemies."

McNulty doesn't believe more taxes are needed.

"Leaders need to ask people what the priorities should be. I think the first thing the public would say is protect us," put criminals in prison and keep them there.

Jim Baker, chief lobbyist for the National Rifle Association, says the poll results reflect a "sea change" in public attitudes.

"People are sick and tired of elected officials just giving lip service to the problem."

Tough talk has a price: More money

By Robert Davis
USA TODAY

A USA TODAY/CNN/Gallup Poll shows most Americans want to get tougher on crime — especially violent crime.

But experts disagree whether the public should be forced to pay for a war on crime.

Being tough on crime often means more taxes, especially when it means adding police or keeping violent offenders in overcrowded prisons.

The poll found that 82% of respondents want tougher terms for parole; 79% want tougher sentences for all crimes; and 75% want tougher bail requirements for people accused of violent crimes.

Of 1,244 people polled, 80% favor putting more police on the streets — even if it requires higher taxes.

Chuck Wexler, director of the Police Executive Research Forum, says spending more tax dollars on police won't necessarily cause a drop in crime.

"Police do a very good job now," he says. But "without significant resources both before and after the crime, we're just constantly running in place."

For example, Wexler says, more money could be spent on training police to become community leaders in fighting crime.

But being more creative about crime prevention will do even more, Wexler says.

He proposes anti-crime strategies that range from targeting violent repeat offenders to designing safer buildings to live and work in.

"The reality is, whatever we've been doing hasn't been effective," Wexler says. "Simply adding to it without changing the structure won't fix it."

Former Justice Department official Paul McNulty agrees with those polled who say more prison time is one solution.

But there's a catch, says McNulty, head of the First Freedom Coalition, a group pushing for criminal justice reforms: "There is not enough space."

Because the USA's prisons and jails are overcrowded — nearing a record 1 million inmates — violent offenders are serving an average of 37% of sentences.

Residents of crime-plagued neighborhoods point out thugs for police, McNulty says, but "they lock them up and they're right back out."

Clinton Officials Exert Little Influence On Anticrime Bills in House and Senate

By JOE DAVIDSON

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WASHINGTON—The Senate and House are moving along sharply different paths toward anticrime legislation, making it difficult for President Clinton to steer a bill onto the fast track.

Moreover, when the president does get a crime package to sign, it isn't likely to reflect much influence from his top crime fighter, Attorney General Janet Reno.

"She hasn't been much of a player," said one congressional staff member involved in the legislation. "The Justice Department has been pretty much out of it. The White House has been even more absent."

In her travels, Ms. Reno has used the bully pulpit of her office to tout crime-prevention strategies — including prenatal care. Despite some discussions held by Ms. Reno and department officials with the Senate, prevention appears to have gotten short shrift in the amended omnibus crime bill that the Senate will vote on today.

Litany of New Punishments

Instead, the legislation is loaded with new punishments, including expanded death penalties and mandatory minimum sentences — two penalty categories the attorney general doesn't favor.

For example, the Senate bill would:

- Strike provisions repealing mandatory minimum sentences and increase sentences for criminals who used firearms during crimes.

- Impose mandatory prison sentences on those convicted of using a gun during a violent state crime or an offense involving drugs, and the death penalty for homicides with guns, which are generally state crimes now, even if capital punishment isn't legal in the state where the murder occurred.

- Mandate life imprisonment for those convicted of a third violent state crime or federal offense, as long as each felony

carries a sentence of five years or more.

In September, the Justice Department persuaded Senate Democrats to drop a provision that would have allowed the death penalty for drug kingpins, even if they hadn't been directly implicated in a death. About a dozen provisions calling for new mandatory minimum sentences for repeat offenders and those who use firearms in narcotic or violent crimes also were dropped at Ms. Reno's suggestion.

Since then, mandatory minimum sentences have been added to the Senate legislation, without a peep from Ms. Reno. And Sen. Alphonse D'Amato (R., N.Y.) plans to reintroduce the drug-kingpin amendment when the Senate reconvenes.

"We really haven't made any public statements" about the death penalty and sentencing provisions, said Justice Department spokeswoman Julie Anbender. But she said Ms. Reno has been active on gun-control issues, a point that some House and Senate staff members dispute.

Some measures in the Senate bill allow the members to sound tough on crime, but will likely have little impact on street crime. Despite huffing and puffing in Congress, crime is a local issue. Federal offenses make up only 5% of the nation's crime.

Nonetheless, the bill introduced by Sen. Joseph Biden, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, would provide procedures necessary to carry out the death penalty in homicides of numerous federal officials, including federal real estate inspectors, claims inspectors, game wardens and poultry inspectors. About 50 new death penalties are provided for in the Senate's legislation. It also would permit the government to use classified information to deport suspected terrorists who wouldn't be told what information was used against them.

House Takes Opposite Tack

Meanwhile, rather than pushing one big crime bill, the House has passed and is considering several separate measures. Unlike the Senate bill, the focus isn't on punishment. Measures that the House has

approved would authorize funding for inmate drug treatment and programs to reduce youth-gang activities and drug use.

The House approach to anticrime legislation is more in keeping with the views espoused by Ms. Reno. Yet even here, her influence has been minimal. It was Congressional Black Caucus members and freshman legislators who encouraged Rep. Jack Brooks, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, to break up the House's omnibus crime bill and drop harsh punishment provisions.

One area that is a clear priority for President Clinton is fulfilling his campaign promise to put more cops on the street. The Senate would fund 100,000 additional officers, the House 50,000. As popular as this effort is generally, some police association officials are skeptical.

The federal funding for additional cops authorized by the measures must be matched by local governments that are already cash-poor. The problem isn't a lack of recruits, but a lack of money to pay them. In addition, the limited federal funding would run out after a few years, leaving the localities holding the tab.

"The downsizing of the military has given us thousands of good applicants," said Bud Meeks, executive director of the National Sheriffs Association. But "it takes money to take all these people on board... we don't have the dollars for them," he said.

The problem isn't just salaries, which the federal funding would partly cover, Mr. Meeks said. If an additional 100,000 cops make just one arrest each week, the criminal justice system would explode unless funding also provided for prosecutors and probation officers, he said. There are provisions for additional prison space, Mr. Meeks said, but planning and construction take several years, while additional police officers could be on the streets in six months.

Moreover, an increase in hiring doesn't necessarily lower crime. Justice Department statistics show that Washington has far more locally hired officers — 74 per 10,000 residents — than any other U.S. city. The second-highest rate is 50 per 10,000 Highland Park, Mich., residents. Yet, violence is so bad in the nation's capital that Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly recently asked President Clinton for authority to call out the National Guard. The request was denied.

From Boston Globe Page 11

Weld, Budd tell GOP governors party should jump on crime issue

By Peter J. Howe
GLOBE STAFF

PHOENIX — Gov. Weld and former federal prosecutor Wayne A. Budd of Boston yesterday offered the nation's Republican governors a battery of ideas to battle crime and score politically — including proposals for gun control that proved less than universally welcomed by the GOP crowd.

"We should jump on the crime issue next year," Weld told the Republican Governors Association meeting here, outlining many of the anticrime proposals he has had little or no success getting through the Democrat-dominated Legislature in Massachusetts.

Among the recommendations were abolishing parole, setting mandatory minimum sentences for using a gun to commit a felony or trafficking in illegal guns, banning gun ownership by people younger than 21, and limiting handgun purchases to one a month.

Budd, a former US attorney for Massachusetts and No. 3 official in the Justice Department who is now a senior partner with Goodwin, Procter & Hoar in Boston, was even more blunt in urging GOP governors — many from the West and South who oppose gun control — to support tighter restrictions on firearms.

"Anyone who claims that the easy availability of guns prevents more crime than it creates is either willfully blind or dishonest," Budd said. "Gun control can be a winner politically, but even if it isn't, we should still support it."

Reflecting divisions among Republican governors over the issue, Mississippi Gov. Kirk Fordice said he

generally supported Weld and Budd but added "amendment No. 2" of the US Constitution on the right to bear arms "still says exactly what it says. That's got to be worked into this equation as well."

Virginia Gov.-elect George Allen said many of his crime proposals mirror Weld's recommendations but said he rejects Weld's plan to ban some assault weapons.

"In Virginia, I know that only about 2 percent of all crimes using a firearm were using this kind" of weapon, Allen said.

Allen said he would urge other states to adopt a Virginia program allowing gun dealers to make an instant check of prospective gun buyers' criminal backgrounds.

National political consultant Ed Goetz, president of the Washington-based Torrance Group, briefed the governors with poll results suggesting politically advantageous approaches, but noted that in recent surveys the two parties are "statistically even" in terms of voters' perceptions of which party can do a better job of fighting crime.

Budd told Republicans they can make headway with minority voters next year by pushing anticrime platforms. Citing Jesse Jackson's recent well-received efforts among blacks to highlight the impact of black-on-black crime, Budd said, "Voters of color are tougher on crime than the average voter. This is precisely the vein that Jesse Jackson is trying to tap into."

"If Jesse Jackson is using Republican themes to address the crime issue, then all of us should know how important and effective our message can be in 1994 across the board," Budd said.

Scholars' Advice and New Campaign Help the President Hit His Old Stride

By THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16 — On the evening of Friday, Nov. 5, with commentators grumbling about a White House in disarray, with a crucial trade vote looming, and with the overdue health care legislation still in draft form, President Clinton invited a dozen scholars to his home to pick apart his Presidency and help him set things right.

The group of political scientists, intellectuals and Presidential scholars, like Richard Neustadt of Harvard and William Julius Wilson of the University of Chicago, gathered in the White House dining room. According to participants, it was a no-holds-barred session, with the President taking notes on the back of his dinner menu.

The sociologists hammered on the importance of jobs to restore structure and discipline in the lives of black youths. From the political theorists came the message that the Clinton Presidency still lacked broad, unifying themes and that Mr. Clinton had to articulate more clearly the larger moral purposes of his Presidency.

That, the group agreed, meant

making the point that the crime issue is not only about fear of physical violence but also about the disintegration of the moral tissue that ties communities together. On the North American Free Trade Agreement, it meant stressing that the pact was not just about trade and tariffs, or even jobs, but about America's willingness and ability to tackle the future with confidence.

Rising Above Frustration

From the Presidential historians came the argument that the Mr. Clinton had to get used to being frustrated: Washington may be mean, the press may be cynical, but the President had to rise above it and refuse to be immobilized by it. He should regard his Presidency not just as a series of legislative contests, they said, but as a pulpit from which to exercise moral leadership.

"The dinner was important," said his top political adviser, George Stephanopoulos.

Ever since then, Mr. Clinton seems to have been hell-bent to reinvigorate his Presidency. Indeed, Mr. Clinton's almost obsessive campaign to secure passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement, coupled with his impassioned speech to black leaders about crime last week in Memphis, seems to have brought him brought him back to some of the core themes that separated him from other Democratic candidates and helped him to get elected.

It is not surprising that Mr. Clinton seems to be rediscovering his voice thanks to the heat of the campaign over Nafta, which has pitted the President against a large, old-line segment of his own party: organized labor.

Throughout the election campaign last year he always seemed at his most pointed, and always most clearly defining of his own political identity, when doing combat with traditional Democrats. Whether it was preaching tolerance to orthodox Jews in Brooklyn, or nonviolence to supporters of Sister Souljah, or the virtues of the trade agreement to the A.F.L.-C.I.O., before the Michigan primary it worked, however calculated the sermon may have been.

But those themes at times seemed to get lost or overwhelmed by other issues in the first year of the Clinton Presidency. Homosexuals in the military, the budget fights, Lani Guinier, stops and starts on health care, Somalia — they all seemed to drown them out.

Old Democrats Vs. New

Now, in the last few weeks, partly by accident, partly by design, the President has returned to them with vigor. The passion with which he spoke in recent days seemed to remind not only the public, but also Mr. Clinton himself, of what his Presidency was supposed to be about.

What Mr. Clinton has done in his speech on crime and in his fight for the agreement on free trade with Mexico and Canada, said Al From, chairman of the Democratic Leadership Council, "is remind people about what exactly are the differences between new and old Democrats."

"Both believe in progressive programs," Mr. From said in an interview today, "but the new Democrats emphasize family, responsibility, work and reciprocal obligation — because without reinforcing those values, you can't make progressive programs and policies popular with the wider public."

On the trade agreement, Mr. From

said, "three quarters of the Democratic caucus believe Clinton is right, but they are afraid to vote yes."

"Winning on that vote tells them you can be for Nafta, you can go against the old infrastructure of the party and win," he added. "It is an important fault line. If he wins on Nafta the next such fight on something like this will be no contest."

After only tentatively supporting the accord during the campaign, Mr. Clinton has made it an all-consuming issue. He complained to a group of visitors the other day that his ear hurt from talking on the telephone all week to members of Congress.

Representative Henry B. Gonzalez, the Texas Democrat who heads the House Banking Committee, said Mr. Clinton was campaigning harder for the free-trade pact than any President had pushed a bill in a dozen years. "I haven't seen anything like this since the 1981 tax cut," he said, referring to Ronald Reagan's legislation.

The Symbolic Messages

What is it about the trade accord that has so engaged Mr. Clinton?

"This debate has become so emotional," Labor Secretary Robert B. Reich said in an interview. "Because Nafta is a symbol of the almost subliminal debate going on in the American psyche about whether our kids

A Democrat who is at his best challenging other Democrats.

will live better than we are. Whether we should put up walls and try to protect what we have or embrace change in hopes that it will lead to something better.

"If this country has had a core icon it was upward mobility — the notion that your kids will live better than you will. It was the moral equivalent of the frontier in the 19th century. After 15 years of dwindling incomes and then the end of the cold war there is a real sense of, 'Where are we going? What is our national character? Where are our borders? Should we embrace the rest of the world or build walls?'"

Throughout the first year, Mr. Clinton's core defining issues "got overwhelmed," his political adviser Mr. Stephanopoulos acknowledged. That he is now getting back to that core is partly due to what his dinner guests and others have told him: that he has to stop engaging in issue proliferation. In part, it is also because he has gotten through the budget fight and survived a series of self-inflicted stumbles that dominated public discourse.

"It is sort of like the compulsories in figure skating," said Mr. Stephanopoulos, adding that now "he feels freer to speak about some of the broader themes that were the free style competition the audience was waiting for all along."

The question now is whether Mr. Clinton can sustain it. A lot will depend on tomorrow's vote and the momentum that will flow from it. But a lot will also depend on his ability and willingness to take command, define the issues his way, and not allow a cluttered agenda to again overwhelm his own voice.

Robert D. Novak

Clinton vs. Reno ✓

As the Senate neared passage of a hard-line crime bill last week, senior officials at the Justice Department gathered to ask themselves: How do we become a player in this game?

It was too late. Attorney General Janet Reno and her aides have been on the sidelines as Democratic senators toughened up on what suddenly is the hottest domestic issue. The Senate's emphasis is on more police and more prisons—an approach ridiculed by liberal politicians, condemned by sociologists and now quietly disdained by the Reno Justice Department.

That poses a dilemma for Bill Clinton. While the politically attuned president understands the resonance of the crime issue with the American people, he flinches at publicly disagreeing with an attorney general whose personal appeal is unique in a drab Cabinet. But that he will resist Reno's reflexive liberalism was demonstrated by how he danced away from her in a ludicrous minuet over child pornography.

Crime, barely showing on the political radar during the economics-driven 1992 campaign, was thrust forth by the horror of the Florida tourist killings. One private national poll shows crime first on the list of domestic concerns. A decade of pent-up personal insecurity felt by Americans finally has exploded politically.

That realization brought urgency to the biennial congressional debate on crime. The Justice Department was not engaged, but liberal Democratic Sen. John Kerry provided the drive for more police. Another liberal, Senate Budget Committee Chairman Jim Sasser, found the \$15 billion needed for 100,000 additional police officers and more prisons. Senate enthusiasm crested for crime fighter Adam Walinsky's proposed police corps, with the approval of his decade-old project aimed at a new brand of cops.

It was at this point that President Clinton's solicitor general in the Justice Department, Drew Days, filed a brief with the Supreme Court advocating a lenient and libertarian interpretation of child pornography statutes.

On Nov. 1, the court agreed to a lower court hearing on the Justice Department's contention that current law applies only to materials showing minors "lasciviously exhibiting their . . . genital or pubic areas." On Nov. 4, the Senate in a rare 100-to-0 vote passed a resolution repudiating the Reno-Days narrow interpretation.

On Nov. 5, the president sent a boilerplate letter to the conservative Morality in Media organization commemorating National Pornography Awareness Week. Clinton said he was "heartened" by the Justice Department's endeavors "to enforce obscenity and child exploitation laws."

In fact, presidential aides were not at all happy about the Justice Department's porn retreat. On Nov. 10, Clinton wrote Reno: "I fully agree with the Senate about what the proper scope of the child pornography law should be." He ordered the attorney general to prepare new legislation to stiffen anti-child porn laws.

Conservatives suspect a ruse: Clinton comes over as staunchly anti-porn by

proposing to enact what—until the Reno Justice Department intervened—everybody thought already was the law. The Senate's cosponsors of the 100-to-0 resolution—Republicans William Roth and Charles Grassley—plus GOP Rep. Chris Smith all fear a new bill will free defendants in pending pornography cases.

This Republican critique overlooks sentiment at the White House. The president's advisers are apprehensive about the soft line on crime at the Justice Department. They see Clinton's stand on child porn as a first step toward separating him from the Justice Department.

The Senate's hard line on crime is not reciprocated in the House. Stands by the monolithic black and Hispanic caucuses against the bill's extension of capital punishment endanger the whole measure.

Many House Democrats were not in tune when Senate President Pro Tem Robert Byrd heralded Friday's passage of the crime bill as ending "an era of sociological legerdemain and psychobabble." Janet Reno does not agree. Bill Clinton seems to be signaling that, as a "New Democrat," he does.

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Clinton Renews Anti-Crime Theme in Los Angeles

By Ruth Marcus
Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 21—President Clinton today took his campaign against crime to a Catholic church in a Hispanic neighborhood here, this time invoking the memories of Hispanic labor leader Cesar Chavez along with Catholics John F. and Robert F. Kennedy to decry the state of American society.

Eight days ago, speaking to black church leaders in Memphis at the site of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s last speech, Clinton asked what the slain civil rights leader would have thought had he remained alive to witness the wave of crime and violence sweeping the country today.

Today, before an audience at Our Lady Help of Christians parochial school here, Clinton picked up that theme again. He cited a front-page

story in today's Los Angeles Times about a 2-year-old girl killed nearby in what police said was the cross-fire between two gangs, one of which allegedly included her mother.

"Our disregard for life in this country is seen coast to coast," Clinton said. In middle-class Pasadena, "which used to have a very different sort of image, they are gripped, haunted by the thought that three children were killed on Halloween—teenagers."

What, Clinton asked, reworking the point he had made about King, would Chavez have thought about such violence?

"Think how horrified he would be, God rest his soul, if he were still here today to pick up the paper and read about the 2-year-old child being killed," the president said. "He was a devotee of nonviolence and self-sacrifice, not violence and self-indulgence."

Clinton also noted that Monday will be the 30th anniversary of the assassination of "our nation's only Roman Catholic president," John F. Kennedy.

"Think how he would feel after having spent his time as president reaching out to Latin America . . . trying to help improve opportunities for Americans, to think of all the horrible things . . . happening to our young people in this country," Clinton said.

"Think about how Robert Kennedy, who flew to California and helped Chavez break a 26-day fast, would feel here today."

Chavez, Robert Kennedy and their supporters "marched so that these children could have opportunity, not danger. And we have to give it to them," Clinton said to applause.

Clinton said that Senate passage of the crime bill, which will help pay for 100,000 new police officers, and

the Brady bill, which imposes a five-day waiting period on handgun purchases, are positive steps but that ultimately government cannot provide the solution.

"All these things will help, but in the end, my fellow Americans, we have to take our communities back—community by community, neighborhood by neighborhood, block by block, family by family, child by child," he said.

Clinton traveled to California on his way back from a meeting with Asian leaders in Seattle, stopping in San Francisco Saturday night for a fund-raiser for Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D) and then heading here for the church event and a meeting with survivors of the recent fires.

As Clinton pointedly noted in his speech here, this is his seventh trip as president to California, a state that gave him 54 electoral votes last year and will be critical to his reelection.

Government Has Massive Pension Fund Shortfall

Military, Civilian Plans Lack \$1 Trillion

By David A. Vise
Washington Post Staff Writer

While the federal government has pressured corporations to fully fund their pension plans, it has allowed the retirement programs for federal civilian and military employees to become underfunded by more than \$1 trillion.

The shortfall in these government pension plans has remained largely hidden, experts said, even though it poses risks to taxpayers and federal workers. Although the pensions have been promised, the \$1 trillion in underfunding is a taxpayer obligation that is not reflected in federal deficit figures.

"It is huge," said Dallas Salisbury, president of the Washington-based Employee Benefit Research Institute. "There is a burden being left for future taxpayers. Shouldn't taxpayers be protected from hidden promises?"

The government today will release its annual list of the nation's worst pension offenders, putting the spotlight on 50 companies that have promised employees billions of dol-

lars more in pensions than they have set aside to pay for them. The Clinton administration recently submitted legislation that would force companies to beef up their pension plans, and Congress has held numerous hearings on the issue.

But no similar effort is being made to deal with federal pension problems, provoking the ire of those who see a double standard.

"This is a typical example of how Congress imposes these requirements on the private sector but doesn't do the same for itself," said Jim Kaitz, vice president of the Washington-based Financial Executives Institute.

"It is hypocritical," added Sid Taylor, research director of the National Taxpayers Union, who described federal pensions as "an awesome liability facing the American taxpayer."

The cost of paying civil service and military pensions this year is projected at \$62.6 billion, making it one of the larger federal entitlement programs in the budget.

Despite the lack of adequate advance funding, there is virtually no

See PENSIONS, A10, Col. 2

Abroad at Home

ANTHONY LEWIS

Where Is Janet Reno?

BOSTON

When Janet Reno became Attorney General, she spoke critically of Congress's recent tendency to impose mandatory minimum sentences for crimes. Agreeing with most judges and penologists, she said such inflexible rules distorted the criminal justice process and filled prisons with small-time drug offenders.

Now the Senate has passed a crime bill stuffed with new mandatory minimums. The bill even insists that states impose mandatory sentences if they want to use new regional prisons that the Federal Government will build for them.

Silence on the crime bill.

And where was Attorney General Reno while the Senate was taking these retrograde, self-defeating steps? Neither she nor her aides testified on the subject. They had some private conversations with senators, but her voice was far from what we would have expected: strong and forthright.

Ms. Reno has also spoken out in the past against federalizing the criminal law — making crimes that have always been handled by state authorities into Federal violations. The new Senate bill does that wholesale.

One provision, proposed by Senator Alfonse D'Amato of New York, turns into Federal offenses all state crimes involving a gun that has crossed state lines. There are about 600,000 such crimes every year in this country, and that is only one of many federalizing provisions.

Turning traditionally local matters into Federal crimes promises what senators know cannot be delivered. Overworked F.B.I. officials and U.S. Attorneys cannot handle more than a minuscule percentage of the new cases put in their jurisdiction.

The real result of wholesale federalization is to diminish state officials' sense of responsibility to deal with crimes on which Federal authorities are in fact unlikely to act. It also greatly increases the discretion of Federal investigators and prosecutors, allowing them to choose one case out of a thousand.

In short, turning everything into a

Federal case is likely to hurt, not help, the fight against crime. Making 50 new death penalties will not help either. But senators evidently do not care about such realities. They vote for anything that looks "tough on crime."

Senate and House staff members who deal with legal issues counted on the Justice Department to bring some rationality into the debate. But they say they got no help from Attorney General Reno.

"The Justice Department's silence has been deafening," a senior Senate staff lawyer told me. On the House side, a staff member said: "They've been nowhere — zilch. There has been no leadership."

The Senate crime bill is full of feel-good provisions that sound wonderfully "tough" but are unworkable or, worse, unconstitutional. Senator Robert Dole, the Republican leader, added one providing that in sex crime trials the prosecutor may use a witness who says the defendant did something similar years before — even though he was not convicted or even charged then.

Another section of the Senate bill makes a radical change in immigration law. It would allow the Government to deport aliens lawfully resident in this country without telling them the charges against them or who made the charges. The Attorney General could move to use secret proceedings and secret evidence by asserting that the alien was a threat to national security.

Basic ideas of due process were overwhelmed by politicians playing on fear of "alien terrorists." The proposal for secret deportation proceedings had not even had hearings. But when Republican senators proposed it, Democrats just gave way.

The most publicized provision of the new crime bill authorizes \$22 billion for more police and prisons. That sounds sensible, but again there is less there than meets the eye.

The money would have to be found in the budget from so-called discretionary spending: for such things as Head Start and drug treatment programs. To build more prisons we shall be cutting our already inadequate programs to prevent social illness.

When Congress comes back in January, the Senate bill will have to be reconciled with much narrower House measures. Before then, will anyone say out loud that posturing will not cure the crime problem? Janet Reno, for example? □

Clinton Again Urges End to Violence

By STEVEN A. HOLMES

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 21 — President Clinton made the trip today from a lofty conference on international trade to a school playground in East Los Angeles to tell a predominantly Hispanic audience to concentrate on what they could do for themselves to fight crime.

Riding on the Senate's sudden passage of the Brady bill the night before, Mr. Clinton returned to a theme he sounded passionately last week before a crowd of black ministers in a church in Memphis. Invoking the memory of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Mr. Clinton plead for blacks to take more responsibility to end urban violence. Today, in front of a predominantly Hispanic audience in East Los Angeles and using virtually the same words, Mr. Clinton raised the image of Cesar Chavez, the late union leader, to call for an end to the killing.

"Think how horrified he would be, God rest his soul, if he was still here today and could pick up the paper and read about the 2-year-old child being killed," the President said, referring to a report in the local news of a child who died on Saturday as a result of gang-related violence. "He was a devotee of nonviolence and self-sacrifice, not violence and self-indulgence."

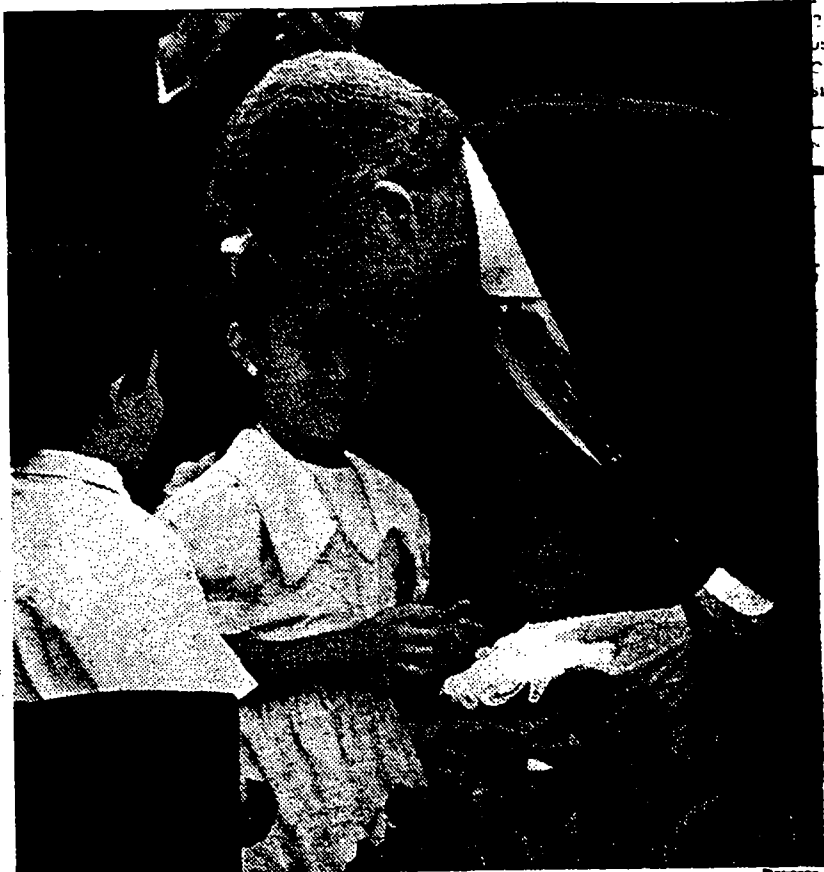
Mr. Clinton cited the passage by Congress of the Brady bill, which mandates a five-day waiting period for the purchase of handguns, and the anti-crime bill, that will put 100,000 more police officers on the streets, and the vote by the Senate for a measure to ban so-called military-style semiautomatic weapons.

"All these things will help," the President said. "But in the end, my fellow Americans, we have to take our communities back, community by community, neighborhood by neighborhood, block by block, family, child by child."

Mr. Clinton's remarks appear to be part of a new effort to emphasize anti-crime efforts, and to return to themes of personal responsibility that won strong support in the campaign.

"We are doing everything we can to try to give you the tools you need to try to make your community safer," Mr. Clinton said, punctuating his points by pounding on the podium. "But we have to make up our minds that we will no longer tolerate children killing; children having guns and being better armed than police officers; neighborhoods unsafe. We can do better."

Today's setting was a marked contrast from the rarefied world of international diplomacy and global trade issues that Mr. Clinton left behind in



President Clinton expressing his thanks yesterday to Juan Monte and Danielle Itiene after they presented him with a bouquet of roses at Our Lady of Christians church in East Los Angeles.

President urges a Hispanic audience to work for peace.

Seattle. Even with Mr. Clinton's attempts to keep his meeting with leaders of Pacific Rim countries casual, it still carried the pomp and trappings of a major international meeting.

In contrast, his speech today took place in the playground of a modest parochial school in a working class neighborhood in East Los Angeles, about two miles from the gleaming office towers of downtown Los Angeles in a working class neighborhood of one family homes, many neat and tidy, some ramshackle.

The speech at Our Lady Help of Christians school conveyed a sense of

political rallies in the early stages of a primary campaign — underscoring the importance the President and his aides place on California in 1996. Mr. Clinton's speech in Los Angeles, the meeting earlier in the day in Pasadena with victims of the recent brush fires and a fund raiser he attended in San Francisco late last night marked the seventh time he has visited the state in the 10 months he has been in office. He intends to return again during the first week in December.

In the meeting with 26 fire victims in a Pasadena church, the President listened to their stories of largely futile attempts to rescue their homes, then expressed his sympathy.

"I watched while this was going on," Mr. Clinton said. "I never saw anything that moved so fast. I was amazed."

Mr. Clinton's session with the fire victims, which lasted about 40 minutes, was intended more to demonstrate his support than to offer specific help, and indeed, Mr. Clinton told those present he did not know that where was anything he could do to help.

Clinton Calls on L.A. Crowd to Fight Crime

■ **Violence:** 'Take our communities back,' he says in Eastside appearance. He also meets with fire victims.

By DAVID LAUTER
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Invoking the memories of Cesar Chavez and John F. Kennedy—and taking note of the death of a 2-year-old girl shot in an apparent gang-related incident—President Clinton appealed Sunday to people on the Eastside to help him "take our communities back" from crime and violence.

"We have to make up our minds that we will no longer tolerate children killing children, children having guns being better armed than police officers. We are going to have to do better," Clinton told a crowd of several hundred gathered under gray skies in the courtyard of Our Lady Help of Christians School in the Lincoln Heights area.

In recent weeks Clinton increasingly has been speaking of crime, linking the nation's high level of urban violence to the breakdown of families in many neighborhoods and the absence of jobs in depressed urban regions.

Last weekend, speaking to an audience of black ministers in Memphis, Tenn., Clinton gave a long and impassioned speech on the subject, invoking the memory of Martin Luther King Jr. in appealing for help in pulling distressed communities back together. Sunday's speech to a largely Latino crowd was similar, albeit shorter, and substituted Chavez, Kennedy and the late President's brother, Robert F. Kennedy, for King. Once again Clinton stressed

that the government can do only part of the job in reducing urban crime.

Clinton stopped in Los Angeles on his return from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Seattle.

After introductions by Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina and Cardinal Roger M.

Please see CLINTON, A5

CLINTON

Continued from A1

Mahony, Clinton told the crowd that Congress is close to passage of an anti-crime bill that embodies his campaign promise to provide money for communities to hire 100,000 additional police nationwide. The bill, he noted, would also ban the sale of many models of assault guns and prohibit minors from possessing handguns except under proper adult supervision.

Clinton also praised Congress for passing the Brady bill, which would impose a five-day waiting period for people buying handguns.

"All of these things will help," Clinton said, "but in the end, my fellow Americans, we have to take our communities back neighborhood by neighborhood, block by block, family by family, child by child."

"Our disregard for life in this country can be seen coast to coast," Clinton said, telling the crowd of having read in *The Times* on Sunday morning of the death of "a 2-year-old child killed . . . because her mother took her on an expedition in which the gang her mother was associated with got in a fight with another gang. And random shooting into their car felled no adult, just a 2-year-old innocent child."

Chavez, Clinton told the crowd, struggled to obtain "opportunity, not danger" for future generations. "Think how horrified he would be, God rest his soul, if he were here today, to pick up the paper and read about a 2-year-old child being killed."

In the case Clinton referred to, Bianca Hernandez died Saturday at Childrens Hospital of Los Angeles after being shot in the head Friday night while riding in a car with her mother in the Echo Park neighborhood, about 2½ miles from where Clinton spoke. Police said the shooting resulted from a gang showdown between a group of armed men and the women in the car, although members of the girl's family have disputed that description.

Chavez, like President Kennedy and Robert Kennedy, "marched so that these children could have opportunity, not danger, and we have to give it to them," Clinton said.

But repairing communities requires more than just law enforcement, he added. "We cannot repair the troubled wounds of this country simply by making ourselves safer on our streets. We must also

give our young people more to say yes to.

"Not only faith and family, but work. Work is required to organize society," Clinton said, telling the receptive audience that his successful fight for the North American Free Trade Agreement with Mexico and Canada will bring more jobs to Southern California and forge closer ties with Mexico.

"Mexico is our partner in the future whether anyone likes it or not, and we have to grow together," Clinton said, drawing one of the loudest rounds of applause of his day.

Earlier in the day, Clinton worshipped at Pasadena Presbyterian Church, where the pastor, the Rev. Dean Thompson, praised last week's speech in Memphis as "a wonderful sermon" that had the "promise of becoming one of the most significant messages by a President in the second half of this century."

While at the church, Clinton visited for more than 30 minutes with a group of families whose homes were burned in the recent wildfires.

Seated on a couch in front of a large fireplace in the church lounge, Clinton heard tales of rescues and concerns about rebuilding and of further damage from anticipated mudslides.

One resident, Vicki Duwe, told the President of awakening at 6 o'clock the morning of the fire and driving up the canyon to rescue her father. After gathering mementos at her father's house, she stopped to check in on two neighbors in their 90s, Doc and Mae Hamilton. Doc Hamilton, 96, was unwilling to leave and seemed unaware of the danger, she told Clinton. "So I asked him if he could square dance," caught his interest and "literally crossed my arms and do-si-doed Doc out into the car."

Another couple, Terry and Susan McGough, gave Clinton a campaign-style lapel button—one of a group they had picked up, charred, and kept as mementos of the fire. The buttons, which once bore the name of a racehorse trained by one of their neighbors, now resemble gray, charred stone. Clinton pinned the button to his suit and wore it later in the day to the Eastside church.

The button, he told the congregants there, "is just a charred reminder of the courage and the heroism" of people who had survived the fires. "I hope that their decency and courage in an emergency will inspire all the rest of us to do better."

NEW YORK — Americans now support gun control than oppose it, according to a new poll by Time Magazine and CNN broadcasting.

The survey also found a large segment of the U.S. public supports the gun control provisions of President Bill Clinton's "anti-crime" bill.

According to the poll's findings, 57 per cent favor gun control laws in general, up from 44 per cent when a similar poll was taken 10 years ago.

The number of people opposing gun control now stands at 36 per cent, compared with 50 per cent in 1983. The remainder of those polled were not sure on the issue.

The survey of 500 adults contacted by telephone and released Saturday had a margin of error of plus or minus 4.5 per cent.

LIBYA

Deadline rejected for bomb suspects

TUNIS — Libya has rejected a western deadline to hand over two of its citizens wanted in connection with the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland. The United States, Britain and France demanded last week that the men be turned over to the U.S. or Britain by Oct. 1 for trial. They said Libya faces further trade sanctions if it doesn't meet the deadline.

RWANDA

Red Cross blames bandits for end of food aid

KIGALI — The Red Cross has suspended shipments of food to as many as 200,000 people driven from their homes by three years of civil war. The people have food stocks for as long as 10 days and the agency hopes to resume its distribution before supplies are depleted. The agency complained that bandits, with the help of local authorities, were stealing food meant for the needy in the northeast.

CHINA

Political activist expelled to Hong Kong

HONG KONG — China has expelled a former political prisoner and prominent labor activist a day after he returned to the country after receiving medical treatment in the United States. Sunday in Hong Kong, Han Dongfang said Chinese security officers detained him, beat him and forced him across the border into the British colony on Saturday.

(From Citizen news services)

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The Washington Times

August 16, 1993, Monday, Final Edition

SECTION: Part A; TOP OF THE NEWS; NATION; Pg. A2

LENGTH: 165 words

HEADLINE: Poll finds support for gun control

BYLINE: FROM WIRE DISPATCHES AND STAFF REPORTS

DATELINE: NEW YORK

BODY: In a reversal of public sentiment of 10 years ago, more people now support gun control than oppose it, according to a new poll, which also found that a large segment of the American public supports the gun-control provisions of President Clinton's anti-crime bill.

Ninety-two percent of respondents in a poll conducted by Time magazine and CNN said they favored a five-day waiting period to check on a gun buyer's background, as called for by Mr. Clinton's package and the Brady Bill, while 8 percent opposed it.

According to the poll's findings, 57 percent favor gun-control laws in general, up from 44 percent when a similar poll was taken 10 years ago.

The number of persons opposing gun control now stands at 36 percent, compared with 50 percent in 1983. The remainder of those polled were not sure on the issue.

The survey of 500 adults contacted by telephone and released Saturday had a margin of error of plus or minus 4.5 percentage points.

The Associated Press

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August 15, 1993, Sunday, AM cycle

SECTION: Domestic News

LENGTH: 705 words

HEADLINE: Clinton Plays Bipartisan Golf, Then Switches to the Sax

BYLINE: By TERENCE HUNT, AP White House Correspondent

DATELINE: VAIL, Colo.

KEYWORD: Clinton

BODY: President Clinton began a multi-state vacation Saturday with a bipartisan golf match, expressing hopes that his administration can avoid the political polarization with Republicans that marked the first months of his presidency.

Clinton and golf pro Jack Nicklaus teamed up against former President Gerald Ford and Houston businessman Ken Lay at the Country Club of the Rockies golf course.

As they stopped their golf carts to pose for pictures, Clinton was asked about the significance of a Democratic president playing with a Republican. "It's the way I'm going to try to run the rest of my administration. I don't ever want the kind of polarization we had the last six months," Clinton said.

Not a single Republican voted for Clinton's \$496 billion package of tax increases and spending cuts that squeaked through Congress, and the GOP blocked Clinton's economic stimulus program. The president will need Republican support to get his health care program through Congress next year.

He said he also was counting on the GOP to back his anti-crime proposals.

Ford, who recently celebrated his 80th birthday, said: "We've got a few things where we have similar views, particularly NAFTA (the free-trade agreement among the United States, Canada and Mexico), which I think is a very critical issue for the country.

"I'll be as helpful as I possibly can," he said. But when asked his views about Clinton's budget, Ford said with a laugh: "I look down the road to the future. I don't talk about the past."

Asked about reports that Serbs are withdrawing from the mountains outside Sarajevo, Clinton said: "It's encouraging. I've not gotten my morning security briefing but as of yesterday afternoon we thought it was a legitimate report. I'm very hopeful." After a hectic two days of appearances in Colorado and California, Clinton arrived in Vail late Friday for a weekend of golf and rest with his wife Hillary and their daughter Chelsea. They are staying in a private home two doors down from Ford in Beaver Creek.

Accompanied by Ford and his wife Betty, the Clintons attended a performance by a touring group of the Bolshoi Ballet Academy of Moscow.

At the conclusion of the program, they went on stage at the urging of Madam Sophia Golovkina, director of the academy.

Hillary Rodham Clinton and Betty Ford tossed roses at a crowd of about 2,500.

The president later attended a reception that was held in a tent adjacent to the amphitheater. He received thunderous applause when he picked up a saxophone to play "My Funny Valentine."

Clinton will move his vacation headquarters to Fayetteville in northwestern Arkansas on Sunday or Monday, remaining there until Wednesday, with a side trip to Tulsa, Okla., on Monday for a speech to the National Governors Association.

After a night back in Washington, he'll fly to Massachusetts for an 11-day stay on Martha's Vineyard.

To minimize the demands on his vacation time, Clinton taped his weekly radio address Thursday rather than deliver it live Saturday.

In it, the president promoted his anti-crime package and urged Americans to try to influence fellow citizens who think they're above the law.

He said that more police, tougher criminal sentences, gun control and his handpicked trio of federal crime fighters - Attorney General Janet Reno, FBI Director-designate Louis Freeh and drug czar Lee Brown - can only do so much.

"Too many of our fellow citizens simply reject values like decency, order and the respect for the rule of law. Often we can yank people like that back to what is right and what is true," he said.

In his comments on the golf course, Clinton said he had gotten a good response from Republicans as well as Democrats to his anti-crime proposals, which call for putting up to 50,000 new police on the streets and opening federal "boot camps" for youthful offenders. The measure also would require a five-day waiting period before the purchase of a handgun.

"I think the American people will want to be heard on this," the president said. "There are cities in this country now where the average age of people committing murder has now dropped below 16. And I think there will be broad bipartisan support for this crime package."

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The Atlanta Journal and Constitution

August 15, 1993

SECTION: LOCAL NEWS; Section D; Page 9

LENGTH: 418 words

HEADLINE: Police rights bill to go before council Monday But politics could delay ethics proposal

BYLINE: By David Pendered STAFF WRITER

BODY: Atlanta police administrators would be required to provide to officers accused of misdeeds any files stemming from internal investigations into those allegations, under a bill to be introduced Monday at the Atlanta City Council.

A separate ethics bill, from the same sponsor, apparently will not come up for a vote Monday. Councilman Jabari Simama said he intends to hold his bill until after Labor Day in hopes of drumming up more support.

That timing makes it even more likely that ethics will become a central issue in the upcoming campaign for council president, which will pit incumbent Marvin Arrington against Mr. Simama and perhaps others.

Mr. Simama's so-called Police Bill of Rights also factors as an election issue. It is strongly supported by the International Brotherhood of Police Officers (IBPO), which on Thursday joined the Atlanta Labor Council in endorsing Mr. Simama.

"Mr. Arrington's arrogance toward police in the past was an issue in our decision, and the latest thing that had officers so upset was that he so vehemently opposed the ethics legislation," said Chip Warren, an Atlanta-based IBPO national vice president.

The survey of 500 adults contacted by telephone and released Saturday had a margin of error of plus or minus 4.5 percent.

As gun control sentiment has increased, poll respondents indicated that influence of the National Rifle Association, which opposes most gun-control legislation, is declining.

Thirty-nine percent of those polled thought the group had too much influence, a decline from 41 percent who gave that answer 10 years ago.

Thirty-three percent now believe the group has the right amount of influence, compared with 29 percent in 1983.

Sixty-five percent of those asked thought gun restrictions are a necessary part of legislation to control crime. Another 28 percent thought anti-crime legislation did not need gun control laws. The rest were unsure.

The poll found 70 percent thought current laws make it too easy for people to buy guns.

Among other findings in the poll: 80 percent think adding more police will lower violent crime, and two-thirds say the same about extending the death penalty to cover more crimes.

The survey showed 30 percent of Americans think suburban crime is as serious as urban crime- double the number who said that was true five years ago. Fifty-seven percent think the government can do something significant about the problem.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: August 16, 1993

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Newsday

August 15, 1993, Sunday, ALL EDITIONS

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 18

LENGTH: 112 words

HEADLINE: Clinton Targets Crime

BYLINE: Compiled from News Dispatches

KEYWORD: BILL CLINTON; CRIME; PROPOSED; UNITED STATES; LAW; SENTENCE; GUNS;

BODY: Touting his anti-crime package, President Bill Clinton yesterday urged Americans to look out for fellow citizens who think they're above the law and "yank people like that back to what is right."

The president, in his weekly radio address, said more police, tougher criminal sentences, gun control and his trio of federal crime fighters - Attorney General Janet Reno, FBI Director-designate Louis Freeh and drug czar Lee Brown - can only do so much.

"The power of every individual to influence those around them is also very strong, and it's also a power we must turn to if we're going to turn the crime problems around," Clinton said in the pretaped address.

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THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

August 15, 1993 Sunday, 3 STAR

SECTION: EDITORIAL; Pg. G2

LENGTH: 458 words

HEADLINE: DENIAL WOULD BE A CRIME; THE CLINTON ANTI-CRIME BILL OFFERS NEEDED, WELL-CONSIDERED PROPOSALS. LET'S NOT

HAVE PARTISANSHIP HOLD UP THE MEANS TO A SAFER SOCIETY.

BYLINE: Teal

KEYWORD: FEDERAL LEGISLATION CONGRESS BILL CLINTON APPEAL CRIME US GUN CONTROL

BODY: President Clinton's proposals to help Americans fight crime are needed and welcome.

And for the first time in a long while, they have a good chance of passing Congress. It helps that both the president and the majority of Congress are from the same political party.

But beyond the politics, the most important thing that the Clinton administration could do - and did - was to work out controversial details of the anti-crime measure in advance with the people in the trenches in the war against crime - prosecutors and attorneys general.

Last year, a similar anti-crime bill proposed by President Bush stalled in Congress because of a proposal that aimed to limit the federal appeals that a death row inmate can file. Attorneys general from around the country complained that Democrats in Congress had rewritten the legislation in a way that actually could lengthen the appeals process. The bill ended up dying amid partisan finger-pointing.

Mr. Clinton's proposal now aims to limit the federal habeas corpus petition - the last step in the appeals process - to within 60 days of an inmate's last appeal. Only if new evidence is found can a new appeal be filed, which certainly is warranted and fair in a case in which a person has been sentenced to die.

The president also wants Congress to make federal dollars available for 50,000 more police officers to be put in communities that have been wracked by crime. That, too, is needed.

There's one element of the package that's sure to stir up controversy once again, however: a five-day waiting period for gun purchases.

The powerful National Rifle Association is crying foul about a five-day waiting period, but polls consistently show that a large majority of Americans see waiting periods as a fair way to ensure responsibility in gun ownership.

Besides, the federal waiting period would apply only to pistols. People could still buy a rifle or shotgun on the spot.

The aim of a waiting period is to stop hoodlums from walking into a shop and buying a pistol, which is frequently the choice of criminals because it can be concealed. It also might help "cool off" hotheads who now can run to a gun shop in some states and simply buy a gun to settle a dispute.

Several states, including Florida, already have waiting periods for pistol sales. Florida has a three-day wait, and it has not been an unfair burden on its citizens.

Unfortunately, some Senate Republicans have vowed to filibuster the anti-crime legislation because of the waiting period.

After the partisan wrangling over the budget, it would be a welcome change indeed if both parties could work together to pass an anti-crime bill that aims to bring peace of mind to law-abiding Americans.

Proprietary to the United Press International 1993

August 15, 1993, Sunday, BC cycle

SECTION: Regional News

DISTRIBUTION: Wisconsin

LENGTH: 298 words

HEADLINE: Doyle praises proposed federal crime bill

DATELINE: ASHWAUBENON, Wis.

KEYWORD: WI-CRIMEBILL

BODY: Attorney General James Doyle says President Clinton's anti-crime bill will help state and local law enforcement and corrections officials and will not be just another paternalistic federal initiative.

Doyle, addressing the Wisconsin Sheriff's Association Saturday, said juvenile crime is the biggest challenge facing the state justice and corrections systems.

The plan calls for federal subsidies to place 55,000 more police officers on the streets, with some of the assistance specifically targeted at law enforcement in rural areas.

It also calls for the construction of new regional federal prisons, including some military-style "boot camp prisons," which would take state prison inmates to ease overcrowding in state prison systems.

Doyle said the state's juvenile code does not adequately deal with juvenile offenders.

The result, Doyle said, is a system that juveniles do not take seriously, resulting in high rates of recidivism. Doyle said the state's juvenile code needs to be rewritten to accommodate the increasing seriousness of offenses committed by juveniles.

Doyle called for construction of regional secure detention centers for juveniles. He said many juvenile court judges are forced to release juveniles who should be locked up because of the lack of adequate facilities in their counties.

The president of the Wisconsin Sheriffs' Association, Kenosha County Sheriff Alan Kehl, said most sheriffs in the state are not opposed to giving general law enforcement powers to the Wisconsin State Patrol.

Some sheriffs had earlier objected to the move, saying it is a step toward developing a state police force but Kehl said most rural counties have a shortage of deputies, and sheriffs welcome the presence of state troopers.

PAGE 21

LEVEL 1 - 13 OF 54 STORIES

Proprietary to the United Press International 1993

August 15, 1993, Sunday, BC cycle

SECTION: Washington News

LENGTH: 519 words

HEADLINE: Separate Senate vote on gun control bill backed

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

KEYWORD: US-CRIMEBILL

BODY: The Senate should have a stand-alone vote on the Brady bill, separating the gun control proposal from broader anti-crime legislation and likely improving its chances for passage, two Senate leaders said Sunday.

Chairman Joseph Biden, D-Del., of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, its senior Republican, differed on the wisdom of the Brady bill, but said it should not become a parliamentary obstacle to acting on President Clinton's broader anticrime legislation.

The Brady bill requires a five-day waiting period before a handgun can be purchased while authorities check the background of the buyer. Proponents say it is a reasonable time to determine if the buyer has a criminal record or has a history of mental problems. Critics say it is an improper restriction on the legal right of an individual to possess a firearm.

The bill is named for James Brady, the White House press secretary seriously wounded in the 1981 assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan.

Biden and Hatch, interviewed on the CBS program "Face the Nation," pledged to seek cooperation on the broader bill, where they have sharper differences on the issue of death row appeals.

"There is no doubt in my mind that the Brady bill will have to be brought up separately, and if it is then it can have its day in court," Hatch said. "It may very well pass.

"If it does, those of us who disagree with it will have to live with it, but we'll be able to point out in future years what a bust it is."

"Yes, I think we can pass it separately," Biden said. "My hope, and I spoke to the president about this, is we pass the Brady bill first. All we are talking about is keeping guns out of the hands of convicted felons and mentally incompetent people."

The two senators have been on opposite sides of some of the most politically difficult issues ever to come before the committee — the Supreme Court justice nominations of Robert Bork and Clarence Thomas. They indicated they could work out their differences on the anti-crime bill, but there remained a tough obstacle — limiting appeals of death row inmates.

Hatch said the habeas corpus provision should also have a stand-alone vote, and Biden said he would talk about it if he saw Republicans otherwise supporting the bill, which calls for about 50,000 additional policemen, drug prevention counseling, and federal law enforcement grants for new prisons and other programs. The cost is estimated at \$2 billion to \$3.4 billion.

A separate vote on habeas corpus appeals could doom the proposal by attracting negative votes of senators who oppose any restriction on the appeals provision. Hatch said the provision carries so many other safeguards that it effectively abolishes the death penalty by endless litigation, and he wants it defeated.

"I am willing to talk about voting separately on habeas corpus if in fact they are really going to cooperate and do a whole crime bill," Biden said.

"We ought to work on that separately," Hatch said. "If we can come to an agreement, great."

The Associated Press

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August 14, 1993, Saturday, AM cycle

SECTION: Domestic News

LENGTH: 620 words

HEADLINE: Clinton Plays Bipartisan Golf

BYLINE: By TERENCE HUNT, AP White House Correspondent

DATELINE: VAIL, Colo.

KEYWORD: Clinton

BODY: President Clinton began a multi-state vacation Saturday with a bipartisan golf match, expressing hopes that his administration can avoid the political polarization with Republicans that marked the first months of his presidency.

Clinton and golf pro Jack Nicklaus teamed up against former President Gerald Ford and a Houston businessman, Ken Lay, at the Country Club of the Rockies golf course.

LENGTH: 1393 words

HEADLINE: Will the President Get Health Care and NAFTA?

GUESTS: ROBERT RUBIN, Director, National Economic Council.

BYLINE: MARK SHIELDS; ROBERT NOVAK;

HIGHLIGHT: Director of the National Economic Council, Robert Rubin, discusses the White House's efforts to pass the health care plan and the North American Free Trade Agreement in Congress.

BODY:

HUNT: With a hard-won budget victory behind him, President Clinton is still in negative numbers according to the CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll: 44 percent approve, and 48 percent disapprove. He quickly turned to what's next on his agenda, dispensing both honey and vinegar.

Pres. BILL CLINTON: We need to put an end to the partisan rancor and put the American people first again. For five months the American people heard too little about the real debate and too much from those who oversimplified and often downright misrepresented the questions of tax increases and spending cuts because they had narrow economic or political or personal reasons to do so.

HUNT: The President unveiled his crime bill, but the big question facing him is how to win both health care reform and the ratification of NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement.

JAMES CARVILLE, Clinton Political Adviser: Expanding exports and getting health care costs under control are clearly part of this sort of economic program or vision of the President.

HUNT: David, can the President get either health or trade this year?

DAVID BRODER, 'Washington Post': I think yes. I think he's got a reasonable chance at getting the NAFTA agreement approved. It will not be an easy fight because the Democrats are badly divided, but he'll have Republican support on that. Health care, I think, will not get beyond the hearing stage. HUNT: Bob?

ROBERT NOVAK, 'Chicago Sun-Times': I agree with David, but the problem is that if people in the administration and particularly James Carville keep talking about the paramountcy of health care over NAFTA and 'We have to get it this year,' which you can't get it this year, it may force out NAFTA, because I don't know if they can concentrate on NAFTA enough to get it through, if they're going after this illusory quest for health care.

HUNT: Good friend though he is, Mr. Carville's not in any administration, I'd quickly point out. Bob Rubin?

Mr. RUBIN: Well, I think we'll be able to work very effectively on both. We have good aggressive plans. NAFTA's going to be launched shortly, so will health care. Health care is the primary priority of the- it is the priority of the administration, but NAFTA's also very important. I think we'll have very focused efforts on both.

HUNT: Mona?

MONA CHAREN, Syndicated Columnist: I think the tone he set was wrong for this week. I think he should have, after winning his budget battle, he should have come out and said, 'OK, now we all have to join together,' instead of condemning the Republicans for having opposed him, he should have said- he should have tried to unite everybody behind NAFTA, which I agree with David, he can get, but I think health care's going to be a lot tougher.

HUNT: Well, you know, on NAFTA, David, you're absolutely right, not only can he get Republican votes, the only way he's going to win it is if he gets Republican votes, but I think President Clinton has to make a decision, too, which is namely he's got to be all out for NAFTA. He can't be 80 percent for NAFTA or 70 percent. At one point they were talking about saying, well, the DNC won't be active on this one, because labor will be upset. He's got to offend some people on this one and really go all out.

Mr. RUBIN: Al, I think you'll see him say today that he is fully committed to NAFTA, that he is going to start all that effort for NAFTA in the fall, but I don't think there's any question. We spent a lot of time working on this so we could work on both health care and NAFTA at the same time and have exceedingly good efforts on both.

HUNT: Mona, do you think that he'll get that kind of Republican support on NAFTA, or do you think he may have soured the-

CHAREN: Well, I think, as I said, I think the tone he set this week was negative. You know, it was condemning the Republicans for everything that's happened in the last six months, and he has created his own problems in the last six months. NAFTA is popular among Republicans, because they understand that it's good for the economy. Democrats beholden to, not only labor, but environmental interests are going to be much harder to bring along.

NOVAK: Al, when you talk about Carville not being a part of the team, Of course he is very close. He makes lectures all over the country, billed as an administration strategist, in fact, but what Carville is saying is that

Republicans who are opposing the President's ideas on health care but supporting him on NAFTA, that they have to- he says it's a seamless garment, that they have to go around for the whole thing, and that- and, Bob, I think that's what the problem is. I don't know really know how it's possible to do both of these things when it is so- I think you'll agree with me, it's impossible to get health care this year.

Mr. RUBIN: Well, let me say this. I think what we're going to do is have- and I know we will have full-fledged efforts on both of them. NAFTA we clearly want to get done this year. What the probability is of getting health care this year, I don't know, but I do know that we can get ourselves a long way along the track this year.

HUNT: David?

BRODER: Al, every trade agreement that I can remember, going back to the Kennedy one in 1962, has been moved by a coalition that rested heavily on Republicans and heavily on business support. These are big economic stakes here, and the notion that because James Carville, who's got his hands full with campaigns in New Jersey and other places, thinks that there may be some problems down the road politically is going to stop NAFTA is just not a realistic assumption.

HUNT: It's not, David, but what is realistic is, it's not just turning around some special interests in the Democratic Party. The public, by and large, doesn't think much of NAFTA. He's got to turn the public around.

BRODER: The public doesn't know much about NAFTA.

HUNT: That's true, absolutely.

BRODER: And that's where you're exactly right. That's where the President has to step up, become a teacher. He has to- and help people understand what the potential, what the risks are, and what's at stake in this whole thing.

HUNT: And overcome some of the stuff that your good friend Ross Perot's going to be putting out.

NOVAK: Oh, that's going to be very difficult. I didn't know he was my good friend, but-

HUNT: He denied it.

NOVAK: But I think Mona raised a point, though, that- and I don't really understand why it is after this victory that he comes out and he fights- he keeps fighting the battle of the budget by attacking the people he just defeated. Do you understand that?

BRODER: Novak, you're going to tell me that you were offended by these sort of patty-cake comments that the President made? This was not an attack on the Republicans. He's really trying to shift gears here.

NOVAK: I don't think he had to do that. I think he could have come out with a kissy-face attitude toward everybody, saying, 'Let's all get together.'

HUNT: David, Bob has always been pro-kissy-face. This is the new Bob Novak. Mona?

CHAREN: Well, the other point to make is that there is no connection, logically or otherwise, between the NAFTA and health care. Health care is going to lead you into all kinds of difficulties. It's a subject that your administration unfortunately has demagogued terribly, Hillary Clinton doing it again this week, and NAFTA is something where there are really clear arguments in favor.

Mr. RUBIN: Mona, I really don't agree with that. I agree with what David Gergen said the other day, which was that both of these can be viewed as economic initiatives. NAFTA, as David said, is a job creator for the United States, and health care is critically important if we're going to be competitive internationally in the days ahead.

NOVAK: Let me-

Mr. RUBIN: So I think they both really can be viewed as very important economic initiatives.

August 13, 1993, Friday

SECTION: THE U.S.; NATIONAL; Pg. 1

LENGTH: 819 words

HEADLINE: Gun-Control Measure Has Momentum, Major Foe

BYLINE: Max Boot, Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

KEYWORD: STATS

HIGHLIGHT: CLINTON CRIME BILL

BODY: IT'S crunch time for the National Rifle Association, one of the most powerful lobbies in the nation.

The NRA already has lost key battles in Virginia, New Jersey, and Connecticut, where state legislatures voted to impose restrictions on gun sales. To add to its woes, Bill Clinton, a gun-control advocate, has replaced George Bush, a lifelong NRA member, in the White House.

And now gun-control advocates are redoubling their efforts to pass the Brady bill, which would create a five-day waiting period and a background check for gun buyers. President Clinton renewed his call to pass the measure as part of a larger crime bill that would include \$ 3.4 billion for 50,000 additional beat cops.

"It is long past time to pass it," the president said Wednesday. "If the Congress will pass it, I will sign it." Given such statements, the NRA's long winning streak, which has kept Congress from passing a gun-control measure since 1968, seems in jeopardy. But NRA members warn: Don't count the organization out.

"The odds have been against the NRA since the day it was formed," says Tom Korologos, an NRA lobbyist. "We always seem to be behind the eight ball, but somehow we always come out winning."

The reason for the NRA's success is no secret: It combines a formidable fund-raising machine with a huge grass-roots base.

Last year, the group donated \$ 1.7 million to congressional candidates and spent another \$ 868,000 on independent campaigns, according to the National Library on Money and Politics. From 1982 to 1992, the NRA gave \$ 6 million to congressional candidates and spent \$ 3.5 million on independent campaigns - as opposed to only \$ 669,828 in contributions and \$ 275,179 for independent campaigns by its chief rival, Handgun Control Inc.

As important, the NRA can draw on the support of its 3.2 million members. That figure has increased by 750,000 over the last two years. The rank and file, whom Mr. Korologos describes as "zealots," are legendary for their ability to inundate Capitol switchboards with nonstop calls and Capitol offices with piles of mail.

"The NRA is always a formidable force," says one House staff member who favors gun control.

The NRA's unbending opposition to any waiting period for buying guns has kept the Brady bill (named after President Reagan's press secretary, who was badly wounded in an assassination attempt) bottled up in Congress since 1987. The NRA says the measure will do nothing to stop crime since most crooks buy guns on the black market. Instead, it favors a computerized check on gun buyers at the point of sale, although gun-control advocates say that isn't technologically feasible yet.

Both the House and Senate passed the Brady bill in 1991, but it was part of a larger anticrime package that was killed by a threatened GOP filibuster in the Senate. This year, the future of the Brady bill seems to hang on whether it will be included in the larger crime bill or whether it will be introduced as separate legislation.

House leaders want it to be part of the crime bill because they believe it is necessary to win the votes of liberal Democrats who might otherwise balk at some of the larger measure's law-and-order provisions. But Senate Democrats want it considered separately because they fear its inclusion may stall the rest of the crime bill.

"Brady is ready to go. It's got the votes, it's got momentum, it's got the public behind it," says Richard Aborn, president of Handgun Control Inc. "But it's important for it to remain a separate bill because in the past, crime bills have either failed or taken a long time to pass."

It looks to be no different this year, despite administration attempts to win bipartisan support for its anticrime package. Last year, the crime bill was sunk in part because prosecutors criticized provisions dealing with death-penalty appeals as too liberal. This year, Sen. Joseph Biden (D) of Delaware, the Judiciary Committee chairman, has won prosecutors' support for an expedited death-penalty review process.

DEMOCRATS also hope they can gain GOP backing for the crime bill's expansion of the death penalty to cover 47 new crimes and its increase in federal funding for community policing and boot camps. But Republicans are likely to criticize the measures as not going far enough. There's also a large dollop of politics involved: Neither party wants to give the other credit for combating the crime problem.

Many Republicans are opposed to two gun-control provisions that might be in the crime bill: the Brady bill and a measure banning assault weapons. Even gun-control advocates admit they don't have the votes to pass the assault-weapon ban yet, in part because no one has been able to define what constitutes an assault weapon.

As for the Brady bill, Rep. Charles Schumer (D) of New York says "we're going to need the full force of the president behind us" to get it passed.

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The Plain Dealer

August 13, 1993 Friday, FINAL / ALL

SECTION: NATIONAL; Pg. 4C

LENGTH: 493 words

HEADLINE: RENO HAS NO DESIGNS ON MORE LAW AGENCIES

BYLINE: SCRIPPS HOWARD

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY: Attorney General Janet Reno said yesterday she had told Vice President Gore she doesn't want to merge other federal law enforcement agencies into the Justice Department.

But she confirmed that she's studying possible restructuring of the FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Marshals Service and Immigration and Naturalization Service - all Justice Department divisions.

Gore's "re-inventing government" team has recommended creating a single federal law enforcement directorate headed by the attorney general - basically, a national police force.

Under the plan, expected to be revealed Sept. 7, Treasury Department law enforcement agencies such as the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms would be shifted to the Justice Department.

The plan says costly duplication, turf wars and inefficiencies will continue among federal law enforcement agencies unless they are streamlined under a directorate.

Reno declined specific comment on the need for a law enforcement directorate.

"I haven't thought of it enough to make an informed statement on it," she said. "But effective law enforcement requires people to talk to one another, share information, to address the current problems."

Reno said Gore had not submitted specific recommendations for her consideration. But she said she discussed some of them with him this week.

McDonald also said that Weld has effectively increased law enforcement staffing by merging the State Police with the Metropolitan, Registry and Capitol police forces.

And he said the Clinton plan for applying the death penalty to murders of federal agents mirrors Weld's proposal for those convicted of killing any law enforcement officer.

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The Christian Science Monitor

August 12, 1993, Thursday

SECTION: THE U.S.; NATIONAL; WASHINGTON WATCH; Pg. 2

LENGTH: 389 words

HEADLINE: White House Anticrime Bill Boosts Police On the Beat

BYLINE: Compiled by Terri Theiss

BODY: PRESIDENT Clinton yesterday pressed for anticrime legislation that would fulfill his pledge to put tens of thousands of new police officers on the street and tighten gun controls.

The measure, announced from the White House, would be a refined version of the omnibus crime bill that failed last year, including the "Brady bill" restriction on handgun purchases, an expanded federal death penalty, and limits on appeals by death-row inmates. The new part is more police officers.

As a candidate, Mr. Clinton spoke frequently of his desire for 100,000 additional police officers. Half are already included in other bills. The rest, to be devoted to community policing - the current term for old-time beat cops who know their neighborhoods - will be included in the crime package.

Passing the gun-control bill is something Clinton has also long endorsed. The measure includes a five-day wait on handgun purchases and requires background checks on would-be buyers. The waiting period would phase out as state records are computerized for instant access.

The crime package would also restore the death penalty for federal crimes that existed before the Supreme Court temporarily overturned capital punishment in 1972, including the murder of certain federal officials. It would add new federal capital crimes such as murder for hire.

It would also limit the appeals of death row inmates. It would limit state inmates to a single federal habeas corpus appeal, subject for the first time to a six-month limit.

Drought areas to receive relief

All of South Carolina and nearly all of North Carolina and Georgia were declared drought disaster areas Tuesday by Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy.

The declaration makes farmers eligible for federal Farmers Home Administration loans at 4.5 percent interest. The disaster declaration covers all 46 counties in South Carolina, 154 out of 159 in Georgia, and 89 of 100 in North Carolina.

Farmers also will be eligible for direct payments under a disaster aid bill that President Clinton is expected to sign Thursday. Those payments are expected to cover about half of farmers' losses, Agriculture Department spokesman

Steven Kinsella said.

Drought losses are estimated at up to \$ 500 million in Georgia, \$ 264 million in South Carolina, and \$ 161.5 million in North Carolina.

THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

August 12, 1993, Thursday, STATE EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 1A

LENGTH: 743 words

HEADLINE: Crime package unveiled; Clinton limits handgun imports

BYLINE: Kathy Lewis, Washington Bureau of The Dallas Morning News

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY: WASHINGTON - President Clinton outlined an anti-crime initiative Wednesday that would put 50,000 new police officers on the street and limit appeals for death row inmates.

He also took two executive steps that do not need congressional approval, suspending the importation of assault pistols not covered under existing prohibitions and strengthening licensing requirements for gun dealers.

"The plan is tough. It is fair. It will put police on the street and criminals in jail," Mr. Clinton said. White House officials said the president wants a modified version of last year's crime bill.

With rows of uniformed police officers standing behind him, Mr. Clinton announced the anti-crime plan during a White House Rose Garden ceremony attended by Democratic members of key congressional committees and two Republicans Sens. William Cohen of Maine and Larry Pressler of South Dakota.

The president also reaffirmed his support for the Brady bill, which would require a five-day waiting period before buying handguns. It is named for James Brady, former President Ronald Reagan's press secretary who was shot during the 1981 assassination attempt on the president.

Gwen Fitzgerald, a spokeswoman for Handgun Control Inc., welcomed Mr. Clinton's gun control measures, but the National Rifle Association issued a statement accusing him of taking aim at law-abiding citizens.

"Criminals don't wait a week to steal guns or buy guns on the black market," said James Jay Baker, executive director of the NRA's Institute for Legislative Action.

Mr. Clinton also proposed reforms that would limit death row inmates to filing a single federal appeal within six months of other appeals. He said the change would guarantee a higher standard of legal representation.

The president said he would draw on much of the work already done on the anti-crime bill that stalled in Congress last year.

"We didn't want to start over," explained deputy White House domestic adviser Bruce Reed.

He said House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jack Brooks, D-Beaumont, and Senate Judiciary Chairman Joseph Biden, D-Del., would introduce bills when Congress returns in September.

Mr. Reed said the administration had been involved in adding police-related measures to the initiatives and would support Mr. Biden's proposed reform of the appeals process for death row inmates.

To bolster support for the president's anti-crime plan, various state and local officials involved with law enforcement were asked to speak at the White House Wednesday.

"This time, let's get it done," admonished Boston Police Chief Bill Bratton.

"We need help," he said. "We need it fast."

Mr. Clinton called for a "united bipartisan front against crime and gun violence," saying it was time to set aside partisan differences.

AMr. Brooks said Americans were "tired of politicians vying with each other to prove just who's tougher on crime."

"They're especially tired of the purists among us who want 100 percent or nothing," he said.

He blamed "obstructionist Republicans" for preventing passage of an anti-crime bill last year.

Afterward, Mr. Cohen said there was "quite a bit of stalemate" on the question of whether last year's proposal was tough enough.

"There were some on the Republican side who wanted a tougher measure and it did contribute to a non-agreement," he said.

Republicans and Democrats did not reach agreement last year, an election year, on a crime bill in large part because of differences over gun control.

In his new initiative, Mr. Clinton called for \$ 3.4 billion over five years for 50,000 new police officers as a down payment on the 100,000 additional officers he promised during the campaign.

He also called for \$ 100 million to fund college scholarships and police training for 4,000 to 5,000 students, and for \$ 475 million to help create safe zones around schools,

And he urged restoration of the death penalty for the murder of a federal law enforcement officer and some other crimes.

Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole of Kansas responded that congressional Republicans already had unveiled their own crime bill and welcomed Democratic support.

"Unlike previous anti-crime proposals, the Republican plan is paid for, through offsetting cuts in other programs," Mr. Dole said. "In the weeks ahead, Republicans hope to work with President Clinton and with congressional Democrats to make our country safer and more secure for all our citizens."

GRAPHIC: PHOTO(S): President Clinton talks to police officers from around the country Wednesday after an address in the White House Rose Garden. He introduced an anti-crime package. (AP) CHART(S)/GRAPH(S): THE PRESIDENT'S PLAN TO FIGHT CRIME (DMN/KRT)

NOTES: A shorter version of this story appears in Home Final P. 1A.

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August 12, 1993, Thursday, STATE EDITION

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"We need help," he said. "We need it fast."

Mr. Clinton called for a "united bipartisan front against crime and gun violence," saying it was time to set aside partisan differences.

AMr. Brooks said Americans were "tired of politicians vying with each other to prove just who's tougher on crime."

"They're especially tired of the purists among us who want 100 percent or nothing," he said.

He blamed "obstructionist Republicans" for preventing passage of an anti-crime bill last year.

Afterward, Mr. Cohen said there was "quite a bit of stalemate" on the question of whether last year's proposal was tough enough.

"There were some on the Republican side who wanted a tougher measure and it did contribute to a non-agreement," he said.

Republicans and Democrats did not reach agreement last year, an election year, on a crime bill in large part because of differences over gun control.

In his new initiative, Mr. Clinton called for \$ 3.4 billion over five years for 50,000 new police officers as a down payment on the 100,000 additional officers he promised during the campaign.

He also called for \$ 100 million to fund college scholarships and police training for 4,000 to 5,000 students, and for \$ 475 million to help create safe zones around schools.

And he urged restoration of the death penalty for the murder of a federal law enforcement officer and some other crimes.

Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole of Kansas responded that congressional Republicans already had unveiled their own crime bill and welcomed Democratic support.

"Unlike previous anti-crime proposals, the Republican plan is paid for, through offsetting cuts in other programs," Mr. Dole said. "In the weeks ahead, Republicans hope to work with President Clinton and with congressional Democrats to make our country safer and more secure for all our citizens."

GRAPHIC: PHOTO(S): President Clinton talks to police officers from around the country Wednesday after an address in the White House Rose Garden. He introduced an anti-crime package. (AP) CHART(S)/GRAPH(S): THE PRESIDENT'S PLAN TO FIGHT CRIME (DMN/KRT)

NOTES: A shorter version of this story appears in Home Final P. 1A.

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The Financial Post

August 12, 1993, Thursday, DAILY EDITION

SECTION: SECTION 1; News; Pg. 8

LENGTH: 246 words

HEADLINE: Clinton bill declares war on criminals

BYLINE: STEVE HOLLAND REUTER

DATELINE: Washington, DC

KEYWORD: CRIME; GOVERNMENT POLICY; WEAPONS; LAWS AND REGULATIONS; UNITED STATES

BODY: President Bill Clinton proposed broad anti-crime legislation yesterday that would put 50,000 more police on the streets and stiffen U.S. gun laws.

"When our children must pass through metal detectors to go to school . . . when parents are imprisoned in their own apartments behind locked doors, when we can't walk the streets of our cities without fear, we have lost an essential element of our civilization," Clinton said.

At a Rose Garden ceremony that included a phalanx of police officers and law enforcement officials, the president entered the fray over crime in America.

Underscoring the urgency for swift action, Clinton noted 90,000 people have been murdered in the U.S. in the past four years, including 24 in one week last month in Washington.

He described his call for 50,000 new officers, at a cost of US\$ 3.4 billion, as "the most pressing need." He said it would be a start on his 1992 campaign pledge for 100,000 new officers.

He called for passage of the Brady bill, which would impose a five-day waiting period for people wanting to buy a handgun to allow time to conduct background checks.

The bill - named after James Brady, the press secretary to Ronald Reagan who was severely wounded in a 1981 attempt on the former president's life - has been debated in Washington for several years.

Clinton's bill includes tightening appeals procedures in capital cases, which critics say could lead to the execution of innocent people.

SECTION: THE GUARDIAN FOREIGN PAGE; Pg. 10

LENGTH: 1067 words

HEADLINE: CLINTON URGES FRESH GUN AND CRIME LAWS; Death row measures certain to arouse controversy

BYLINE: SIMON TISDALL IN WASHINGTON

BODY: PRESIDENT Bill Clinton turned to crime -busting and gun control yesterday in an attempt to regain the political initiative and favourable attention after his near-death experience in the budget battle last week.

Ignoring the fact that August is Washington's holiday month and Congress is in recess, Mr Clinton unveiled a \$ 5 billion, so far unfunded, plan to put 50,000 additional police officers on the beat, expand use of the death penalty and curtail the availability of handguns and automatic assault pistols.

"The first duty of any government is to keep its citizens safe," Mr Clinton declared, decrying the fact that 90,000 Americans have been murdered in four years.

"The plan is tough. It is fair. It will put police on the streets and criminals in jail . . . It is time to use crime as a way to unite Americans through action."

He asked for \$ 3.4 billion in new funding to pay for 50,000 police recruits who, he said, would be dedicated to "community policing". He also proposed the creation of a police corps which would offer college scholarships to young people in return for subsequent police service.

Mr Clinton reiterated his support for the Brady bill, named after James Brady, President Reagan's former press secretary who was seriously wounded in a 1981 assassination attempt. It calls for a five-day waiting period for handgun purchases.

He said he would stiffen penalties for gun offences and increase the use of boot camps to rehabilitate young, violent offenders. "We must end the insanity of being able to buy or sell a handgun more easily than obtaining a driver's licence," he said.

Controversially, Mr Clinton said he wanted to expand the number of crimes punishable by death and to limit death row inmates to one habeas corpus appeal within six months of sentence. But, he said, his plan would ensure that condemned prisoners received a higher standard of legal advice.

A disproportionate number of death row inmates are black men. The proposal is certain to upset the black caucus in Congress and liberals opposed in principle to capital punishment. In the past three years, the supreme court has curtailed appeals amid public pressure to carry out capital sentences more swiftly.

Mr Clinton also signed two presidential directives, ordering that the rules governing gun dealerships be reviewed and suspending the importation of assault pistols. Picking up where Ronald Reagan and George Bush left off, he vowed to be every bit as tough as the Republicans.

But the plans he outlined yesterday must be agreed with Congress. As his predecessors found, opinion there about how best to achieve the desired results is divided. The gun lobby, headed by the National Rifle Association, still has a powerful voice on Capitol Hill even though its influence has diminished in the face of rising crime.

Mr Clinton's plan was modest in overall scope. He made no attempt to address the causes of growing violence, especially among young people. Nor did he discuss whether it was good policy to allow the 200 million guns owned by Americans to remain in unchecked circulation.

Of that 200 million, 40 million are easily-concealed handguns. In 1990, the last year for which final figures are available, 37,155 Americans died from gunshot wounds, nearly 5,000 under the age of 20.

- President Clinton announced yesterday that General John Shalikashvili, the top Nato commander, is to replace General Colin Powell as chairman of the US joint chiefs of staff. Gen Shalikashvili has been overseeing plans for air strikes in Bosnia.

The two-year term is subject to senate confirmation.

August 12, 1993, Thursday, 2 STAR Edition

SECTION: A; Pg. 1

LENGTH: 1295 words

HEADLINE: Clinton hopes to take a bite out of crime; Proposal would boost patrols, restrict guns, killers' appeals

BYLINE: GREG McDONALD, Houston Chronicle Washington Bureau; Staff

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

KEYWORD: Statistics Crime Stoppers

BODY: WASHINGTON — President Clinton, hoping to deliver on his campaign promise to make America's streets safe again, unveiled a major anti-crime proposal Wednesday that would place thousands more police officers on community beats and tighten federal gun control laws.

The crime legislation, to be introduced in Congress next month, would also restore the death penalty for the murder of federal officials and police officers and would limit the habeas corpus appeals process in capital murder cases.

The Clinton proposal, with an estimated price tag of more than \$5 billion over five years, also emphasizes the need for better community-based policing programs in urban and rural areas and seeks to deter crime by establishing "boot camps" for youthful offenders. It also creates a "police corps" that would provide young people with college grants in return for a four-year commitment to law enforcement work in their communities.

"The plan is tough; it is fair," Clinton declared at a White House Rose Garden announcement of the crime package attended by members of Congress and law enforcement officials from around the country.

"It will put police on the street and criminals in jail. It expands the federal death penalty to let criminals know that if they are guilty they will be punished. It lets law-abiding citizens know that we are working to give them the safety that they deserve," he said.

Calling the crime package "the major down payment" on his promise to put 100,000 more police officers on the streets during his presidency, Clinton said he would move immediately to tighten gun control laws by issuing an executive order to ban the imports of automatic assault-style handguns. The order would affect only a minute portion of the handgun import business, but it would curtail the spread of small automatic weapons such as the Israeli-made Uzi pistol now favored by street gangs and drug dealers.

The president said he plans to sign a second executive order tightening the federal regulations on gun dealers that currently allow just about anyone who pays the annual \$30 licensing fee to peddle weapons.

"We must end the insanity of being able to buy or sell a handgun more easily than obtaining a driver's license," Clinton said, adding that his battle plan against crime depends heavily on passage of the Brady gun-control bill that failed in Congress last year.

The bill, named for James Brady, the former White House press secretary wounded in the 1981 assassination attempt on President Reagan, mandates at least a five-day waiting period for the purchase of a handgun to allow enough time for a police background check on the potential gun buyer.

Clinton was joined at the White House by Rep. Jack Brooks, D-Beaumont, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, and Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Both voiced support for the Clinton package, which adopts many of the proposals the two have offered in Congress before and a few that were also pushed by former President Bush. For example, Clinton and Bush share similar views on the reinstatement of the federal death penalty, which was overturned when the Supreme Court temporarily outlawed capital punishment in 1972.

"It's time to fight crime with action, not slogans," said Brooks. Brooks suggested that crime legislation had been turned into a political football over the years because politicians and special interest groups are more interested in striking a tough pose than making hard choices about how to deal with rising crime rates and street violence.

"Our streets are flowing with blood," Brooks said. "The American public doesn't want any more words that fly ever so lightly into the air signifying nothing. They're tired of politicians vying with each other to prove just who's tougher on crime."

Flanked by Attorney General Janet Reno and police officers from around the country, Clinton described his proposal as "a major beginning of a long-term strategy to make America a more law-abiding, peaceful place." He said his proposals would make Americans "more secure and give our young people, wherever they live, a better chance to grow up, to learn, to function, to work, and to have a decent life."

"The first duty of any government is to try to keep its citizens safe. But clearly too many Americans are not safe today," Clinton said.

Reno has opposed the death penalty — even as a prosecutor in Miami. Nonetheless, she said she would support Clinton's position on it in her position as attorney general. In comments after the president's announcement, she stressed the importance of beefing up police forces around the country and providing more support for law enforcement efforts in rural areas of the country that she said had long been neglected.

She also described passage of the Brady bill as the all-important first step in turning the corner on crime.

"If we're serious about fighting crime, we must be serious about keeping guns out of the hands of criminals. You simply can't solve the crime problem if you don't begin to address the gun problem," she said. "Passing the Brady bill is essential."

At the heart of Clinton's assault on crime is a proposal to put 100,000 more police officers on the streets. Most would be "beat cops," assigned to walk or patrol certain areas. The proposed legislation would earmark some \$ 3.4 billion for beefing up law enforcement operations.

Another key element of the Clinton plan involves tightening of the habeas corpus appeals process in capital murder cases to end delays in imposing death sentences at the state level. The Clinton plan basically adopts the same legislation introduced last week by Sen. Biden that would limit state death row inmates to a single habeas corpus appeal to either the Supreme Court or a federal district court. The appeal would have to be made within six months after conviction.

The habeas corpus reform, however, would also ensure better representation for poor defendants by establishing new and tougher standards for state-appointed defense attorneys assigned to death penalty cases.

Other proposals include:

A \$ 100 million police corps initiative that would provide college scholarships and grants to 5,000 students who make a four-year commitment to police work after graduation.

A \$ 475 million program to create drug- and crime-free "safe havens" in areas around secondary and elementary schools.

Creation of more youthful offender camps, where young, first-time criminals would serve out their sentences as an alternative to jail or prison incarcerations.

The president's plan to fight crime

Details of President Clinton's anti-crime plan, unveiled Wednesday:

Since serious crime has increased 14.6% between '82 and '91.

..

'82 13 million.

'91 14.9 million.

.. suspended importation of foreign-made assault pistols.

..

Number of imported firearms, 1992:

Shotguns 442,000.

Rifles 1.4 millions.

Handguns 982,000.

Clinton wants to put 50,000 more police officers on the streets

Number of sworn officers, 1982, 1991 and under plan:

'82 448,927.

'91 535,629.

Under plan 585,629.

and enact other measures to make streets safer.

Review rules governing gun dealers.

Have Congress pass gun-controll legislation.

Restore death penalty for federal crimes.

Set up community "boot camps" for young criminals.

As listed in the Crime Index: Include murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, theft and mother vehicle theft.

GRAPHIC: Graph: The president's plan to fight crime (p.18, TEXT); Knight-Ridder Tribune, Sources: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Federal Bureau of Investigation, news reports

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The Independent

August 12, 1993, Thursday

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS PAGE; Page 9

LENGTH: 292 words

HEADLINE: Crime bill to limit gun sales

BYLINE: DAVID USBORNE in Washington

BODY: WITH rows of uniformed law enforcement officers ranked behind him, President Bill Clinton took to the White House Rose Garden yesterday to unveil proposals for an anti-crime bill imposing new limits on gun sales and putting 50,000 more police officers on American streets.

The initiative, which needs bi-partisan support in Congress, is Mr Clinton's attempt to live up to campaign promises to crack down on crime and deploy 100,000 more police officers.

Describing the measure as a "major down-payment" on his campaign commitment, Mr Clinton declared that the "first duty of any government is to try to keep its citizens safe". He made repeated references to the risks faced by children on city blocks, in schools and even in public swimming pools.

Mr Clinton also plans to sign two executive orders, which require no congressional approval, to reinforce regulations covering gun shops and to introduce a ban on imports of foreign-made assault pistols. "The efforts to keep handguns out of the hands of criminals cannot and should not wait for the passage of legislation," he said.

The measures would entail a mandatory five-day waiting period for anyone attempting to buy firearms, allowing local authorities to complete background checks on all prospective purchasers.

The bill, which calls for \$ 3.4bn (pounds 2.3bn) in extra funding, provides for "boot camps" for teenage criminals, echoing an initiative he introduced as governor of Arkansas. Mr Clinton is also seeking to expand the categories of federal crimes that can be punished by the death penalty.

Although public sentiment is strongly in favour of combating crime, any provisions limiting access to guns will always be controversial on Capitol Hill.

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Financial Times

August 12, 1993, Thursday

SECTION: Pg. 3

LENGTH: 391 words

HEADLINE: Clinton gun-control plan: Anti-crime proposals would limit appeals against execution

BYLINE: By GEORGE GRAHAM

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY: PRESIDENT Bill Clinton yesterday launched a broad set of proposals to combat crime, with measures to control gun sales, hire more policemen and limit appeals against the death penalty.

Mr Clinton promised to introduce a crime bill into Congress next month offering Dollars 3.4bn (Pounds 2.3bn) to put up to 50,000 more police officers on the beat, and called the proposals a 'major down payment' on his campaign promise to use the power of the White House to prevent and punish crime.

The package would also bring tighter controls on gun sales, including a new drive to pass the Brady bill, which would require a five-day waiting period before the purchase of a handgun.

'We must end the insanity of being able to buy or sell a handgun more easily than obtaining a driver's licence,' Mr Clinton said.

The Brady bill, named after a former White House press secretary who was shot during an assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan, is now widely supported by police chiefs, although few of them believe it would do much to stem the availability of illegal weapons to criminals.

Mr Clinton ordered immediate executive action to ban the import of assault-style handguns, and to tighten controls on the issue of licences for gun dealers.

Current rules allow 280,000 people to sell guns under scant government supervision, most of them working from home, in exchange for a fee of Dollars 10 a year.

The proposed crime package also contains measures to extend the death penalty, mostly applied at the state level, to a number of federal crimes, and to limit prisoners sentenced to death by a state court to a single habeas corpus appeal to the federal courts.

Although capital punishment was reauthorised by the Supreme Court in 1976, and is widely supported in US public opinion, 15 times as many prisoners are sentenced to death each year as are in fact executed.

The Supreme Court has become less and less receptive to appeals from death row prisoners, but some state law enforcement officials still complain that the appeals process can drag on for years.

Many of the measures proposed by Mr Clinton yesterday were contained in crime legislation passed in 1991 and 1992 by both chambers of Congress, but eventually blocked by Senate Republicans who wanted much tougher curbs on habeas corpus rights.

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Los Angeles Times

August 12, 1993, Thursday, Home Edition

SECTION: Part A; Page 1; Column 5; National Desk

LENGTH: 1372 words

HEADLINE: CLINTON CALLS FOR MORE POLICE, FEWER EXECUTION APPEALS; LAW: ANTI-CRIME PLAN ALSO WOULD TARGET ILLEGITIMATE GUN DEALERS. MUCH OF PACKAGE WAS NEGOTIATED IN ADVANCE, BUT GOP SENATORS MAY OBJECT TO ARMS PURCHASE DELAY.

BYLINE: By DAVID LAUTER, TIMES STAFF WRITER

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY: President Clinton proposed a package of anti-crime measures Wednesday aimed at increasing the number of police officers on the streets, cracking down on illegitimate gun dealers and significantly changing the way death penalty cases are handled in U.S. courts.

"The first duty of any government is to try to keep its citizens safe," Clinton said as he announced his plans in the White House Rose Garden, where he was flanked by the now-typical phalanx of uniformed police officers that presidents round up when they announce anti-crime initiatives.

The proposals, negotiated in advance with congressional leaders, state attorneys general and prosecutors, are aimed at breaking a logjam that prevented the passage of anti-crime legislation by Congress last year. But the package could still be blocked over the so-called Brady bill, which calls for a five-day waiting period for gun purchases. That bill – named for former Ronald Reagan Press Secretary James S. Brady, who was injured in a presidential assassination attempt – has been approved by both houses of Congress in the past but faces a threatened filibuster from Senate Republicans, who have vowed to fight it this time.

A crime bill passed both houses of Congress last year only to die in the closing days of the session amid partisan rancor.

As a sign of bipartisanship, White House officials invited two Republican senators – William S. Cohen of Maine and Larry Pressler of South Dakota – to attend Clinton's announcement. Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole (R-Kan.), who has criticized many Clinton proposals, issued a relatively supportive statement about the crime initiative, asserting that Clinton had decided to "follow the Republican lead" in making his proposals.

In part to speed the process along, Clinton will not craft his own legislation but will support bills already introduced in Congress by House and Senate Democratic leaders.

The bills are largely similar to last year's legislation but contain three new elements.

- * First, the new proposals would limit the federal appeals that a Death Row inmate can file.

That issue was a key provision that caused last year's bill to stall. At the time, state attorneys general objected that the legislation, as written, actually would lengthen the appeals process. Administration and congressional officials have reached a compromise that could significantly speed passage of the bill.

Under the compromise, defendants would be required to file federal habeas corpus petitions – the final step in the review process – within 60 days of their last appeal. Petitions could be filed later only if a defendant could show that he has new evidence that was unavailable before. The goal is to reduce the delays in executions caused by habeas corpus petitions.

Although many state officials across the country are going along with the compromise, California Atty. Gen. Dan Lungren said he continues to oppose the proposed changes, arguing that they would not aid prosecutors sufficiently.

Defense lawyers, however, have argued that any restriction on appeals would lead to the execution of innocent people who were mistakenly convicted, a point conceded in part by U.S. Deputy Atty. Gen. Philip B. Heymann.

Because of the guarantee that a person could still appeal if new evidence is found, "I think that the risk of wrongly executing someone will not be greatly increased," Heymann said. "I can't say it wouldn't be increased at all."

In return for restricting appeals, the government would require states to guarantee that Death Row defendants are represented by attorneys at every stage of the process. California has such a requirement but many states do not. The lawyers would have to meet minimum competency standards and would have to be paid a "reasonable" fee.

Now, in many states with large numbers of capital cases, defendants often are represented by poorly trained and underpaid – or volunteer – lawyers. As a result, large numbers of cases are thrown out on appeal, often because of trial procedures later found to be flawed.

- * In a second new element, \$3.4 billion would be spent in grants to states and localities over the next five years to increase the number of police on the streets. White House officials said that, if Congress approves the funds, the money would help pay for 50,000 new officers.

During his campaign, Clinton talked about placing 100,000 more officers on the streets. White House officials said that, in addition to the crime bill, several other initiatives would move the nation toward that goal. Clinton's national service bill, for example, would allow young people to work for police departments in jobs that would free more officers to patrol the streets.

- * A final new element involves gun dealers. Now, almost anyone who pays a \$30 registration fee can obtain a three-year gun dealer's license without undergoing even a cursory background check to determine if the applicant has a criminal record. In the majority of cases, the "dealers" do not even sell guns, government statistics show. Merely obtaining a license, however, allows a person to buy guns for himself without having to comply with many state gun laws.

Over the last decade, the number of licensed dealers has soared to about 287,000.

Clinton directed the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to change those regulations to crack down on illegitimate dealers. Much of that tightening, officials said, can be done without new legislation.

Clinton also directed the bureau to change current regulations to bar the import of assault pistols. Officials conceded that nearly all assault pistols are made domestically so that an import ban would have little impact. But they argued that the new rules would close a "loophole" that could be exploited in the future.

Clinton has asked separately for legislation that would ban domestic production of assault weapons, but the proposal faces strong opposition from the National Rifle Assn.

"This bears out the real intent: to disarm American citizens incrementally for reasons having nothing to do with violent crime," said James Jay Baker, chief lobbyist for the NRA.

Crime Plan's Key Components

Highlights of President Clinton's anti-crime plan:

- * **More police:** A five-year, \$3.4-billion program to help communities put up to 50,000 more police officers on the streets.
- * **Gun safeguards:** The pending Brady bill, which calls for a five-day wait on handgun purchases and for background checks on would-be buyers. The waiting period would phase out as each state upgrades its criminal records and computerization to provide instant checks.

* **Death penalty expansion:** Expansion of the federal death penalty to cover nearly 50 offenses, including killing a federal law enforcement officer. In many cases, it simply would restore the penalty to crimes that carried it before the Supreme Court overturned capital punishment in 1972.

* **Limit on appeals:** A limit on federal habeas corpus appeals, primarily by Death Row inmates, to reduce delays in carrying out sentences. Inmates would get only one federal habeas appeal, and that would, for the first time, have to be filed within six months after completion of other appeals. Poor defendants in death-penalty cases would get lawyers who met tough standards to ensure that they got fair chances during trial and appeals. There would be exceptions to the time limit for evidence of innocence.

* **College aid:** A four-year, \$100-million Police Corps initiative, giving college scholarships and police training to up to 5,000 students who are willing to make a four-year commitment to police work.

* **Bases as youth camps:** Conversion of closed military bases and other facilities to boot camps for young offenders.

* **Others:** Outside the crime bill plans, other proposals totaling \$1.8 billion would provide for 45,000 more sworn and non-sworn police and public safety workers. They include an Education Department-funded Safe Schools program, Housing and Urban Development Department-funded public housing safety program and the national service plan in which 25,000 young people would serve as non-sworn public safety workers to repay college grants.

Source: Associated Press

GRAPHIC: Photo, Anti-Crime Scene: President Clinton proposed a package of anti-crime measures. His plan would increase the number of police officers on the streets, crack down on illegitimate gun dealers and changing the way death penalty cases are handled. Above, Clinton greets policemen from around the country who gathered for his announcement. ; Photo, COLOR, (San Fernando Valley Edition, A1) President Clinton greets police officers from around the country after announcing his anti-crime package. Associated Press

TYPE: Infobox

SUBJECT: CLINTON, BILL; LEGISLATION – UNITED STATES; CRIME – UNITED STATES; CRIME PREVENTION; POLICE; GUN CONTROL – UNITED STATES

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The Gazette (Montreal)

August 12, 1993, Thursday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. B5

LENGTH: 404 words

HEADLINE: Clinton proposes tough anti-crime legislation; 50,000 more police, tighter gun laws

BYLINE: REUTER; DALLAS MORNING NEWS

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

KEYWORD: USA LAWS LEGISLATION CRIME FIREARMS

BODY: U.S. President Bill Clinton proposed broad anti-crime legislation yesterday that would put 50,000 more police on the streets and stiffen U.S. gun laws, because, he said, "too many Americans are not safe today.

"When our children must pass through metal detectors to go to school . . . when parents are imprisoned in their own apartments behind locked doors, when we can't walk the streets of our cities without fear, we have lost an essential element of our civilization," Clinton said.

Underscoring the urgency for swift action, the president pointed out that 90,000 people have been murdered in America in the last four years, including 24 in one week alone last month in Washington, D.C.

He described his call for 50,000 new officers, at a cost of \$ 3.4 billion as "the most pressing need." He said it would be a start on his 1992 campaign pledge for 100,000 new officers.

He called for passage of the Brady Bill, which would impose a five-day waiting period on people wanting to buy a handgun, to allow time to conduct background checks.

The bill, named after James Brady, the press secretary for former president Ronald Reagan who was severely wounded in the 1981 attempt on Reagan's life, has been debated in Washington for several years but blocked by the powerful gun lobby, the National Rifle Association.

Brady's wife, Sarah, chairman of a lobby group called Handgun Control Inc., commended the president but said the Brady Bill should be moved separately from his crime bill to speed it through Congress "before more blood is spilled and more lives are shattered by random handgun fire."

Clinton said it did not matter to him whether it was done separately or jointly with the crime bill, as long as it is passed quickly, "in a strong and clear and unambiguous form."

Clinton's bill would also increase penalties for gun offences and increase the number of federal crimes punishable by the death penalty, including the murder of a federal law-enforcement officer.

It would also expand the use of community boot camps for young offenders and make drug treatment more available.

The National Rifle Association issued a statement accusing Clinton of taking aim at law-abiding citizens. "Criminals don't wait a week to steal guns or buy guns on the black market," said James Jay Baker, director of the NRA's Institute for Legislative Action.

ADDITIONAL REPORTING: DALLAS MORNING NEWS

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Newsday

August 12, 1993, Thursday, CITY EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 21

LENGTH: 679 words

HEADLINE: Crimefighter Clinton

BYLINE: By Susan Page. WASHINGTON BUREAU

DATELINE: Washington

KEYWORD: BILL CLINTON; CRIME; PROPOSED; GUNS; SALE; ISSUE; PROGRAM; POLICE; NEIGHBORHOOD; RESTRICTION

BODY: President Bill Clinton yesterday outlined a major anticrime initiative that promises to put up to 50,000 more police officers on the beat and tighten controls on handgun sales, plunging the White House into a politically charged issue that has resisted significant federal action for more than a decade.

The package the president promoted yesterday in a Rose Garden ceremony included two provisions added to the sweeping crime bill that stalled in the 1992 election-year Congress. They are a \$ 3.4 billion "community cops" program that Clinton campaigned on last year and tougher limits on legal appeals by death-row inmates.

But whether the White House would succeed in winning congressional passage of the program wasn't clear, and some key players privately questioned whether the president would be willing and able to spend the personal attention and political capital likely to be needed.

The White House didn't draft a bill, saying the administration expected to support versions to be introduced next month by Senate Judiciary Chairman Joseph Biden (D-Del.) and House Judiciary Chairman Jack Brooks (D-Texas).

"We no longer have the freedom from fear for all our citizens that is essential to security and prosperity," Clinton declared as he stood before a backdrop of about two dozen uniformed police officers stationed on portable bleachers. "When our children must pass

through metal detectors to go to school . . . when parents are imprisoned in their own apartments behind locked doors, when we can't walk the streets of our cities without fear, we have lost an essential element of our civilization."

But Laura Murphy Lee, Washington director of the American Civil Liberties Union, said the president apparently hadn't yet thought through several key issues, including the expanded federal mandated sentences that were part of in last year's bill, which have been questioned by Attorney General Janet Reno.

"It's a sound bite, not a substantive review of where we are in our criminal justice system and why it's not working," she said.

The president also signed executive orders intended to tighten federal procedures for licensing gun dealers and banning the importation of assault pistols. He said the ban on foreign-made assault pistols would fight what has become "the weapon of choice for many gangs and drug dealers." But his action won't affect import permits that expire later this month for 10,000 assault pistols, administration officials said, nor will it limit the tens of thousands of assault pistols manufactured domestically.

However, the White House in a prepared statement urged Congress to consider banning the sale of all semiautomatic assault weapons. And Clinton reiterated his support for the so-called Brady Bill, which would impose nationwide a five-day waiting period for handgun purchases and require criminal background checks of purchasers.

Sarah Brady - a gun-control activist and wife of James Brady, who was wounded in the 1981 assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan, issued a written statement praising the president for "true leadership." But she also expressed concern that Clinton's willingness to fold the Brady Bill into the overall crime legislation might delay its enactment, and although invited, she was notably absent from yesterday's announcement.

The president also backed: a five-year, \$ 3.4 billion "cop-on-the-beat" program to help communities put up to 50,000 additional police officers on the street; a \$ 100 million "Police Corps" program of college scholarships for up to 5,000 students who promise to work as police officers for at least four years; creation of community "boot camps" as an alternative to jail for nonviolent youthful offenders; expansion of the federal death penalty for nearly 50 offenses; and new limits on death-row appeals.

That provision - which brought immediate protests from civil libertarians - would allow state inmates to file only a single federal habeas corpus appeal, subject to a six-month limit, after other appeals have been exhausted.

GRAPHIC: Photo-President Clinton

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Newsday

August 12, 1993, Thursday, NASSAU AND SUFFOLK EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 4

LENGTH: 1064 words

HEADLINE: Weapon Against Crime; Plan: more cops, tougher gun laws

BYLINE: By Susan Page. WASHINGTON BUREAU

DATELINE: Washington

KEYWORD: BILL CLINTON; POLICE; CRIME; GUNS; LAW; PROPOSED; INCREASE; PREVENTION; WEAPONS; EXECUTION; RECRUITMENT; AID; SCHOLARSHIP; TRAINING

BODY: President Bill Clinton yesterday outlined a major anti-crime initiative that promises to put up to 50,000 more police officers on the beat and tighten controls on handgun sales, plunging the White House into a politically charged issue that has resisted significant federal action for more than a decade.

The package the president promoted yesterday in a Rose Garden ceremony included two provisions added to the sweeping crime bill that stalled in the 1992 election-year Congress. They are a \$ 3.4-billion "community cops" program that Clinton campaigned on last year and tougher limits on legal appeals by death-row inmates.

But whether the White House would succeed in winning congressional passage of the program wasn't clear, and some key players privately questioned whether the president would be willing and able to spend the personal attention and political capital likely to be needed.

The White House didn't draft a bill, saying the administration expected to support versions to be introduced next month by Senate Judiciary Chairman Joseph Biden (D-Del.) and House Judiciary Chairman Jack Brooks (D-Texas).

"We no longer have the freedom from fear for all our citizens that is essential to security and prosperity," Clinton declared as he stood before a backdrop of about two dozen uniformed police officers stationed on portable bleachers. "When our children must pass through metal detectors to go to school . . . when parents are imprisoned in their own apartments behind locked doors, when we can't walk the streets of our cities without fear, we have lost an essential element of our civilization."

But Laura Murphy Lee, Washington director of the American Civil Liberties Union, said the president apparently hadn't yet thought through several key issues, including the expanded federal mandated sentences that were part of in last year's bill, which have been questioned by Attorney General Janet Reno.

"It's a sound bite, not a substantive review of where we are in our criminal justice system and why it's not working," she said of the Rose Garden announcement. "I think it's going to be much like his deficit-reduction proposal, when the way he starts out is not the way it looks when he ends up."

The president also signed executive orders intended to tighten federal procedures for licensing gun dealers and banning the importation of assault pistols.

The president said the ban on foreign-made assault pistols would fight what has become "the weapon of choice for many gangs and drug dealers." But his action won't affect import permits that expire later this month for 10,000 assault pistols, administration officials said, nor will it limit the tens of thousands of assault pistols manufactured domestically.

However, the White House in a prepared statement urged Congress to consider banning the sale of all semiautomatic assault weapons. And Clinton reiterated his support for the so-called Brady Bill, which would impose nationwide a five-day waiting period for handgun purchases and require criminal background checks of purchasers.

Sarah Brady - a gun-control activist and wife of James Brady, who was wounded in the 1981 assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan - issued a statement praising the president for "true leadership." But she also expressed concern that Clinton's willingness to fold the Brady Bill into the overall crime legislation might delay its enactment, and although invited, she was notably absent from yesterday's announcement.

The president also backed: a five-year, \$ 3.4-billion "cop-on-the-beat" program to help communities put up to 50,000 additional police officers on the street; a \$ 100-million "Police Corps" program of college scholarships for up to 5,000 students who promise to work as police officers for at least four years; creation of community "boot camps" as an alternative to jail for nonviolent youthful offenders; expansion of the federal death penalty for nearly 50 offenses; and new limits on death-row appeals.

That provision, which brought immediate protests from civil libertarians and some legislators, would allow state inmates to file only a single federal habeas corpus appeal, subject to a six-month limit, after other appeals have been exhausted. The legislation also would set experience and qualifications standards for lawyers assigned to represent poor defendants in capital cases.

Fighting Crime. Highlights of President Bill Clinton's anti-crime package:

A five-year, \$ 3.4 billion program to help communities put up to 50,000 more police officers on the streets.

The already-pending Brady bill, which calls for a five-day wait on handgun purchases and for background checks on would-be buyers. The waiting period would phase out as each state upgrades its criminal records and computerization to provide instant checks.

Expansion of the federal death penalty to cover nearly 50 offenses, including killing a federal law enforcement officer. In many cases, it simply would restore the penalty to crimes that carried it before the Supreme Court overturned capital punishment in 1972. A limit on federal habeas corpus appeals, primarily by state death-row inmates, to reduce delays in carrying out sentences. Inmates would get only one federal habeas appeal, and that would, for the first time, have to be filed within six months after completion of other appeals. There would be exceptions to the time limit for evidence of innocence. Indigent defendants in death-penalty cases would get lawyers who met tough standards - to ensure they got fair chances during trial and appeals.

A four-year, \$ 100 million Police Corps initiative, giving college scholarships and police training to up to 5,000 students who are willing to make a four-year commitment to police work.

Conversion of closed military bases and other facilities to boot camps for young offenders.

Outside the crime bill, other proposals totaling \$ 1.8 billion would provide for 45,000 more sworn and non-sworn police and public safety workers. They include an Education Department-funded Safe Schools program, Housing and Urban Development Department-funded public housing safety program and the national service plan in which 25,000 young people would serve as non-sworn public safety workers to repay college grants.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

GRAPHIC: Chart- Fighting Crime. Highlights of President Bill Clinton's anti- crime package. SOURCE: The Associated Press. (See end of text)

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Newsday

August 12, 1993, Thursday, NASSAU AND SUFFOLK EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 4

LENGTH: 844 words

HEADLINE: Panel Urges Merger Of U.S. Law Agencies

BYLINE: By Scott Ladd. STAFF WRITER

KEYWORD: UNITED STATES; GOVERNMENT; REFORM; MERGERS; JUSTICE DEPARTMENT; ATTORNEY GENERAL; FBI; DEA; ATF; CUSTOMS SERVICE; FEDERAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU; DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY; CUSTOMS SERVICE; BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS

BODY: The federal task force studying government consolidation is proposing a radical realignment of the Justice and Treasury Departments that could put the entire federal law-enforcement apparatus in the hands of the attorney general.

According to a draft proposal made available to Newsday, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms would be folded into the FBI, while the Customs Service - the agency most responsible for the nation's controversial drug interdiction program - is to be cut sharply and realigned.

Virtually all federal law enforcement would be concentrated in the Justice Department under the direction of the attorney general, according to federal planners drafting a blueprint for government efficiency.

The panel, chaired by Vice President Al Gore, is finishing a comprehensive review of federal agencies and expects to issue recommendations by Sept. 7. The changes would require approval by Congress, where federal officials say opposition to such a massive structural realignment in law enforcement is inevitable.

"Everybody's worried about their own piece of the pie," said one senior Justice Department official.

Last week, Newsday reported that the FBI had made a strong pitch to take control of the DEA. The proposal, outlined in a briefing paper for Attorney General Janet Reno, argued that the FBI is better equipped to investigate the crimes often associated with drug trafficking, including money laundering, fraud and murder.

Critics charge that federal law-enforcement, especially in the area of drug enforcement, is unwieldy and burdened by costly duplication of services. The task force reportedly was surprised at the amount of inefficiency in the enforcement of federal laws. In all, nearly 40 agencies are involved in some sort of criminal law-enforcement activity.

"There is considerable jurisdictional ambiguity and rivalry," the draft report concluded. Friction among officials of the FBI, DEA, ATF and Customs Service, caused by overlapping investigations of firearms, drug gangs, organized crime and explosives, has undermined national law enforcement, officials drafting the plan have concluded.

Gore's communications director, Marla Romash, said no final decisions on recommendations had been made. Carl Stern, a spokesman for Reno, said the proposed consolidation is "certainly in the range of possibility, but this is not a settled matter."

ATF and the criminal investigations unit of the Internal Revenue Service - both currently part of the Treasury Department - have strayed from their original missions and should be brought under Justice Department control, according to the report. The Secret Service, also under the auspices of Treasury, might also be moved to the Justice Department.

ATF has undertaken investigations of gang violence, drugs and explosives traffickers. The agency also took a public beating after the debacle in Waco, Texas, involving cult leader David Koresh. It has now "outlived its usefulness," those studying the realignment wrote.

The functions of the IRS' criminal investigation division might also be shifted to Justice. Created to enforce criminal sanctions of the tax code, it reportedly now spends less than half its time on such investigations, with the rest aimed at money laundering and drug trafficking.

Sources said the realignment plan includes a possible revamping of border control efforts, with Customs Service officials and the Immigration and Naturalization Service working cooperatively to enforce immigration laws.

An earlier reorganization draft, authored by the same task force, had proposed putting all national law-enforcement under a new agency called the Federal Investigation Administration, but it has already undergone alterations. "We are creating no new agencies," the official said.

On Capitol Hill, the reaction to the concept of a streamlined national law-enforcement agency has been diverse.

Rep. Charles Schumer (D-Brooklyn) said a consolidation of the scattered law-enforcement function would be welcome, but might face stiff opposition from legislators loyal to one agency or another.

"One law-enforcement agency under the Justice Department makes sense," said Schumer, chairman of the House subcommittee on crime and criminal justice. But he cautioned that creating it "would be difficult, because you would have turf battles. It would require a serious push by the president and vice president."

Influential supporters of individual enforcement agencies have already said they would resist such sweeping merger efforts. Rep. Charles Rangel (D-Manhattan) said recently the proposed absorption of DEA by the FBI is a "terrible idea," and Sen. Dennis DeConcini (D-Ariz.), a longtime ATF supporter, is unlikely to stand for its proposed merger into the Justice Department, federal sources said.

Bill Ruzzamenti, a spokesman for outgoing DEA Administrator Robert Bonner, said yesterday he could not comment on the recommendations. ATF officials in Washington could not be reached.

GRAPHIC: AP Photo- President Clinton talks with police officers from around the country after unveiling anti- crime bill in a Rose Garden address yesterday

Proprietary to the United Press International 1993

August 12, 1993, Thursday, BC cycle

SECTION: Washington News

LENGTH: 475 words

HEADLINE: ATF: Brady bill won't shut down weapons pipeline, but it will help

BYLINE: BY MICHAEL KIRKLAND

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

KEYWORD: US-CRIME-BRADY

BODY: Passage of the Brady bill would keep some guns out of the hands of criminals, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms said Thursday.

But ATF spokesman Tom Hill conceded it "will not shut down the pipeline" of illegal weapons. And even Attorney General Janet Reno said Thursday that passage of the Brady bill would be only the first step towards controlling illegal guns on the streets.

Reno has been acting as the administration's main advocate for President Clinton's anti-crime initiative.

Without giving specifics, Reno said at a news conference other measures should be taken on gun control because "we need to ban assault weapons that have no sporting purposes."

The Brady bill would require a five-day waiting period and a background check before the purchase of a handgun.

Named after White House press secretary Jim Brady, who was wounded during an assassination attempt on President Reagan in 1981, the bill is one of the linchpins of the anti-crime initiative announced by Clinton on Tuesday.

Hill said criminals acquire weapons in basically two ways at origin, as opposed to illegal sales on the streets: "We find in our studies that they either steal them from gunstores or homes, or get them from 'straw' purchasers."

"Straw purchasers" are seemingly legitimate gun buyers without criminal records who later sell the weapons to a criminal.

But Hill said it's easy even for a criminal to buy a firearm now — in most cases, all that's required is evidence that the buyer lives in the state where the gunshop's located, and that can be supplied with a phony license or other form of false identification.

Hill said the Brady bill background checks obviously would make it more difficult for a criminal with a phony ID to buy guns. And even a "straw purchaser" might think twice before buying from legitimate gunshops.

"Would (a straw purchaser) take the chance of coming back in five days" after the background check, Hill said, "and maybe find someone waiting to arrest him."

Even so, Hill acknowledged, a criminal has other ways of getting a weapon if he or she really wants one.

Hill said one main effect of the Brady bill would be on so-called "crimes of passion that are committed, many times against women." The five-day waiting period would provide a cooling off time, he said.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms is part of the Treasury Department, but one plan now making the rounds of administration officials would merge it and the Drug Enforcement Administration with the FBI.

At present, however, ATF is the government's principal agency in the war against illegal firearms.

Unlike the ATF, most municipal police departments are reluctant to comment on the record about the efficacy of the Brady bill — if it's passed.

Proprietary to the United Press International 1993

August 12, 1993, Thursday, BC cycle

SECTION: Domestic News

LENGTH: 426 words

HEADLINE: Tourism chief hails crime package

BYLINE: BY LES KJOS

DATELINE: MIAMI

KEYWORD: US-CRIME-TOURISM

BODY: A leader in the fight to keep Florida's tourists free of crime embraced President Bill Clinton's anti-crime package Thursday, saying it will have a "very positive impact" on the safety of visitors.

"If the president's package passes we're going to have better prevention and prosecution, with additional law enforcement on the street and with tougher penalties," Florida Secretary of Commerce Greg Farmer said. "It's going to go a long way toward helping Florida's No. 1 industry (tourism)."

Tourism officials were faced with a publicity nightmare in April because of several violent attacks on visitors, including the death of a German woman who was run over by a car after being robbed in Miami. Two men are awaiting trial in the case.

State officials fought back with new efforts to promote safety for tourists and Florida residents as well. Included were the elimination of special license plates for rental cars, new signs, and increased security procedures for hotels.

Farmer said all those steps have helped and tourism figures for the state remain strong, but he thinks Clinton's crime package will improve things even more.

Farmer would not concede that getting rid of license plates and decals identifying rental cars is more important than anything in Clinton's proposals.

"I don't think that's correct. It's a combination of everything," he said.

Farmer said the addition of 50 federal crimes to the list for capital punishment was a positive step.

"Across the board, we're getting tougher on all kinds of punishments. Certainly in the incident where the German woman was killed -- that was a case where the maximum penalty should be applied," Farmer said.

Farmer said the president's gun control measures also were a positive step.

"There are too many guns out there, many of them in the hands of youngsters. It just defies wisdom. I think the measures are thoughtful and reasonable," he said.

Acting Police Chief William Lutz of Orlando, where there has been concern over tourist crime, pointed out that Florida already has a three-day waiting period for buying guns. He also said tourist crimes have not been as big a problem as the media has presented.

"Tourists are actually safer than the residents," he said.

He said he welcomed the prospect of more law enforcement officers on the street. But he said it is more important to add prison space to keep criminals behind bars and rehabilitation programs for first and second-time offenders, including boot camps.

Proprietary to the United Press International 1993

August 12, 1993, Thursday, BC cycle

SECTION: Washington News

LENGTH: 469 words

HEADLINE: Reno says Brady Bill just first step in gun-control

BYLINE: BY MICHAEL KIRKLAND

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

KEYWORD: US-RENO

BODY: Attorney General Janet Reno said Thursday passage of a bill requiring a five-day waiting period for purchase of a handgun will be only the first step in clearing America's streets of assault weapons.

"We need to ban assault weapons that have no sporting purposes," Reno said, stating a position that goes beyond President Clinton's new anti-crime initiative.

The Brady bill, named for Jim Brady, the press secretary seriously wounded in the 1981 assassination attempt against President Ronald Reagan, calls for a five-day waiting period and a background check before a handgun purchase.

Clinton issued an executive order on Tuesday that halts the import of foreign assault pistols, sometimes called machine pistols. Assault rifles are already banned. American-made semi-automatic weapons are not affected.

When asked for specifics on continuing gun control efforts by the administration, Reno gave only "personal views" she said she developed in her service as a state prosecutor.

Reno said she felt in Florida that there should be "one uniform state license for any kind of weapon," including handguns and rifles. She endorsed "some kind of a test" to make sure someone knows how to use a firearm before the license is granted.

In an interview with reporters at the Justice Department, Reno said she is comfortable in leading the effort to pass Clinton's anti-crime initiative even though the proposal would expand the death penalty and probably shorten the appeals process for death sentences.

Reno has said she is "morally opposed to the death penalty."

The legislation would limit habeas appeals -- appeals on fresh grounds -- in the federal courts to one during a six-month period. This could drastically shorten the time between a death sentence and the actual execution, a process that now sometimes consumes decades.

Reno said she did not feel this is unfair, especially if, as provided in the crime initiative, federal law would require that indigent defendants be provided with lawyers who meet strict competence standards.

Reno said she is satisfied the investigation into the suicide of deputy White House counsel Vincent Foster involved no wrongdoing, even though she ordered a Justice Department review.

Reno refused to be drawn into the debate on whether the Drug Enforcement Agency and the Treasury Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms should be merged into the FBI.

A plan drawn up by a task force led by Vice President Albert Gore, but not yet made public, reportedly recommends the merger.

"I have a very definite goal to do everything I can to avoid duplication, fragmentation..." Reno said. Without endorsing such a merger, Reno called for more coordination of law enforcement agencies on every level.

Clinton to Seek Cure for Urban Violence

■ **Presidency:** Aides say he and the First Lady are personally troubled by the issue. Critics accuse them of reacting to polls to win over middle-class voters.

By PAUL RICHTER
TIMES STAFF WRITER

WASHINGTON—Spurred by rising public alarm over urban violence—and perhaps recent poll results—the Clinton Administration has decided to embark on a broad campaign to battle the symptoms and causes of the American culture of violence.

In the same week that Atty. Gen. Janet Reno has threatened a crackdown on Hollywood over television violence, President Clinton has embraced legislation to ban possession of all handguns by young people. And earlier this month, Hillary Rodham Clinton disclosed her intention to make battling violence her next crusade after health care reform.

While adversaries call this posturing on what many polls show is the public's No. 1 anxiety, Clinton aides said that the recent moves are a prelude to proposals that go well beyond those included in the pending crime bills. The plans are still in early stages but they are likely to include proposals further limiting the availability of guns, stepping up public education programs and further influencing portrayals of violence in the media.

"This is going to be broader than what we've seen," said a senior White House aide.

Aides said that the Clintons are personally troubled by the issue, although the new White House efforts also are intended to reap sizable political dividends. The adoption of a series of new state gun-control laws and the electoral strength of gun-control candidates, such as New Jersey Gov. James J. Florio, has demonstrated a shift in public sentiment about the need to contain guns, especially in the hands of minors, say political analysts.

Other polling has indicated that, amid an outbreak of highly publicized shootings of children, foreign tourists and others, the public is yearning for more action. With its

appeal for the broad center of American politics, Clinton strategists hope that their effort could strengthen the President's hand on more troublesome elements of his domestic agenda, from the North American Free Trade Agreement to health care and welfare reform.

It is not clear, of course, that any of the measures the White House will propose would make much headway in the struggle against violence. Many may be elements of earlier anti-crime programs and Clinton aides are the first to acknowledge the complexity of the issue.

"We don't have all the answers," a White House aide said.

Further, some aspects of the strategy, such as the approach to television violence, threaten direct conflict with such groups as the American Civil Liberties Union and People for the American Way, which often support Democratic positions. Those groups were quick this week to denounce Reno's warnings as a threat to First Amendment freedoms that could have no real effect on limiting violence.

"Those who are focusing too heavily on TV violence betray a little bit of an anti-Hollywood bias and a very narrow focus," said Arthur Kropp, president of People for the American Way, a liberal constitutional rights group. Calling Reno's threat to force TV producers to cut violence "unprecedented," he said that heavy emphasis on curbing media violence could "create problems with some of the President's strongest backers during the campaign."

Other leaders of liberal groups said they fear Reno's statement is a sign that the Administration's anti-

violence effort might be transformed into heavy-handed efforts at government control. But measures aimed at curbing violence appear to be good politics right now, particularly for a President who is desperately seeking to convince middle-class Americans that he is in their corner.

The President himself has been surprised and gratified by the recent positive reaction to gun-control comments, including to audiences that presumably should include a healthy share of conservatives.

He was taken back by the warm reaction to such rhetoric last week at the University of North Carolina. "There're not 50,000 liberals in the whole state," he raved to a friend.

The anti-violence statements have been applauded by members of the party's more conservative wing, many of whom would like to see a broader shift by the Administration toward greater emphasis on the obligations and responsibilities of citizens.

"It is welcome that they are focusing on what many Americans believe is the most pressing problem facing the country," said Will Marshall, president of the Democratic Leadership Council, a group of centrist and conservative Democrats.

An interagency task force, including officials of the Justice Department and Department of Health and Human Services, has been at work developing proposals to curb violence. While their final shape is unclear, the proposals will be based on the principle that curtailing violence "will require changing behavior in many parts of society," said one aide.

It is likely to include some further efforts to get Hollywood to deglamorize its portrayal of violence. Officials have not yet decided whether they would try to accomplish that through appeals to entertainment companies or some kind of rule making.

The program could include proposals to sharply increase taxes on gun dealers. Mrs. Clinton said this month that she favors the idea. And Administration officials already have hinted that they would like to tighten up the loose federal licensing of gun dealers.

The Administration effort also probably will include anti-crime education efforts directed at children and their parents and federal spending to make dangerous schools more secure.

The Administration may also propose more steps to ensure that teen-agers who have committed crimes do not slip through the criminal justice system without some kind of special training or discipline. That notion was behind the "boot camps" for juveniles that Clinton has advocated since his days in Arkansas.

In all of these proposals, of course, the Administration will be confronted with a lack of money—a problem that critics say has badly hurt its anti-drug effort. And it will face the skepticism of political adversaries, who insist the effort is fundamentally political.

David Mason, an analyst at the conservative Heritage Foundation, said that Clinton is trying to duplicate Florio's strategy of raising taxes, then masquerading as a social conservative with an anti-crime effort to win back middle-class support. "This is wholly political," he said.

bc violence - a1613

(bal) (ATTN: National editors) (Includes optional trims)
White House Forms Interagency Panel to Study Violence (Washn)
By John Fairhall= (c) 1993, The Baltimore Sun=

gen

WASHINGTON Looking for ways to stop Americans from attacking one another, Clinton administration officials said Thursday they are beginning a far-ranging study that will include consideration of more gun control laws and the role of violence on television.

Child abuse, abuse of the elderly, racial and ethnic violence and sexual assault are other areas that will be studied by an interagency group, the existence of which came to light during a meeting between U.S. Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders and news reporters.

Commenting on a variety of public health issues, Elders delivered a warning to Congress about eliminating insurance coverage for abortions from President Clinton's health care reform plan. She said women "should make sure they never forgot" who voted to eliminate the coverage, which is one of the most controversial features of the plan.

"I would hope that our policy-makers would not be so narrow-minded as to deny a complete range of reproductive health services in our health care reform plan for all women," said Elders, in her first extensive meeting with reporters since being confirmed by the Senate Sept. 7.

Administration officials said the mission of the interagency group on violence is "to look broadly at the question of violence" and develop "suggestions for immediate action" and for the long run, said Peter Edelman, counsel to Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala.

Although federal policies will receive close scrutiny, the group will consult outside experts and make recommendations concerning "the local level, both public and private," Edelman said.

Some steps are being taken now. Justice Department spokesman Carl Stern said the agency is already working with state officials in Colorado and Nebraska on projects there to control violence.

The study idea was born in a meeting earlier this year involving Shalala and Attorney General Janet Reno. Edelman is the co-chair of the group with Deputy Attorney General Philip Heymann. Other agencies participating include the departments of labor, housing and urban development, education, and the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

(Optional add end)

The role of the mass media TV and movies in fostering violence is a hot topic for many parents and a number of members of Congress. But civil libertarians are concerned about impinging on First Amendment rights of free expression.

Edelman said "we're all very conscious of the limitations of the government's role in the regulation of the media." One thing that can be done is to "work with the media to promote anti-violence messages," he said.

On the question of firearms, Clinton has already endorsed legislation to control handguns. Edelman said the group would consider "what further proposals the administration might make with regard to firearms regulations."

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Gen

Date: 08/22/93 Time: 12:17

Rural County Has Unusual and Unlucky History of Violence

LUMBERTON, N.C. (AP) T.L. Gerald's eyes twinkle as a batch of customers comes through the door.

"Welcome, ladies. What can I help you with? Everything in here is for sale not on sale but for sale. Remember, if you decide to buy something, that's your decision, not mine."

The women chuckle and move through Gerald's country store, where merchandise includes religious tapestries, fishing poles, water pumps and cast-iron cookware. Outside are boxes of axe handles, rows of garden tools and a huge sign advertising nightcrawlers, bloodworms, crickets and minnows.

A few feet away is the spot where police say James Jordan, father of basketball superstar Michael Jordan, was shot to death as he napped in his parked car early July 23.

The roadside shoulder in front of this folksy store seems an improbable setting for a homicide nearby, yellow butterflies flutter above fields of green tobacco and soybeans. Small farmhouses in need of paint are shaded by giant oaks and chinaberry trees.

But beneath its placid, rural surface, Robeson County has a reputation for trouble.

In nearly every measure of poverty, it ranks near the top. In nearly every measure of schooling, it ranks near the bottom. There's violence by the numbers, too. The murder rate is 17 per 100,000 people, compared with 12 per 100,000 statewide and 9.8 per 100,000 nationally. This year to date, Robeson County has recorded 23 murders.

Its 108,000 people are almost evenly divided among three races black, white and Lumbee Indian.

Poverty, ignorance and racial tension make a volatile mix.

The Jordan slaying is just the latest sensational crime to bring national attention to Robeson County. In the last decade:

Thelma Barfield, executed for killing her boyfriend, also confessed to poisoning her mother and two elderly people who employed her as a live-in housekeeper, all of them in Robeson County.

The local newspaper was taken over by two Indian activists protesting alleged corruption in county government. The newspaper staff was held for 14 hours at gunpoint, then released unharmed.

Julian Pierce, a Lumbee legal aid lawyer, was shot and killed in his home during a close race for a Superior Court judgeship. The young suspect, also a Lumbee, committed suicide before he could be arrested.

Folks here say Jordan's death and the resultant publicity were just another bad break.

"It just seems like the big ones happen here," said Sheriff Robert Stone, who has been with the sheriff's office 37 years.

And while there are some hardened criminals around, there are plenty of good people, he said. "I haven't had a gun on three times in the last 15 years, I guess," Stone said.

Robeson County has produced a fair share of successful people a governor, at least two speakers of the state House, a federal judge, a justice on the state Supreme Court, and several professional athletes and artists.

Time and time again, though, the unusual racial mix is pointed out as the factor that sets the county apart and contributes to its violent history.

Larry Martin Demery of Rowland, a Lumbee, and Daniel Andre Green

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

of Lumberton, who is black, are the two 18-year-olds charged in Jordan's death. Neither has a job; both are high school dropouts with criminal records.

"We're the only county in this state that does not have a majority race. Everyone here is a minority," said Joseph Oxendine, chancellor of Pembroke State University and a Lumbee.

"This is a hostile, violent county," he said.

Oxendine came home after 30 years at Temple University in Philadelphia and Boston University, hoping to show young people that if he could succeed, they could, too.

"When I left here I had a sense of insecurity, that I could not compete with white people intellectually or socially," he said.

"Particularly among Indian and African-American youth, there's a sense of depression and wondering if there's any way out of this," he said. "I came back because I believed I could do some good here."

Others are also trying to make a difference, like the Rev. Mac Legerton of the Center for Community Action. He remembers the newspaper takeover as a product of social shifts, as blacks and Indians moved to take more political power. Now they control the county government and school boards.

"There are always random events, violent events you can't control when you've got social change and social upheaval going on," said Legerton, who has worked in the county 13 years. "They were the result of something good that was going on."

But nothing good comes from Jordan's slaying, he said.

"With so much attention on the cities, this tragedy is a wake-up call that everything is not right in rural America," he said. "The economic and social problems facing young people in Robeson County are ticking time bombs. The death of James Jordan is one loud explosion."

APNP-08-22-93 1218EDT

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PRESERVATION

Clinton Stresses Need for Domestic Security in Speech to Party Faithful

By Thomas B. Edsall and Dan Balz
Washington Post Staff Writers

President Clinton told the party faithful yesterday that his agenda of health, unemployment and anti-crime legislation would provide a base of domestic security to prepare Americans for the rigors of global competition.

"Unless we can be secure in our work and families, unless we can be secure on our streets, unless we can be secure in our health care, I'm not sure the American people will ever be able to recover the personal optimism and courage to open up to the rest of the world," Clinton told members of the Democratic National Committee.

Arguing that U.S. workers face the inevitability of changing jobs, moving, and sustained retraining,

Clinton argued that fears of criminal violence, lost health insurance and of inability to be a good parent prevent people today from feeling "secure enough and strong enough to be able to face and make the changes we must make."

Stanley Greenberg, a political adviser to Clinton, said that in recent weeks "this theme [of security] has been running through his thinking and it has struck a chord internally."

Greenberg said yesterday morning's speech "goes very much to the heart of being a 'different kind of Democrat.' Republicans look at changes and welcome them, but leave people on their own in the marketplace to handle them. 'Old Democrats' will deal with security but fear change, and maybe even act to try to avoid it. I think he [Clinton] sees himself as a different kind of Democrat who welcomes

change, but wants to give people the security to deal with it."

Clinton made no direct mention of the North American Free Trade Agreement, which faces extensive hostility within the DNC as well as among congressional Democrats, but it is clearly the kind of "change" he is seeking to encourage the nation to make. The goal of domestic security, he said, is to permit the country "to reach out and break down the barriers of trade, because we know a rich country can only create jobs through increasing the volume of trade."

Later in the day, opposition to NAFTA surfaced briefly during a meeting of the DNC's executive committee. Frank Garrison, a DNC member and the chairman of the

Michigan AFL-CIO, told White House Deputy Chief of Staff Roy Neel that Congress should "do the administration a favor and kill it."

In addition to health care and anti-crime, gun control legislation, Clinton said the entire structure of unemployment insurance needs to be reorganized, because cyclical patterns of temporary job losses are being replaced by structural changes forcing individuals to face permanent job loss. "Instead of an unemployment system, we now need a re-employment system, because people need different jobs, because they are not going to get their old job back by and large," he said.

Following his speech, Clinton traveled to New Jersey, where he kept up the drumbeat for anti-crime

and health legislation. Gun-related violence costs the country about \$4 billion a year in medical care, he said, and 80 percent of the victims have no health insurance.

With New Jersey Gov. Jim Florio (D), Clinton toured a trauma center at the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick, where they talked with patients who were victims of violent crime.

Clinton said reducing gun-related violence in the United States is essential to controlling medical costs. He urged Congress to follow New Jersey's lead and pass legislation banning assault weapons nationwide.

"The Congress should pass one of those bills and send it to me this year," Clinton said. "We either need to say this is a level of chaos and hu-

man degradation ... that we are willing to tolerate, or we need to get up, stand up and be counted and do something."

Clinton talked with one victim who described having to "grovel" for Medicaid coverage. "That's terrible," Clinton said. "If we pass this bill we're working on, you won't have to worry."

The New Jersey visit was billed as nonpolitical. But Florio reaped the benefit of Clinton's praise and strong words of support from Essex County Sheriff Armando Fontoura, who praised the governor for standing up to the gun lobby to push his assault-weapon ban through the legislature and then hold off its repeal.

Balz reported from New Jersey.

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Holidays may unwrap b'g surprises for economy

By Mark Memmott
USA TODAY

As the economy gains momentum, all eyes are on holiday spending — looking for clues to the strength of the rebound.

If you look beneath the broad numbers, economists say, a welcome picture emerges. "This holiday is going to be more cheerful for the economy than anyone would have expected just a few months ago," says Theodore Tung, chief economist at National City.

A guide to holiday shopping news and what it means to the economy:

► This year's holiday revenue will be compared with last year's. So there almost surely will be reports that revenue didn't rise as much in '93 as in '92. Economists expect a 5% to 6% gain in holiday retail revenue over last year. Last year's increase vs. 1991: 8%. The results cover November and December revenue at all retailers, from gas stations to department stores.

Of course economists may be underestimating this year's growth.

Tuesday, the Commerce Department said retail revenue last month rose 7.1% over November '92.

► A 5% to 6% gain, while smaller than last year, would nevertheless be a good sign for the economy. It would show that consumers are confident enough to follow one strong holiday with another.

"And it's more impressive to get a strong gain the second year," says Diane Swonk, economist at First National Bank of Chicago. Revenue is growing from a base that was raised sharply the year earlier.

Last year's gain, economists say, was arguably less impressive than '93's will be. While revenue rose 8% in '92, the '91 gain had been a nearly invisible 0.4%. So last year's 8% gain was figured on a base that had been flat for two years.

► A third critical step is to look at prices. They're important when looking at results from department stores, toy stores and other retailers that do a lot of holiday business.

This season, mall stores that sell electronics and those that sell women's clothing both have reported

1.1% revenue gains vs. last year.

But the gain at women's stores is much less impressive. That's because women's clothing prices rose 0.7% the past year. So those stores are producing real revenue gains of just 0.4% — 1.1% minus the 0.7% that came from higher prices.

Conversely, electronics prices are down: videocassette recorders and cameras, 3.9%; TVs, 2.5%; stereo equipment, 0.1%. So depending on the mix of products they sell, real revenue gains at electronics stores could be as much as 5%.

Home-furnishing stores also are enjoying healthy real gains. Commerce says revenue at all retailers who sell furniture and other home furnishings was up 13.7% last month compared with November '92. There was strong growth even though prices of washers, dryers, stoves, ovens and dishwashers are flat, and sofa prices are down 1.5%.

"In some (areas), such as furniture and other home-related goods, spending's going through the roof," Swonk says. "This is looking like a good holiday."

Projects' gun ban challenged

By John Larrabee
USA TODAY

PORTLAND, Maine — Public housing resident Owen Thurlow says he feels safer in his home because the housing authority forbids guns.

"You hear about crime in housing developments everywhere else, but it's not like that here," says Thurlow, who does auto body repair work and has lived in the Riverton Park Development for three years.

"Thank God this isn't like Boston or New York," he adds. "Portland has its share of gun problems but they kept it out of this neighborhood."

But the National Rifle Association is attempting to shoot down such regulations in Portland and other cities.

The NRA has filed a lawsuit on behalf of two unidentified tenants, charging the Portland Housing Authority's gun ban violates Maine's constitution.

"We object to the housing authority saying that because you are low income, you don't have a right to possess a firearm in your home," NRA lawyer Jeffrey Jones said in opening arguments this week.

Justice Sidney Wernick, who heard the case without a jury, promised a ruling by the end of the year.

With gun violence on the



By Scott Perry, AP

OPPOSES GUN BAN: Corey Lyons, who grew up in the Portland developments, calls the ban 'a big inconvenience.'

rise, more and more housing authorities are considering gun bans. Most have met tough opposition.

► In Portland, Ore., and Austin, Texas, housing authority gun bans were tossed out as violations of state constitutions.

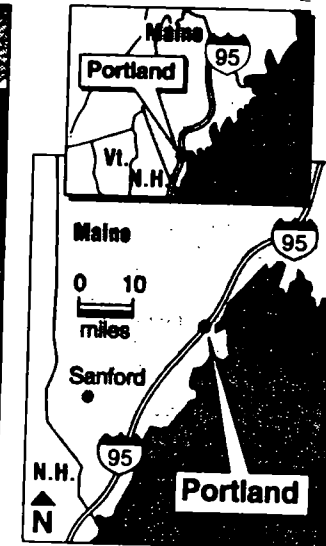
► The Chicago Housing Authority has prohibited firearms for more than 20 years — despite threats of an NRA lawsuit. The NRA backed off two years ago, after 10 Chicago lawyers volunteered to defend the ban pro bono.

Pro-gun activists have al-

ready lost the battle in federal court: In 1990, a federal judge upheld a Richmond, Va., rule banning guns in public housing.

But the NRA has succeeded in pushing state legislation that overturns such bans. A year after the Richmond case was settled, Virginia lawmakers passed new public housing regulations allowing residents to keep guns at home.

Maine gun activists argue Portland's rule violates a 1987 amendment to the state constitution, which says "every citizen has the right to keep and



USA TODAY

bear arms, and this right shall never be questioned."

Portland Police Chief Michael Chitwood cites the city's record as proof of the ban works. There have been no killings in the 10 housing projects in more than five years.

"We have the same problems with poverty, hopelessness, drugs and gangs. But what we don't see is the gun violence," Chitwood says.

Chitwood predicts many cities soon will adopt similar regulations. He's been contacted by housing officials from Bos-

ton and New York. "Police chiefs everywhere are trying to keep guns out. All over America, public housing is becoming a war zone."

Before the no-gun clause was added in 1975, Riverton Park residents says the development was notorious for crime. A motorcycle gang took over one block and drugs and guns were commonplace.

"The ban changed things — maybe because it scared off certain people," says homemaker Loretta Foley. "I wish the NRA had stayed out. I think they just want the publicity."

Housing officials say tenants can own guns — if they keep them somewhere else.

But many residents are hunters, and some say they'd like to keep their rifles at home. Some leave their guns with relatives. Others just keep them hidden.

"It's a big inconvenience," says Corey Lyons, a landscape worker who grew up in the developments.

Maine's constitution provides stronger gun rights than are found in many other states. Because of that, some predict the Portland case could set the standard for other cities.

"If we win in Maine, you should be able to win this kind of thing anywhere else," says William Knowles, the housing authority's lawyer.

The Gun Spoke First

By Katina Mantis Johnstone

My husband, David, was raised in a small town in Minnesota but chose to live in cities — Kansas City, Mo., Dallas, Paris and, his favorite, New York. He loved books, opera, theater, museums and libraries. I submit this brief personal history to profile yet another gunshot victim.

David's commute to the mid-Manhattan publishing house where he was an editor included a 2.5-mile walk between our Staten Island home and the ferry terminal. He tried to take

Katina Mantis Johnstone is education coordinator for the Staten Island Botanical Garden.

similar exercise when he was away on business. While in San Francisco on July 29, 1992, he was walking through a quiet residential neighborhood. He passed three teen-age boys who had spent the evening stalking a man with an expensive coat and were growing impatient outside the house the man had entered. They shifted their attention to my husband.

They later said that they had intended to ask David for money, but a gun spoke first. David was shot in the back. The single bullet from the .38-caliber revolver severed his spinal cord, nicked his lung and kidney, made two holes in his colon and lodged in his liver.

David was admitted to San Francisco General Hospital within four minutes after the shooting; the neighborhood residents, unaccustomed to the sound of gunfire, had responded

immediately. After two weeks in intensive care and recovery, he was taken to the Rusk Institute in New York for rehabilitation.

In two weeks at the institute, he made remarkable progress. He learned to install his catheter, put his pants on and get into a wheelchair unassisted, and he was determined to be the best paraplegic father our two children — Zoë, 14, and Ian, 11 — could have.

Then a blood clot formed in his paralyzed legs and traveled to his lungs. He died on Aug. 24, 1992.

His 16-year-old killer was viewed by San Franciscans as a victim. An advocacy group sent literature on his behalf to probation officers around the state and petitioned the court to show leniency. He had been abandoned by his drug-addicted mother at age 1 — having never met his father

My husband is a handgun statistic.

— and left in state custody.

I acknowledge his rage, but what I cannot understand or forgive is that our society and government allow so many people to have and use loaded guns. San Francisco and New York City are to be congratulated for their relatively strict gun legislation. But those laws are ineffectual without a stronger Federal commitment to gun control than the Brady law. The gun that shot my husband was registered in Florida, and the killer had borrowed it.

Americans should realize how much the unchecked gunfire costs

them. Indirectly and directly in David's death, society is paying the awesome medical costs — the price tag for the medical services could put our children through college — plus the life insurance policies, the travel, accident policies, the legal proceedings, and the assailant's incarceration (up to eight years in a juvenile facility).

I now receive monthly Social Security mother's benefits and the maximum monthly workers' compensation. But what can I buy for my children that might replace their father?

President Clinton's proposed \$22 billion crime bill will be little more than a Band-Aid unless the Government can get loaded handguns off the streets. If it was David's bad luck to be in the wrong place at the wrong time, where in America is the right place and when is the right time?