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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MARCH 21, 1994

RECEPTION WITH ATTORNEYS GENERAL

DATE: Tuesday, March 22, 1994
LOCATION: State Dining Room
TIME: 5:00 pm
5:30 pm President/First Lady Arrive
FROM: Marcia Hale,
Assistant to the President and
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs

John Hart,
Deputy Assistant to the President and
Deputy Director of Intergovernmental
Affairs

I. PURPOSE

This is the first time you have met with the attorneys general as President. The purpose of this meeting is to recognize the attorneys general as the state's chief legal officers and to articulate the importance of the state-federal partnership, particularly in the areas of crime, health care reform and environmental protection.

II. BACKGROUND

The attorneys general are in town for the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) annual Spring meeting. NAAG is a non-partisan organization representing the attorneys general from the 50 states, territories and commonwealths. The current President of NAAG is General Hubert "Skip" Humphrey (D-MN). While they are in town, they will be meeting with several Administration officials including: Attorney General Janet Reno, FBI Director Louis Freeh, Secretary Babbitt and Administrator Browner. (They also have a scheduled meeting with Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg). You were scheduled to meet with NAAG last year but were unable to do so because of the illness of Mrs. Clinton's father. The Vice President met with them instead.

As a former attorney general, you should be well received by your former colleagues. They are eager to hear about how your experience as an attorney general has helped you as President and the role you see the state attorneys general playing in national policy and politics.

As the chief legal officers of their states, the attorneys general play a crucial role in crime. They are credible and effective advocates for the need for a national crime bill and can be very helpful in lobbying Congress to pass the President's Crime Bill. This is a great opportunity to stress the importance of a state-federal partnership in fighting crime and solicit the attorneys general assistance in getting the crime bill passed and implemented.

III. PARTICIPANTS

The President

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Attorney General Janet Reno (will not speak)

Attorneys General

Redding Pitt (D-AL), Deputy AG of Alabama (very helpful on campaign)

Bruce Botelho (AK)

Grant Woods (R-AZ), mentioned as a possible primary challenger to Governor Fife Symington (R) this year. He says that he plans to seek re-election and that he will only challenge Symington, who continues to be the subject of probes into his connections to a failed savings and loan, if the Governor becomes completely unelectable.

Daniel Lungren (R-CA)

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Charles Oberly (D-DE), viewed by political insiders as the only Democrat capable of unseating Republican Senator William Roth. As Delaware's AG, he has earned a reputation as effective crime-fighter and corruption-buster in the state.

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and build 12 new prisons if elected AG.
Rosalie Ballentine (VI)
Christine Gregoire (D-WA)
James Doyle (D-WI)
Joseph Meyer (R-WY)

IV: PRESS PLAN

Closed

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

5:00 Attorneys General arrive
Coffee and appetizers served in Blue Room
(General Reno will be in attendance, and perhaps
Lloyd Cutler)

5:20 Attorneys General proceed to State Dining Room

5:30 President and HRC arrive
President/HRC proceed to small stage at west side
of room
HRC makes brief remarks/ introduces President
President makes brief remarks

5:40 President takes brief Q and A from AG's

5:45 Proceed to Blue Room for Receiving Line

President and HRC depart
Attorneys General depart

Press Stake-out for Attorneys General on North Lawn after event

VI. REMARKS

See Talking Points attached

TALKING POINTS FOR ATTORNEYS GENERAL RECEPTION

I. Introduction/Welcome

- **Welcome** -- I would like to welcome my former colleagues, the attorneys general, to the White House. Its nice to see some old friends in the crowd, as well as some new faces. I am sorry that I was not able to meet with you all last year. Unfortunately, Hillary's father was ill and we were down in Arkansas.
- **Recognize Attorney General Reno** -- I would also like to recognize General Reno, who I see has joined us tonight. I am glad that you all have had the opportunity to meet with her during your visit to Washington. I hope you have benefitted from her insight and experience as much as I have.
- **Impact of Serving as Attorney General** -- Although its been a few years since I served as attorney general, I think I have a pretty good sense of your roles and responsibilities as the chief legal officers of your states. I think that experience has helped me understand the legal responsibilities of the states in fighting crime, preserving our environment, preventing health care fraud and other major issues that we are currently dealing with on both the state and national level. I think from my experience as an attorney general, I am also able to bring a keener sense of the intricate relationship of public policy and the law and how the two affect peoples lives.
- **Administration's Partnership with the States** -- I believe that this Administration's domestic initiatives have demonstrated a commitment to work with the states as partners to find real solutions to the challenges that face our country. One example is the anti-violence initiative which recognizes that 95% of all crime is apprehended and prosecuted at the state and local level. I would also like to point out that in the area of health care reform, we have placed an emphasis on state and regional based alliances and have preserved state flexibility. The environmental legislation we sent to Congress reauthorizing Superfund, the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act reflects the importance of state implementation and enforcement of these important programs.

II. Crime (Request Assistance in passage of Crime Bill)

- I need your help to pass the Crime Bill. On Wednesday or Thursday, the House of Representatives will take up a comprehensive crime bill. Although it does not reflect the Administration's views 100%, it's still a balanced bill that

is both tough and smart and it will keep the debate moving. The American people have waited long enough for a crime bill, and they shouldn't have to wait for Washington to act any more.

- The Crime Bill is tough and smart: It puts more police on the street in community policing to catch criminals and prevent crime; it gives more money to states for prisons to house violent offenders and for boot camps, drug courts and other alternatives for those who can still turn around; it tells violent youths that we will prosecute them as adults if we have to, but it gives kids something to say "yes" to through jobs in high crime areas, recreational opportunities, alternatives to gangs, etc.
- Coupled with our budget, the crime bill will fund the biggest War on Crime ever. The Crime Bill includes and the Administration strongly supports the creation of a \$23 billion Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund. The fund takes the savings we will achieve from reducing the federal workforce by 252,000 -- and makes sure that that money goes into crime fighting measures. In the first year alone, our budget and the crime bill will provide state and local law enforcement assistance with the single largest increase ever -- more than 300% enforcement assistance with the single largest increase ever -- more than 300% and more than \$2 billion. Let's have a dialogue on what's the best way to spend it.

III. Health Care (Request assistance in passage of Health Security Act)

- I need your help in passing the Health Security Act and in guaranteeing private health insurance for all Americans. Our proposal recognizes that health care fraud robs American taxpayers of as much as \$80 million each year for overcharging for services, charging for medical care that was never delivered, and delivering unnecessary services. For the first time, health care fraud will be a crime and violators will face stiff penalties. Simplifying the health care insurance system will not only reduce administrative costs, but also reduce opportunities for fraudulent billing.

IV. Close

- Why don't we step in to the next room so that we can visit and take some pictures.

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