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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 13, 1994

94 JUL 14 All : 56

CRIME BILL MEETING

DATE: Thursday, July 14
LOCATION: Oval Office
TIME: 4:00 pm - 4:15 pm
From: Rahm Emanuel R.G.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss how to get the Crime Bill out of Conference without the Racial Justice Act, and how to secure final passage of the Crime Bill.

II. BACKGROUND

As you know, a bipartisan filibuster is assured in the Senate if RJA is included in the Crime Bill. Many CBC and other liberal members in the House have said that they will vote against the Crime Bill if RJA is not included. We have been working to convince enough CBC members that it is imperative to pass this Crime Bill, which includes almost \$9 billion in prevention funding, with or without RJA. We have also been discussing other administrative actions, such as the creation of a Blue Ribbon Commission to study the imposition of federal death penalty sentencing, to address discrimination in death penalty cases.

Over the past week, we have been negotiating with the CBC over the Racial Justice Act (RJA) in hopes of finding compromise language. These negotiations have been unsuccessful. We will therefore ask the conferees to produce a Bill out of Conference that does not include RJA. This will be done in a letter to the conferees, to be sent today or tomorrow, that will inform them that you want to move the Crime Bill without RJA.

After this announcement has been made, we will continue to work to reach out to CBC and other liberal members to insure that there is no serious rift between the Administration and the CBC.

We will also work to prevent defections from conservative Democrats (upset over the inclusion of the ban on assault weapons) to win passage of the Rule in the House. The final next step is to take the Bill to the Senate for final passage.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Leon Panetta
George Stephanopoulos
Pat Griffin
Ron Klain
Bruce Reed
Rahm Emanuel
Karen Hancox

IV. PRESS PLAN

Private Meeting.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

No formal sequence of events.

VI. REMARKS REQUIRED

No formal remarks required.