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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 14, 1994

CRIME BILL FIGHT EVENT

DATE: Monday, August 15, 1994

LOCATION: Rose Garden

TIME: 1:30 - 2:15 pm

FROM: Liz Bernstein

I. PURPOSE

This event is to keep up the drumbeat of public pressure since last Thursday's vote on the Crime Bill rule. All the elements of the bill that we are fighting for will be represented by individuals on the program.

II. BACKGROUND

Steven Sposato

Steve Sposato's wife, Jody, was killed in the San Francisco law office shooting last July. A gunman entered the high-rise with two TEC-DC9 pistols and began randomly shooting at employees, apparently over a disagreement with the firm. Jody was one of eight innocent victims killed, six others were wounded. Steve has an 18-month-old daughter, Meghan.

Steve spoke very eloquently about his wife's death at the assault weapons ban rally we had in the Rose Garden on April 25. He has testified before Congress, done numerous media interviews, and personally lobbied individual Members.

You met with him and his family (daughter Meghan, Jody's parents) in the Oval Office briefly after the event.

Janice Payne (mother of James Darby)

James Darby, 9, was shot in the head as he walked home with his family from a Mother's Day picnic at a park in New Orleans. The bullet was fired from a shotgun pointed out the window of a car which pulled within a few feet of the crowd. James died instantly on the sidewalk about a block from his home.

Two brothers, aged 19 and 14, were arrested and booked in the killing, which police believed began as a fistfight during a football game at the park.

It was New Orleans' 162nd homicide of the year, but James was the youngest victim. Nine days before the shooting, James wrote this letter to you:

Dear Mr. Clinton,

I want you to stop the killing in the city. People is dead and I think that somebody might kill me. So would you please stop the people from deading. I'm asking you nicely to stop it. I know you can do it. Do it. I know you could.

Your friend,

James

Janice Payne, who witnessed her son's murder, wants to come to Washington so that James will not been forgotten. She believes that the publicity will continue to focus attention on the nation's crime problem and hopes it will help prevent the deaths of other children.

She is 29 years old, works as a nursing assistant and has a 7-year-old daughter named Marquita.

Marc Klaas

As you know, Marc is the father of Polly Klaas. You met with him in the Oval Office last December to discuss the Crime Bill, Three-Strikes legislation, and other efforts to protect children.

Polly Klaas, 12, was abducted at knife point October 1, 1993, from a slumber party at her home. Richard Allen Davis, a twice-convicted kidnapper, was arrested on November 30, and confessed to her kidnapping and murder. Davis was released on parole in June, 1993 after serving half of a 16-year sentence for a 1985 kidnapping.

III. PARTICIPANTS

On the Program

Dewey Stokes, President, Fraternal Order of Police

Steven Sposato (wife killed in San Francisco law office)

Janice Payne (mother of James Darby)

Marc Klaas

The President

Audience

Police Officers (note: the officers behind you on the podium are the same ones who were there when we first announced the Crime Bill in the Rose Garden last summer)

Relatives and friends of individuals on the program.

IV. PRESS

Open press.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- * You will be briefed in the Oval Office at 1:15.
- * In between the briefing and the event you will meet for a few minutes with the individuals on the program.
- * You and the participants will walk out to the Rose Garden together.
- * Dewey Stokes will give opening remarks. He will introduce Steve Sposato.
- * Mr. Sposato will introduce Janice Payne.
- * Ms. Payne will introduce Marc Klaas.
- * Mr. Klaas will introduce you.

VI. REMARKS

Remarks to be provided by the speechwriting department.