

8/18/06

Meeting with Samra Chesser

Wt Council on Youth Violence - paid out of ^{authorized} emergency fund by Pres. for spec. criteria
- est. by Pres. Lema in Oct. '99

- Working on accomplishments doc

↓ Feb. '00

when it
began
working

- Oct. '99 Wt conf. on school safety

↳ led to Council's founding

↳ part of National Campaign to end
youth violence (after Columbine)

- First came about because of Sen. Specter's
initiative / as a center to his efforts

Susan
Blumenthal

- Est. to coordinate work of HHS, JUS,
Labor, Ed, that related to youth violence

- Unique for DPC - programmatic focus

National Campaign Against Youth Violence

Themes / Accomplishments:

* Dramatic reduction in Youth violence.

- Perhaps too much emphasis on school
violence (only 1% of kids killed were
killed at school).

* Calling attention to issues the reach across economic / racial spectrum
(Safe Schools)

* Most programming takes place in schools

* Done much to integrate all Depts efforts & to
make them more citizen-friendly (web portal)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 15, 1999

October 15, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

THE SECRETARY OF LABOR

THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR

DOMESTIC POLICY

SUBJECT: White House Council on Youth Violence

Violence by youth and against youth is an issue that deeply concerns us all. Youth violence can be thought of as a juvenile crime issue, as a public health issue, and as a school safety issue. It affects every region and demographic group. As many recent incidents have made us aware, it is a problem that can strike with unexpected force -- and that now demands uncommonly unified responses. That is why I announced, on August 17, 1999, that a nonprofit, nonpartisan "National Campaign Against Youth Violence" had been established to bring together all segments of society to help prevent youth violence.

The Federal Government already addresses many aspects of youth violence through its programs. I am particularly proud of the joint efforts of the Attorney General, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Secretary of Education in developing the Safe Schools/Healthy Students initiative. These agencies also worked well together to help us respond quickly to the Columbine High School incident. I have read with interest the report of the Attorney General's Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. I look forward to the report that the Surgeon General in response to my May request is preparing on the causes of youth violence. The Secretary of Labor's efforts to address the needs of youth are also about to bear fruit, as high-poverty communities implement our new Youth Opportunity Grants, and as the Secretary and the Attorney General finalize their agreement for cooperative work on those grants and on Labor's Youth Offender grant program.

With so many agencies and programs involved, and with the need for my Administration to work closely with different elements of State and local governments, tribes, schools, community groups, and families, it has become increasingly clear to me that the Federal Government needs a more effective policy coordination strategy for youth violence issues.

Therefore, today I direct the Assistant for Domestic Policy to form a White House Council on Youth Violence to provide this policy coordination, to provide flexible and timely responses to the challenge of youth violence, and to ensure that our Nation's citizens are able to benefit from the Federal Government's many antiviolence initiatives.

Structure of the Council

The Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy will chair the Council. The Office of the Vice President and the Office of Management and Budget will be regular participants. Four agency heads will be the regular program members of the Council:

- The Attorney General, responding to the juvenile crime aspects;
- The Secretary of Health and Human Services, responding to the public health aspects, including mental health aspects, and to family issues;
- The Secretary of Education, responding to the school safety issues; and
- The Secretary of Labor, responding to youth employment and out-of-school youth issues.

The Chair of the Council may add such other officials as he deems appropriate to further the purposes of this overall effort or to participate in specific aspects of it. For example, matters relating to public health aspects would involve the Surgeon General. Matters relating to firearms control or drug abuse would involve the Secretary of the Treasury and the Director of National Drug Control Policy, respectively. Implications for economic development policies would call for involvement of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Secretary of Commerce. Comparable policies for Indian country would engage the Secretary of the Interior. Issues relating to community service opportunities for youth would involve the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

The Chair, after consultation with Council members, will appoint staff members to coordinate the Council's efforts. The Chair may call upon the participating agencies for logistical support to the Council, as necessary.

Duties of the Council

1. Develop a citizen's information hub. The Council will develop and maintain a coordinated inventory of relevant agency programs and provide analyses of their effectiveness. It will make this inventory widely available in summary form -- and upon request in more detail -- through the services of the appropriate Council member, to elected officials, community groups, police organizations, school systems, parents, and others working on local solutions to these issues. The inventory and full texts of program reports and evaluations should be available on an easily accessible website. The availability of this compilation will be widely publicized.

2. Produce reports on youth violence. The Council will prepare or have prepared reports on various aspects of the problem of youth violence, describing, for instance, best practices in combating the problem. In doing so, the Council should consult with nonprofits, foundations, and other organizations that have conducted research and/or developed resources on the prevention of youth violence. In addition, the Surgeon General is now carrying out a broad study of the potential causes of youth violence. I ask that the Surgeon General consult closely with the Council in the development of the study so that I may have the benefit of participation of all the involved agencies in its analysis and findings.

3. Expand the Safe Schools/Healthy Students model of collaboration. This initiative of the Departments of Justice, Education, and Health and Human Services has evolved into a highly effective collaboration among the agencies. The Council will oversee this effort and examine options for improving its operations and applying the model to other governmental efforts. The Secretary of Labor will begin participation in the initiative through establishing linkages to Youth Opportunities and Youth Offender grants.

4. Provide tools for parents to deal with the issue. Many Federal programs address issues relating to strengthening the family and helping parents raise children. The Council will explore the possibility of devising a cross-program strategy to help parents address youth violence. It will also report on new tools emerging in both the private and public sectors to assist parents.

5. Coordinate the Federal research agenda. The Council will oversee coordination of agency research agendas and the development of needed cross-agency research collaborations. I ask the Council to seek to have this structure in place to support the planning for FY 2001 research funds, and where feasible, to improve the planned use of funds available from prior years.

6. Develop further policy responses. The Council will meet at the call of the Chair to discuss new findings from analyses of the youth violence issue and to consider new or modified Administration responses to it, especially those that involve more than one agency. Recommendations for initiatives will be discussed in the Council for consistency with overall coordinated policy before being presented for formal decision in the budget process. From time to time, the Council will report to me directly on the results of its efforts.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

cc: The Vice President
The Secretary of the Treasury
The Secretary of the Interior
The Secretary of Agriculture
The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
The Director of the Office of Management and Budget
The Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 10, 1999

PRESIDENT AND MRS. CLINTON, VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. GORE HOST
STRATEGY SESSION ON
CHILDREN, VIOLENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY

Monday, May 10, 1999

Today, President Clinton will lead a strategy meeting to discuss the problem of youth violence and develop a strategy for a national campaign to address this problem. The meeting will include a broad cross section of Americans, including parents and children, teachers and religious leaders, law enforcement and government officials, gun manufacturers and sportsmen, and representatives of the entertainment industry. The President will announce several initiatives to address the problem of youth violence, including a Surgeon General's Report on Youth Violence, gun industry support for gun legislation in five important areas, and public and private commitments to ensure the effective implementation of the V-Chip.

SURGEON GENERAL'S REPORT ON YOUTH VIOLENCE

Today, the President will announce that he is asking the nation's Surgeon General, Dr. David Satcher, to prepare a landmark report on youth violence -- the first such study on this subject in more than a decade. This report will bring together leading experts to review and evaluate existing research, and build on the findings of the 1972 Surgeon General Report on Television and Violence, as well as the 1985 Surgeon General's Workshop on Violence. Much is already known about how to reduce and prevent youth violence, but this report will add to the nation's understanding in this field. It also will address media that have emerged since previous reports, such as the Internet and video games.

GUN INDUSTRY SUPPORTS LEGISLATION IN FIVE KEY AREAS

Today, leaders in the firearms industry will announce their support for working out legislation in five areas. Specifically, the American Shooting Sports Council (ASSC), the gun industry's trade association in Washington, which represents 350 firearms manufacturers and distributors around the country, will release a statement supporting legislation in five areas:

- Closing the gun show loophole on Brady background checks. The Treasury Department estimates that 25-50 percent of the sellers at gun shows are unlicensed and sell guns without the benefit of a background check purchasers. As a result, gun shows can provide a forum for illegal firearms sales and gun trafficking. The President has proposed background checks, based on the existing Brady law, for firearms transferred at gun shows.
- Extending the Brady Law to violent juveniles. Although violent youth convicted in adult courts are barred from owning firearms as adults, the same is not true for youth convicted of serious violent crimes in juvenile court. The President has proposed permanently banning all violent juveniles from buying guns -- so that they cannot purchase a gun on their 21st birthday.
- Raising the age of the youth handgun ban to 21 years of age.

Federal law generally bans the possession of handguns by juveniles under the age of 18, and prohibits federal gun dealers from selling firearms to anyone under 21 years of age. However, it is perfectly legal for 18-20 year-olds to possess handguns or to buy them from unlicensed sellers -- even though law enforcement traces more crime guns to 18- and 19-year-olds than all other age groups. The President has proposed raising the legal age of handgun ownership from 18 to 21 years, while maintaining current exemptions for employment, hunting, target shooting, ranching, and military service.

- Holding adults responsible for child access to guns. Child Access Prevention (CAP) laws promote gun safety and responsibility by holding adults responsible if they allow children easy access to firearms and ammunition. The President has proposed imposing felony penalties on adults who knowingly or recklessly allow a child to have access to a gun that is later used to cause death or injury.
- Helping law enforcement to trace more firearms used in crimes. Over the past two years, the President has expanded comprehensive crime gun tracing to 37 cities -- helping them to trace all crime guns to their source, to identify illegal gun markets, and to crack down on gun traffickers. Last year, ATF initiated over 300 investigations in these cities, which involved over 3,300 illegally trafficked firearms. The President has proposed expanding comprehensive tracing nationwide, starting by doubling the program to 75 cities.

MAKING THE V-CHIP WORK

The V-Chip is a device that allows parents to block television programming they consider inappropriate for their children. President Clinton and Vice President Gore led the successful fight for legislation that requires that the V-Chip be installed in all new television sets sold beginning January 1, 2000. At today's strategy session, the President will announce two new initiatives to make sure the V-Chip becomes a useful tool for parents.

- V-Chip Task Force. To ensure that the V-Chip law is implemented effectively, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will establish a V-Chip Task Force. The Task Force will: (1) ensure that the V-Chip requirement is enforced promptly and comprehensively; (2) promote parental awareness about the V-Chip and work closely with organizations sharing this goal; (3) encourage adoption of a standard label identifying television sets that contain the V-Chip and; (4) study the use of the V-Chip and evaluate the effectiveness of the industry's ratings system. FCC Chairman William Kennard has appointed Commissioner Gloria Tristani to chair the Task Force.

- The V-Chip Survey and Education Project. According to a survey released today by the Kaiser Foundation, while many parents (77%) say they want to use the V-Chip, fewer than four out of ten parents (39%) have ever seen information on how the system works. The Kaiser Foundation and the Center for Media Education announced today a major national effort to educate parents about the V-Chip TV ratings system. The educational campaign will include free booklets for parents on how the V-chip TV ratings system works. The free parent information will be available through a toll-free telephone number and will be promoted through partnerships with TV manufacturers, retailers, parents' organizations, newspapers, and television stations.

A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT YOUTH VIOLENCE

Recognizing that youth violence is a problem that government cannot

solve alone, the President, the First Lady, the Vice President and Mrs. Gore will call for a national campaign to reduce youth violence. This campaign will work with all sectors of our society - the media, education groups, parents, religious leaders, and young people - to focus on this problem, find what is working, and spread it to new communities, while also helping to ensure that the media sends the right message to our children.

This campaign is modeled after two extremely successful efforts launched by the Clinton Administration. Four years ago, the President asked for a national campaign to reduce teen pregnancy. Today, under the leadership of Governor Tom Kean, former governor of New Jersey and now the President of Drew University, that campaign is playing an important role in reducing teen pregnancy rates nationwide. Two years ago, the President called for a national effort by businesses to hire people off welfare, to make sure the welfare reform effort would work. Today, under the leadership of Eli Segal, the Welfare to Work Partnership has grown to 10,000 companies that have helped move more than 40,000 people from the welfare rolls to the job rolls.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 10, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT,
THE FIRST LADY,
THE VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. GORE

AFTER WHITE HOUSE STRATEGY SESSION
ON CHILDREN, VIOLENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY

The Rose Garden

2:06 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Please be seated, everyone. We're getting our group up here, you see. It's a little slow -- it's a large and, as you can see, diverse and distinguished group. We just had a wonderful meeting in the East Room of the White House. We had not only the Vice President and Tipper and Hillary and I, but many members of our administration and four members of Congress -- Senator Brownback and Senator Reid, and Leader Gephardt and Representative Jennifer Dunn were there.

And we listened to several hours of discussions; over 40 people spoke, many of them already heavily involved in the efforts to give our children a safe childhood and protect them from violence.

This was exactly the kind of session I had hoped for, where everyone was talking about the problems and the opportunities; everyone was talking about what could be done to accept responsibility. No one was pointing the finger of blame.

In the weeks and months ahead, as we launch our national campaign to prevent youth violence, we will build on the strong foundation of this day, and on many of the things which have been said and many of the people who have said them.

I want to say a special word of appreciation to the young people who are here today and who are working in their own communities to try to help their fellow students have a safe and wholesome life.

As the national campaign gets underway, we know we'll have to overcome the old ways of doing business. We've seen some of that today as well, in the remarkable support that gun manufacturers have given to many of our common-sense gun proposals. We see in the efforts of networks like ABC and CBS, and private family foundations like Kaiser, and agencies like the FCC, all of whom have supported the television rating systems, and giving parents the tool of the V-chip to protect children from excessively violent programming.

We know that there is more for each of us to do at home and at school, in Hollywood and in the heartland and here in Washington. Every parent, every teacher, every leader has something more to do.

First and most fundamentally, we must do more to help parents fulfill their most important responsibilities, those to their children. Challenging parents to turn off the television when they don't like what they see; to use the new tools the Vice President announced recently to keep an eye on the computer screen; to refuse to buy products that

glorify violence. If no one consumes these products, people will stop producing them. They will not build it if you don't come.

To the media and entertainment industries, I also say we need your wholehearted participation in this cause. There are many changes which have occurred over the last generation in our society. It is true that we've had a lot of breakdowns in families, schools and communities. It is true that we have had a rise in the availability of weapons. It is also true that there has been a coarsening of the culture in many ways. And those who influence it must be sensitive to that.

I mentioned today that not very long ago there was a fascinating story on the birth of Hollywood, the virtual creation of Hollywood by immigrants, on one of our cable channels. And the story really graphically demonstrated how these immigrants -- who came to the United States, faced initial discrimination, went to California to make a new life -- created an image of America, and an image of the American Dream and an image of American life in the movies that they made that had a very positive impact on the culture of America for decades.

We cannot pretend that there is no impact on our culture and our children that is adverse if there is too much violence coming out of what they see and experience. And so, we have to ask people who produce things to consider the consequences of them -- whether it's a violent movie, a CD, a video game. If they are made, they at least they should not be marketed to children.

Finally, I urge Congress to join in this campaign by passing the legislation necessary to keep guns out of the hands of children. As a group of gun manufacturers and sportsmen made clear today, these are common-sense measures that they support.

There are also other things that we can do that I hope we will do -- to provide more support for counseling services, for mental health services, for other things which will help to improve our efforts.

Again, let me say, I want to thank the Vice President and Tipper Gore for the work they have done on these issues for years. I want them to come forward and speak. But first, I want to ask the First Lady to speak -- and acknowledge that she has to go to a school as soon as she finishes talking here.

She had the idea for us to call this national conference and to try to organize a national grass-roots campaign. It was a good idea and it looks like a lot better idea after today's meeting. So I want to thank Hillary for everything she's done and ask her to come forward and say a few words. (Applause.)

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you, all. I think everyone who participated in the meeting this morning came away with the positive feeling that there isn't any problem that we face when it comes to our young people, that if we're honest enough to talk about it we can come up with ideas about how to address it, and we can better empower all parts of our society to be part of the solution.

To that end, the President mentioned that we want to have a national campaign to prevent youth violence. It's modeled on the national campaign against teenage pregnancy, the national campaign that was launched to convince employers to hire people coming off of welfare to go to work. It's in the greatest of American traditions of the kind of public-private partnership that is unique to our country.

And in the next weeks that campaign will be put together. It will be a not-for-profit, 501-C3 effort that will bring together many of the people around the table today in the East Room and many others. It will

come forward, we hope, with very specific suggestions about what parents can do, what schools can do, what community groups can do, what the media can do, what gun manufacturers can do, what all of us can do.

You probably know that I really do think it takes a village; but my book had a subtitle, and that was, it takes a village to raise a child and other lessons children teach us. And the most important lesson I think all of us are learning, once again because of the tragedy in Littleton and the consequences that flow from that, are that we have to do a better job doing our most important job, and that is helping to raise our children and create a climate in our country that is good for children.

We have to battle a lot of attitudes and cynicism and skepticism and hopelessness and helplessness, and a sense by many people that the forces that are arrayed against families and children are just too big to try to deal with, and maybe the only thing we can do is just shut the doors of our own home and try to deal with what goes on there. But we have to do that as well.

So I'm very encouraged by the conversation that we had this morning, and I'm very excited about the prospects for this national campaign. And I hope that everyone, everyone in America, will realize that there's a role for each of us in trying to prevent youth violence. And more than that -- trying to reach out and listen to our children so that we can provide the kind of support that they need.

And someone who has known that and done it in her own life, and done it in our public life for many years, who has continually addressed the issue of mental health and particularly how it affects children -- someone who I admire greatly and who will be chairing the first ever White House Conference on Mental Health on June 7 -- and that is Tipper Gore. (Applause.)

MRS. GORE: Thank you very much, Mrs. Clinton. And to everyone that participated in the strategy session today, we want to thank you. We want to thank members of the media for being here, because certainly in some of the things that we heard we would like to ask the media to help get the word out to the parents, to all members of the community, that we are all part of a solution to helping better support our kids.

We heard loudly and clearly that every member of the community -- whether it was the entertainment industry, the gun industry, businesses giving more flexibility, time to their employees so that they could strengthen their families by spending more time with their children whenever that was necessary -- we really heard that children need to spend more time with adults. Children themselves, the kids involved in the strategy session said that they need to have more involvement from adults, parents, in their lives. And that's a call to action that we've got to answer.

Something else that we heard loudly and clearly is that, yes, while Littleton was symbolic for so many of us and such a tragedy and a wake-up call, that there have been little massacres going on in our society for years. And many people have been very, very concerned about that, and we continue to be. But we all come together now, around the table -- just as I hope all Americans will come around their tables, in their own homes, in their own neighborhoods, in their own communities, to say, how can we better support children?

One way we clearly can is by providing more counselors in schools, more access to mental health support and mental health help. When we hear children talk to us about other kids who are headed toward violence either against others or against themselves -- since suicide is the second leading cause of death among teenagers -- we have to have adults

in place in all parts of the community that will listen, but especially in the schools.

So that is something that I wanted to mention, and that I would like to ask also for the media's help in our coverage of these issues very specifically, in the first-ever White House Conference on Mental Health, which will happen on June the 7th, with some 1,000 downlinks all around the country. And it will be at Howard University.

You can do a great deal to help us talk to kids, and tell children in America that we are willing and ready to listen to them, as well as -- I'd like to ask for people in the media, themselves, the programmers and others, if they will consider the effect they have in reporting the news on kids, the effect that they may have, and the way that they portray people with a mental illness in their programming. They can go a long way -- all of us can -- if we just join our hands and hearts together in a very positive way, and ask a central question: Is what we are doing good enough to help our kids mature into healthy adults? Because that's in the interest of all of us, for all Americans.

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

And now I'd like to present someone who has even more to say on this subject, in particular, about giving parents tools to use in order to do their job more effectively, the Vice President, Al Gore.
(Applause.)

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you, Tipper. And, Mr. President, I want to thank you and congratulate you and the First Lady for taking the initiative to pull this rather extraordinary strategy session together that we just had. I know that I speak for all of the men and women and children who participated in this session in saying it was quite a useful, even inspiring, certainly encouraging, session.

And just to try to briefly capture the spirit of it for those of you who were not there -- and, incidentally, I'm sure it would not have been as good if it was open to the press. (Laughter.) Even you, Sam. (Laughter.) But people who have had differing points of view on contentious issues for years and years spoke directly to one another about how they wanted to reconsider some of the assumptions they have held in the past, how they wanted to have an open mind about new approaches to solving problems that obviously have not been solved up until now. It was really an occasion for quite a bit of reconciliation.

So I want to thank you, Mr. President and the First Lady. I want to thank Tipper for being my inspiration and source of education on these issues for a long time now. Twenty-two years ago, she formed a citizens group on violence in the media, and as others have mentioned, the White House Conference on Mental Health Care is coming up.

I want to thank Leader Dick Gephardt, and Jennifer Dunn, Harry Reid and Sam Brownback, all of my colleagues in the Cabinet, and all of the leaders from the various sectors of industry and society, who were present here today.

One of the other very impressive things about this gathering was that it didn't just point fingers, and it didn't try to simplistically settle on one particular cause of a very complex problem. And I think it's a sign of maturation in our society that people from all different sectors could come together and really see this issue in all of its complexity.

Obviously, better parenting is the main and most important solution. But some of the participants raised new aspects of that that

haven't been always talked about in connection with this issue. Let's look at the prevalence of domestic violence in our society, and realize that the painful real-life lessons that children learn from seeing domestic violence, as common as it is -- even if it's seldom reported to the extent that it occurs -- those lessons are far more powerful, in the impact on those children than the imagery they see in the media.

Obviously, all of the adults in this nation have to take more responsibility for becoming involved in the lives of all children. Dr. Maya Angelou talked about the epidemic of rage and cynicism that can only be cured if adults become more involved and more constructively involved with children.

We talked about the importance of early childhood education and after-school care -- both areas where communities can help parents by filling in the times of the day when it's so difficult for some families to do the job they need to do. Of course, we talked about the problems in schools, how some of them are too big, how we need smaller schools, or at least smaller schools within large schools; more teachers; more guidance counselors.

We talked about how to heal communities that foster a feeling of alienation and isolation, that hurts the ability to establish a sense of connectedness that is so important for children to learn. Of course, we talked about how to limit the availability of guns to children and to criminals and to those who are obviously unsuitable to have guns.

And we talked about the role of the media. And I want to commend ABC and CBS and most of the cable networks and satellite networks for participating in the V-chip system that is going to hold the promise of dramatically improving the ability of parents to protect their children against images they feel their children are not capable of handling.

We talked about the Internet. Steve Case and others described the new safeguards that are going into effect in just a couple of months, and video games. And a new breakthrough occurred right in the meeting with an agreement between the video game industry and the Internet industry to plug a loophole that now makes it possible for children to get unrated and violent video games over the Internet, where it's impossible for them to buy them in stores.

We talked about self-restraint and a movement starting within the entertainment industry to recognize that, obviously, since billions of dollars is spent on advertising because it affects behavior, the plague of ultra-violent images that are planted like seeds in the minds of children bear bitter fruit in some vulnerable children. Most can handle it; they've been given the strength to do so by their families and by their faith and by their communities. But it was so encouraging to hear the entertainment industry describe the steps already taken, others in prospect, and the movement within the industry.

And, of course, the need for more mental health services and early detection and an ability to intervene early because, as someone said, a 1st grade teacher can often tell you within a couple of weeks after the start of the school year that one or two children in her or his new class is going to be vulnerable to trouble if there's not intervention. But there are waiting lines and not enough services.

Finally, we talked about the faith dimension of this and the need to -- with all, of course, due respect and utmost observance of the principle of separating government from religion -- of making it easier to reconnect faith communities with some of the efforts that are now underway.

In closing, as the President mentioned, this is just the beginning

of an important new partnership. And he mentioned -- excuse me -- the First Lady mentioned that this was modeled after the campaign against teen pregnancy. Secretary Shalala has played a big role in that one. And I had the privilege of announcing the success, the new figures that show success in that -- where, again, it was recognized there's not a single cause, there has to be a community-wide effort to address all of the factors that go into that. And it's succeeding.

So I'm encouraged. And, Mr. President, I want to thank you again for the kind of leadership that has made this possible. And I know that all of the people who joined us here would like to join with Tipper and me in thanking you for convening this session. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you. (Applause.)

Q -- forces? Is that good enough?

Q Mr. President, are you encouraged by word of a Serb withdrawal?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I'm encouraged by any good word, but I think that the conditions that we set out are the minimal ones to make this work. I don't think that the -- after all the Serbs -- after all the buildup, and the hundreds of thousands of Kosovars have been driven out, many, many killed, I don't think they'll come back with that. So I think we have to do better.

But any little daylight, any little progress is -- it's better than it was the day before. We just have to bear down and keep working, and we'll work through it.

But I think that forces have got to be withdrawn. There has to be an international security force there. Otherwise, they won't come home. And that's the important thing.

Thank you.

Q Mr. President, as a high-schooler, how can I reconcile these images we see on the news?

END

2:29 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 13, 1996

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT ANNOUNCEMENT OF JUVENILE VIOLENCE ACT

The East Room

12:56 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Ladies and gentlemen, let me begin by thanking all of you for coming here and, more importantly, for the work that you are doing. I'm glad that we finally have a chance to talk about these efforts to stop youth violence.

As you know, we were slated to have this event the day that Ron Brown and his delegation tragically lost their lives in the Balkans. Before I go forward, I think I have to acknowledge that today all Americans have heavy hearts over another air tragedy -- the one in Miami. We send our prayers, our condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in the Everglades.

The Federal Aviation Administration has been conducting a review of ValuJet since February. Last night the FAA announced it will broaden the review to assure that ValuJet's flights are safe and fully comply with FAA requirements. I have directed Secretary Pena to report to me this week on additional measures the Department of Transportation and the FAA can take to ensure that all our airlines continue to operate at the highest level of safety. I'm determined to do everything I can to make sure that American aviation is the safest in the world.

Now, let me thank the Attorney General and the U.S. attorneys and all of those who worked with them for the work they have done to curb youth violence and gangs. Thanks to the U.S. attorneys and the police chiefs here today, thanks to citizen supporters throughout this country, including a number of ex-gang members who in some communities have been very helpful in this regard, we have been able to see a substantial drop in the crime rate. We are determined to do all we can to help you and to help our young people.

The Crime Bill of 1994 employed, as the Attorney General said, police, punishment and prevention, backed by the best of new technologies and supported by communities. We knew this strategy would work because law enforcement people said it would work. And it is working. The 100,000 police, the Brady Bill, the assault weapons ban, the other supports have led to drops in violent crime and murder and rape and robbery -- everything across the board, except for crimes committed by young people.

Youth violence is on the rise, as you have noted, not just in large cities, but in small towns. And whenever there has been a dramatic rise in youth crime, it has a terrifying face -- organized gangs.

In my State of the Union address I challenged our country

to focus on the problem of youth violence, and I pledged that the United States government would take on gangs in the way we had taken on the mob decades ago. We're fighting with a strategy that is coordinated and unrelenting, that does rely upon national, state and local prosecutors and police and, above all, on citizens working with us.

Two weeks ago in Miami, General Barry McCaffrey, our Drug Policy Coordinator, and I set forth our drug strategy. We know what works there, too -- education, treatment, stopping drugs at the border, punishing those who sell to the young. We are focusing this strategy more than ever before on young people.

Last Friday, at Penn State University, I asked citizens all across our country to play their role. We know that community policing won't work if we rely on police alone, that we need citizens, too. And I ask one million new citizen volunteers to join the 100,000 new police we are putting on the street. That's just 50 new members for every one of the community police watch organizations across this country today.

Today I want to announce two more steps. First, we have just seen a remarkable demonstration of the National Gang Tracking Network, which is an important part of this strategy. I am pleased to announce that the first step of this network will now be funded through the Justice Department for use in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Vermont, Maryland, and Florida. Gangs are no longer local. We saw that today with the statement Miss Seymour made about South Carolina. So we say this: The gangs may run to another state, but they cannot hide. And they will find it tougher and tougher to escape the law.

Second, we are proposing legislation designed with valuable help from the U.S. attorneys here, from local law enforcement officials, and lawmakers, especially Senators Biden and Kohl and Congressman Schumer. Our Anti-Gang and Youth Crime Control Act of 1996 will use the very same strategy our Crime Bill used to make the juvenile justice system tougher and smarter, and to help our young people stay drug-free and away from guns and gangs and violence. It makes it earlier for prosecutors to prosecute violent youth offenders as adults, toughens penalties for possession and use of firearms, reinstates a ban on guns in the schools, reviving a law that was struck down in the courts. It will establish more juvenile drug courts which give nonviolent offenders the chance to get off drugs before they wind up in jail. It will raise the maximum detention to 10 years and give judges flexibility in sentencing. It will harden penalties for those who sell drugs to children or use children to sell drugs.

All this will help, but we also will have to have more parents being more responsible in teaching their children right from wrong and in looking out for them, and more communities showing young people that they care, considering things like keeping their schools open more after school.

We know 50 percent of the juvenile crime in this country occurs in the hours after the school day ends. More communities have considered doing what Long Beach, California has done and what the Attorney General is trying to help others do -- consider whether setting up a school uniform policy will help to reduce the influence of gangs and help to identify gang members, and help to keep the crime rate down and the children safer. Regardless, we've all got a role to play if we're going to move toward a 21st century that is more free of guns and rugs and violent gangs.

The message today to the Bloods, the Crips, to every criminal gang preying on the innocent is clear: We mean to put you out

of business, to break the backs of your organization, to stop you from terrorizing our neighborhoods and our children, to put you away for a very long time. We have just begun the job, and we do not intend to stop until we have finished. (Applause.)

Let me say again -- this legislation I offer today has been developed with help from law enforcement. It is like the Crime Bill of 1994, straightforward, common sense, there are no hidden meanings, there are no poison pills. It relies on partnerships with communities and citizens. And I hope Congress will join us in a bipartisan commitment to save our neighborhoods, our families and our children from the threat of gangs and gang violence.

This again is something we should be able to do, even this year, in a genuine spirit of bipartisanship, because we know it will work and we know it will make a profound difference.

Thank you all very much. (Applause.)

END

1:05 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

January 12, 2000

VICE PRESIDENT GORE ANNOUNCES OVER \$100 MILLION INCREASE FOR SAFE SCHOOLS/HEALTHY STUDENTS PROGRAM IN FISCAL YEAR 2001 BUDGET

Washington, D.C. -- This morning Vice President Al Gore reaffirmed his commitment to our children's safety by announcing that the Administration's Fiscal Year 2001 budget will vastly expand the nation's investment in the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative. The increase of more than \$100 million in the initiative will invest a total of \$247 million in FY 2001 to help communities throughout the country promote a coordinated, comprehensive response to school safety.

"In the aftermath of tragic violence in our schools, there can be no doubt that this investment in our children's safety is essential," Vice President Gore said. "It must be this nation's first priority to protect our children, and President Clinton and I will fight for bold action to ensure they have safe communities in which they can live and learn. Our children should be looking to the future with hope, not looking over their shoulders with fear."

Following the White House Conference on School Safety in 1998, the Administration launched the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative to help communities develop and implement community-wide responses to school and youth violence. The program empowers parents, principals, police, health and mental health care providers, and others in the community to collaborate on local solutions to the problem of youth violence. In September 1999, the President announced over \$100 million in Safe Schools/Healthy Student grants for 54 school districts. With the expansion of this initiative, approximately 40 additional communities will be awarded grants in FY 2001 to provide safer learning environments for youth and help them avoid drugs, violence, and other destructive behaviors.

The Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative is a joint effort of the U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Department of Labor that provides each community funding for three years to link services and activities into a comprehensive, community-wide approach to violence prevention and healthy child development. Research suggests that such strategies are an effective way to promote healthy childhood development and address the problems of school violence and drug abuse.

Vice President Gore lauded the groundbreaking partnership among the federal agencies as an example of how communities can work together to protect our children.

"We cannot expect parents, schools, law enforcement or government alone to prevent youth violence, but when all of us work together we can build strong, caring, connected communities that offer all of our young people the safe and healthy environments they need to thrive," said Gore.

To be considered for Safe Schools/Healthy Students funding, communities must be working in partnership at the local level. The comprehensive safe school plans must be the product of a formal partnership between the school district, law enforcement and the local mental health authority, created in collaboration with family members, students, juvenile justice officials and relevant community-based organizations. Effective partnerships might also include the business

community. To be considered comprehensive, safe school plans must address at least the following six elements: (1) a safe school environment, (2) prevention and early intervention programs that address violence, alcohol and other drugs, (3) school and community mental health preventative and treatment intervention services, (4) early childhood psycho-social and emotional development programs, (5) educational reform, and (6) safe school policies. Activities that may be funded as part of this initiative include, truancy prevention, after school activities, teen courts, alternative education, purchasing security equipment and services, mentoring, out-of-school youth programs such as conflict resolution, life skills, school-based anti-drug curricula, career development, nurse home visitation, family strengthening and staff professional development.

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overview

The National Campaign Against Youth Violence is a national effort to reduce youth violence. NCAYV was conceived at the White House Summit on Youth Violence on May 10, 1999. Leaders in the fields of youth development and violence prevention as well as educators, parents, executives, religious leaders, media representatives, and juvenile justice officials recognized the need for a campaign to help private citizens, corporations, and foundations respond to epidemic rates of youth violence in America.

The mission of NCAYV is to engage all Americans to work against violence in their daily lives.

NCAYV has identified three priorities:

- Change public attitudes about violence prevention by developing a national public education campaign that challenges the normalization of violence and raises consciousness about effective means of reducing youth violence.
- Strengthen youth violence prevention efforts at the local level by working with local business and community leaders.
- Create national resources and tools to better connect communities and individuals with effective programs and services through adult- and youth-led grassroots efforts online and in schools.

NCAYV will develop a detailed evaluation plan during the next several months, in time to begin collecting relevant data about the country's attitudes toward violence and the impact of the campaign on generating additional support for violence reduction programs in the early cities of the city-by-city initiative.

NCAYV's Board of Directors includes national bipartisan leaders in the fields of politics, business, education, the media, sports, entertainment, and youth development. NCAYV is nonpartisan and nonprofit and is open to all, because reducing violence by and against youth is the shared responsibility of every American.

**NATIONAL
CAMPAIGN
AGAINST YOUTH
VIOLENCE**

**TAKING ACTION AGAINST YOUTH VIOLENCE:
CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

“...we have asked every sector of our society to get involved in the search for solutions to youth violence, to hatred, to the absence of control, to environmental and cultural factors that need to be dealt with. We've asked people to help at home and school, in Hollywood and in the heartland, in our State capitals and in the Nation's Capital.”

- President Clinton October 15, 1999

REDUCING YOUTH VIOLENCE – ENCOURAGING TRENDS

- Serious violence by juveniles dropped by 33% between 1993 and 1997.
- Serious violence against juveniles declined 22% between 1992 and 1996, and simple assaults against juveniles declined 30% in the same period.
- Homicides of juveniles peaked in 1993 at 2,900 and by 1997 had fallen to their lowest level in the decade (2,099). Homicide rates for young males began to decline in 1994 and dropped 34% between 1993 and 1997.
- Violent deaths in school have dropped from 54 in the 1992-93 school year to 13 in the 1999-2000 school year. Deaths by shootings in schools have also declined during this period. (Bill M. thinks these #s are wrong. He needs to check.)
- From 1991 to 1997, the percentage of students carrying a weapon on school property dropped 30% and the percentage of students injured in a physical fight at school decreased 20%.
- Youth suicide rates declined by 13% between 1994 and 1997.

MAKING SCHOOLS SAFER

Supporting a Community-Wide Response to School Safety and Youth Violence. To help communities throughout the country promote a coordinated, comprehensive response to school safety, the President launched the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative in 1999. The SS/HS Initiative is an unprecedented effort to provide students, schools and communities the benefit of enhanced comprehensive educational, mental health, social service, and law enforcement services. It is based on evidence that a comprehensive, integrated community-wide approach is an effective way to promote healthy childhood and youth development and address the problems of school violence and alcohol and other drug abuse. The Initiative has provided \$235 million to 77 local education authorities who have established formal partnerships with local mental health

and law enforcement agencies. The grants support coordinated and comprehensive school safety plans that include anti-truancy initiatives, mentoring, mental health services, conflict resolution programs, school resource officers, and more – helping to promote healthy development and to prevent youth violence before it occurs.

Responding to the Early Warning Signs of Troubled Youth. President Clinton directed the Secretary of Education and the Attorney General to develop a guide to help teachers and principals identify and respond to the early warning signs of troubled youth that can lead to school violence. In August 1998, the Departments of Justice and Education released *Early Warning, Timely Response: A Guide to Safe Schools*. This guide provides schools and communities with information on how to identify the early warning signs and take action steps to prevent and respond to school violence. More than 400,000 copies of the guide have been distributed to every school in the country and to youth organizations throughout, and additional copies may be obtained through the websites of the Departments of Education and Justice. (In April, 1999, ED and DoJ released an update *Safeguarding Our Children: An Action Guide* – get language.)

Helping to Make All Schools Safe, Disciplined and Drug-Free. In 1994, President Clinton expanded the Drug-Free Schools Act into the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act, making violence prevention a key part of this program. Safe and Drug-Free Schools currently provides support for violence and drug prevention programs to 97 percent of the nation's school districts.

Promoting Collaborations Between Schools and Law Enforcement. Under the School-Based Partnerships grant program, the Clinton Administration has provided \$30 million to 275 policing agencies to work with schools and community-based organizations to address crime at and around schools. The grants help forge or strengthen partnerships between local law enforcement and schools to focus on school crime, drug use and discipline problems. In addition, the COPS in Schools initiative hires and trains school resource officers using the community policing strategies that have made neighborhoods safer all over America. Under the COPS in Schools initiative, the Clinton-Gore Administration has provided \$252 million for 1,060 communities to hire 2,250 police officers to work in schools, engaging students in problem solving and mediation, collaborating in safe school planning efforts, coaching sports and acting as mentors for kids.

Encouraging Conflict Resolution. The Departments of Education and Justice have developed and distributed 40,000 conflict resolution guides to schools and community organizations, providing guidance on how to develop effective conflict resolution programs. In addition, the departments are training community officials and educators on these conflict resolution measures.

Issuing the First Annual Reports on School Safety. In December 1997, President Clinton called for the first Annual Report on School Safety. Issued every year since, these reports describe the nature and scope of school violence and steps that communities can take to develop a comprehensive school safety plan. The reports highlight what schools, students, parents, police, businesses, and elected officials can do to create safe learning environments and describe schools and communities doing an exemplary job of creating and maintaining safe school

environments. The reports also list resources for information on school safety and crime prevention issues.

Hosting White House Conferences on School Safety. In October 1998, President and Mrs. Clinton hosted the first-ever conference on school safety to provide an opportunity for Americans to learn more about how they can make their own schools and communities safer. Students, parents, teachers, principals, law enforcement, ministers, and other experts from across the country participated in the Conference, and hundreds of communities and schools were linked by satellite. In May 1999, after the Littleton tragedy, President Clinton and the First Lady held another strategy meeting to discuss the problem of youth violence and develop a strategy for a national campaign to address this problem. The meeting included a broad cross section of Americans, including parents and children, teachers and religious leaders, law enforcement and government officials, gun manufacturers and sportsmen, and representatives of the entertainment industry.

FOCUSING ON PREVENTION

Developing Guides for Best Practices to Prevent Youth Violence. Recognizing that youth violence prevention must start at the community level, the Clinton-Gore Administration has researched the most effective and successful approaches to prevention and published them in guides for community leaders, school officials, law enforcement, health professionals and others. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP) *Blueprints* Initiative identifies 10 successful youth violence prevention programs in such areas as mentoring, bullying, family therapy and foster care. OJJDP also released *Promising Strategies To Reduce Gun Violence* with practical information on a range of effective strategies for local officials. Expected in August, 2000, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's *Best Practices of Youth Violence Prevention: A Sourcebook for Community Action* will provide step-by-step guidance for implementing proven youth violence prevention initiatives.

Coordinating the Federal Government's Response to Youth Violence: In October, 1999, President Clinton created the White House Council on Youth Violence to coordinate federal programs and research activities on youth violence. In addition, the Council is developing a citizen's information hub to make information on these activities more accessible to the public and will publish a series of pamphlets for parents and others on the normal range of adolescent development and how to identify and address troubling behavior.

Creating Internet Web Sites to Provide Resources to Prevent Youth Violence. This Administration has created numerous web sites, including: <http://www.afterschool.gov/>, which contains a compendium of federal resources that support children and youth during out-of-school hours, and includes information about government guides, reports, and research, as well as information about successful community programs and available funding sources; <http://www.americasteens.gov>, which contains information for teens on college opportunities and funding, community service, jobs, volunteering, and teen health issues, including substance abuse; <http://www.parentingresources.ncjrs.org/>, sponsored through the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, which strives to help families meet the

formidable challenges of raising a child today by addressing topics such as school violence, child development, home schooling, organized sports, child abuse, and the juvenile justice system; and A new interagency web site due in September, which will provide access to all federal agency resources addressing youth violence, including information on research, reports, specific programs, and funding sources.

Engaging the Private Sector in Youth Violence Prevention: President Clinton launched the National Campaign Against Youth Violence, an independent national to engage the private sector in addressing the problem of youth violence on a national scale. The Campaign has developed anti-violence activities including a major media campaign, concerts, town hall meetings, and in-school and after-school programs. The Campaign also highlights effective youth violence initiatives in cities across the country.

ADDRESSING FACTORS THAT PUT YOUTH AT RISK FOR VIOLENCE

Cracking Down on Truancy. Truancy prevention initiatives have been shown to keep more children in school and dramatically reduce daytime crime. The Education Department issued a guidebook to the 15,000 school districts nationwide which outlines the central characteristics of a comprehensive truancy prevention policy and highlights model initiatives in cities and towns across the country. Since then, the Education Department has provided grants to local school districts to develop innovative truancy prevention programs of the kind described in the guidebook.

Developing a Comprehensive Anti-Gang Strategy. President Clinton has proposed a comprehensive strategy to target gangs and violent youths by hiring new prosecutors and probation officers, and expanding anti-gang task forces and the use of racketeering statutes (i.e., RICO) for gang-related offenses. There is a high correlation between gang membership and violent behavior. (Get stat - 90%?)

Developing a Comprehensive Anti-Drug Strategy Including a \$195 Million National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign. The President appointed Barry McCaffrey, a four-star general, to lead the Clinton-Gore Administration's anti-drug strategy as the nation's Drug Czar. In July 1998, President Clinton launched the national expansion of the Anti-Drug Media Campaign first proposed in 1997. The 5-year, \$2 billion campaign (which includes private sector matching contributions) is designed to let teens know -- when they turn on the television, listen to the radio, or surf the Internet -- that drugs are dangerous, wrong and can kill you.

Building and Strengthening 14,000 Community Anti-Drug Coalitions. In 1997, President Clinton signed into law the bipartisan Drug-Free Communities Support Program. Over the next five years this program will provide \$143.5 million to help community coalitions rid their streets of drugs -- the coalitions are made up of young people, parents, media, law enforcement, religious and other civic organizations and school officials. Under this program, the President recently announced new Federal assistance to enhance grassroots efforts in 93 communities in 46 states to prevent youth drug abuse. This assistance will fund the work of broad-based community coalitions to target young people's use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco. (needs update)

Encouraging Schools to Adopt School Uniform Policies. School uniforms have been found to be a promising strategy to reduce violence while promoting discipline and respect in school. Because of this, the Clinton Administration has encouraged schools to consider adopting school uniform policies by sharing with every school district a school uniforms manual prepared by the Department of Education in consultation with local communities and the Department of Justice. Since the President highlighted school uniforms, a growing number of schools have adopted these policies including: New York City, Dade County, San Antonio, Houston, Chicago and Boston.

Supporting Curfews at the Local Level. Community curfews are designed to help keep children out of harm's way and enhance community safety. Because of their success, President Clinton has encouraged communities to adopt curfew policies. A 1997 survey by the U.S. Conference of Mayors has shown that 276 of 347 cities surveyed -- or 80 percent -- had youth curfew laws, up from 70 percent in 1995.

ENCOURAGING POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Providing Safe After-School Opportunities for 850,000 Students Each Year. The 21st Century Community Learning Centers program will provide enriching after-school and summer school opportunities for 850,000 school-age children in rural and urban communities in FY 2000. Extended learning time has not only been shown to increase achievement in reading and math, but to decrease youth violence and drug use. Funding for this program more than doubled from FY 1999 to FY 2000. The Education Department released a report in June 1998, titled *Safe and Smart: Making the After-School Hours Work for Kids*. This report shows that after-school programs can lower juvenile crime and improve academic performance. *Safe and Smart* was sent to every school district in the country.

Establishing the GEAR-UP Mentoring Program for Middle School Children. President Clinton and Vice President Gore created and expanded GEAR-UP, a nationwide mentoring initiative, to help over 750,000 low-income middle school children finish school and prepare for college. The President's FY 2001 budget would expand services to 1.4 million students.

Supporting Civic, Community and Faith-Based Organizations. Recognizing the important role that civic, community and faith-based organizations can play in reducing crime, the Administration launched a new Values-Based Violence Prevention Initiative to make \$2.2 million in grants available to 16 community-based collaboratives, including religiously-affiliated organizations, that target youth violence, gangs, truancy, and other juvenile problems by promoting common-sense values and responsibility.

Launching the expansion of the "Caring For Every Child" mental health campaign. At least one in ten American children and adolescents may have behavioral, or mental health problems. The Administration will launch a five-year \$5 million dollar campaign in targeted communities to highlight the special mental health needs of children. (date? WH Conference on Mental Health) (Is there a better SAMSHA program?)

Helping Students Take a Stand Against Violence. In October 1998, the President kicked-off a partnership between the Federal government and MTV to engage youth in solutions. The MTV year-long media campaign --"Fight For Your Rights: Take A Stand Against Youth Violence" -- is designed to give young adults a voice in the national debate on school and youth violence. In partnership with the Department of Justice and Education, and the National Endowment for the Arts, MTV created and is distributing a Youth Action Guide and CD-ROM that aim to engage youth in mentoring, conflict resolution, and other positive solutions to violence. The guide is available through a 1-800 number at the Justice Department and through MTV.

RESTRICTING YOUTH ACCESS TO GUNS

Launching the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative. In 1996, President Clinton launched the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (YCGII) in 17 cities to help trace crime guns to their source, as well as identify and arrest the adults who traffic firearms to children. Since then, the President has expanded the YCGII initiative to 37 cities. ATF agents have conducted more than 200,000 crime gun traces for local law enforcement. In 1998 alone, ATF initiated over 300 investigations in these cities, which involved over 3,300 illegally trafficked firearms. The President's FY 2001 budget proposes to increase YCGII to 50 cities with more ATF agents and additional resources to help more cities to trace their firearms.

Enforcing Zero Tolerance for Guns and Other Weapons in Schools. In October 1994, President Clinton signed into law the Gun-Free Schools Act, requiring school districts to expel students who bring guns to school. The President issued a Presidential Directive later that month to enforce the "zero tolerance" policy for guns in schools, consistent with the Gun-Free Schools Act. Over the 1996-98 school years, the U.S. Department of Education estimates that, under zero tolerance policies, nearly 10,000 students were expelled from public schools for bringing a firearm to school.

Issuing Directive on Child Safety Locks for Handguns. Child safety locks and other safety devices can reduce the unauthorized use of handguns, by a child at play or a teen looking to commit a crime. Many youth have to look no further than their own home to get their hands on a gun: an estimated one-third of all privately-owned handguns are left both loaded and unlocked. In March 1997, the President signed a directive to every federal agency, requiring child safety locking devices with all handguns issued to federal law enforcement officers. And, in an historic agreement, eight major gun manufacturers followed the President's lead and have voluntarily agreed to provide child safety locking devices with all their handguns.

Signing into Law the Youth Handgun Safety Act. In 1994, President Clinton signed into law the Youth Handgun Safety Act, which generally banned the possession of handguns or handgun ammunition by juveniles under the age of 18, and made it a federal offense for adults to transfer handguns to juveniles, with limited exceptions. In 1997, the President directed the Treasury Department to require that signs be posted on the premises of Federal firearms licensees and that written notification be issued with each handgun sold to non-licensees to help ensure compliance with the Youth Handgun Safety Act.

LIMITING YOUTH EXPOSURE TO MEDIA VIOLENCE

Giving Families A New Tool -- A Content-Based Television Ratings System. Striving to protect children from violence and adult content on television, the Vice President garnered a breakthrough agreement from the television industry to create a new content-based voluntary ratings system. The new system went into effect October 1, 1997, giving parents the information they need to determine if television shows are appropriate for viewing by their children and to identify which programs they may want to block from their homes through screening technology (the V-chip). The voluntary rating system includes age- and content-based ratings.

Helping Parents Control What Comes Into Their Living Room with the V-Chip. Five years ago, President Clinton and Vice President Gore used the Vice President's Family Policy Conference in Nashville to call for V-chip legislation -- to give parents new tools to help them screen out television programs that are not fit for their kids. Under strong leadership from the White House, the following year saw Congress enact the Telecommunications Act of 1996 which included V-chip legislation. As of January of this year, all new television sets 13 inches or larger contain the V-chip.

Launching an Investigation Into Marketing of Violence to Children. In June of 1999, the President asked the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Justice to conduct a joint study of the marketing practices of entertainment industries to determine whether these industries are marketing to children violent (and other) material that is rated for adults.

Keeping Children Safe on the Internet with the Parents' Protection Page. In the wake of the Columbine Tragedy last year, the Vice President announced the parents' protection page, an important new commitment by the country's premiere Internet companies to give parents the resources they need to protect their children from inappropriate material on the Internet. The parents' protection page, now known as GetNetWise.com, provides parents with the tools and knowledge to supervise and guide their children's online activities. In addition to giving parents access to more than 100 blocking, filtering and monitoring tools, this page includes information for parents, teachers and children on how to report crime or other troubling activity online. The parents' protection page also can serve as a guide to finding the vast array of high quality educational materials online.

Creating a White House Task Force on Navigating the New Media Age. At the White House Conference on Teenagers in May, 2000, the First Lady announced a public-private effort to provide tools for parents and teens to find resources through the media and to help parents monitor their teens' use of the media. The task force plans to complete its work within six months and will: establish an Internet site that provides a one-stop information site for parents of teenagers, including a newly developed federal effort, "Parenting Resources in the 21st Century" www.parentingresources.ncjrs.org; work with the media and entertainment industry to develop one web-site where parents can find comprehensive information on current media ratings systems; establish a portal for teenagers that would include non-commercial, teenager-friendly resources on the Internet; and provide guidance to local communities on how to set up one-stop

information centers that list services, hotlines, and community opportunities to teenagers and their parents through toll-free numbers and local web sites.