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Columbine High School Shooting [1]

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MEMORANDUM FOR JOHN PODESTA

From: Ron Klain
Subject: Strategy for National Response to Littleton Colorado
Date: April 27, 1999

Summary: A comprehensive and effective set of proposals to respond to the tragedy in Colorado has emerged. Public statements and actions by the President, First Lady, Vice President and Mrs. Gore have served to help heal and respond to the grief. The President's advocacy for legislation to deal with guns and school safety issues was the logical next step. This memo proposes a pathway for a series of additional actions over the next five months to take a comprehensive approach to the problem. The goal is to create a locally oriented set of programs that empower parents, kids and communities to reach positive educational outcomes, and avoid alienation and violence.

Step One:

- *May 3rd.* The President announces a national "town hall" with a White House Summit on School Safety and Parental/Community Involvement. Each community and most middle and high schools in the entire country would participate via the Internet, cable, broadcast TV or radio or satellite links. Each community would develop their own program (and receive the cooperation of the local media, print and electronic) that invites parents and the community into the school for a day of dialogue and debate. The outcome would be to educate parents about the resources available to help them and their children. The White House role would be in producing a series of common interactive sessions on topics selected as a result of input from multiple communities across the country.

Step Two

- *May 4th:* The Vice President announces moves forward to give parents more control over violence on television and on the Internet:
 - **One-Click On-Line Help.** The Vice President would announce an agreement by all the major Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and Portal operators to create easy to use tools on their sites for parents and kids. This "one click" option would permit both parents and kids to easily go to a single site to obtain help on various issues, including resources for permitting parents to filter or block access to inappropriate materials.
 - **V-Chip Task Force:** The Vice President will announce a FCC-led task force to ensure the V-Chip will be successfully implemented when it becomes available in half of all new television sets two months from now and to ensure parents have the tools and know-how to use the V-Chip and TV ratings. The Commission will be headed by FCC Commissioner Gloria Tristani.

- **Code of Conduct:** The Vice President will send the Public Interest Advisory Committee Report on digital television to the FCC and ask that they work with the broadcasting community to develop a code of conduct on television violence.
- **Internet Crime Working Group.** The Vice President announces an executive order creating an Internet Crime Working Group, chaired by the Attorney General. This group would have a 90 day deadline to produce a report and recommendations on two questions:
 - (1) Are existing federal laws adequate to effectively prevent the sale and distribution of illegal materials over the Internet, including guns and explosives
 - (2) What steps are necessary to improve the level of detection, apprehension and prosecution of criminal conduct on the Internet by the Federal and state/local government.

Step Three

- *May 6th.* The First Lady announces a steering committee for the Summit that includes law enforcement officials, local and state officials, faith leaders, educators, high school aged children, media leaders, and experts in counseling and healing. Second, the announcement would include a single point of entry for kids to enter their suggestions for steps that could be taken nationally and locally to address the problems of violence in their community, their school and within our society.

Step Four

- *Ongoing in advance of the White House Summit.*
- **Hollywood PSAs .** The VP and his staff will work in advance with the movie industry to gain commitments from them to air anti-violence spots during movie trailers shown in theaters. These would feature popular Hollywood stars conveying anti-violence messages to youth.
- **Online Violent Games.** VP staff will work with internet industry leaders to commit to new steps we will announce that will allow parents to learn about and block children's access to violent online games.

Helen Veit@WHO

05/06/99 05:21:02 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: Friday, May 7, 1999

Friday, May 7, 1999

State

Secretary Albright will participate in a Memorial Plaque Dedication Ceremony for Victims of both the Dar es Salaam and the Nairobi Bombings.

Treasury

Secretary Rubin will meet with Chairman Greenspan.

Justice

Attorney General Reno will:

- Appear on The TODAY Show.
- go to the MTV Studio in New York to announce the release of the "Fight for Your Rights: Take A Stand Against Violence Action Guide," which includes a CD/CD-ROM with music, artists' comments, and an interactive conflict resolution program. This guide is the result of a partnership, announced at the October, 1998, White House Summit on School Safety, between MTV, Justice, and Education.

Interior

Secretary Babbitt will tour Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta National Park with Minister Juan Mayr.

Wetland Project Dedication in OK: On May 7, in Frederick, OK, BOR and other federal and state agencies and private interests will partake in a ceremony to dedicate the restoration of a large wetland complex in southwestern OK. Homesteaders drained the wetland shortly after the turn of the century and the land was farmed in wheat and cotton for eight decades. BOR first became involved in helping the city of Frederick make the water supply available for the restored wetland from the Mountain Park Project, but over the last five years has expanded its participation to include working with the Audubon Society in conducting bird surveys, funding restoration work, brokering a non-federal partnership, which resulted in the donation of the pipe needed to move the water from the reservoir to the wetland, and providing a \$200K grant to help with installation of the pipe. A total of 21 State, federal, and private partners

participated in this effort.

USDA

From May 7-8, Under Secretary Schumacher will accompany the US Ambassador to Denmark and his delegation on their visit to PA.

Commerce

Secretary Daley will:

- Meet with Roger Simon of *The Chicago Tribune*.
- Meet with Hong Kong Minister of Industry and Trade Brian Chau regarding APEC.
- Attend Unveiling of Memorial to Foreign Commercial Service Africa employees who died in Kenya and Tanzania bombings.

Deputy Secretary Mallett will meet with Latin American Management Association Board of Directors.

BXA staff will present U.S. views on a number of defense industry and trade related issues at the Defense-Security Affairs Seminar, being held as part of the American-Turkish Conference in Washington, DC.

International Trade Administration (ITA) Y2K Conferences: ITA staff have been working with our trading partners to jointly organize Y2K problem events overseas. The purpose of the events is to exchange information about methodologies and lessons learned in key industry sectors and to maintain an open discussion on efforts to address Y2K. Attendees have included small and medium-sized enterprises, government officials, and a variety of information technology end-users. The most recent conferences were in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; Jakarta, Indonesia; Surabaya, Indonesia; Singapore; Sao Paulo, Brazil; and Belo Horizonte, Brazil; and Uruguay on May 4. Upcoming conferences include Buenos Aires, Argentina on May 7.

Labor

Secretary Herman will announce the April unemployment numbers, and talk with national and regional media regarding the state of the nation's unemployment situation.

Boeing Dislocated Workers (WA): By next May 7, DOL expects to announce a Title III grant (amount to be determined) to provide job training and other reemployment services to workers who are being dislocated from the Boeing Corporation in Washington State. These dislocations are attributed to decreased aircraft sales in Asia, Europe and South America.

HHS

Secretary Shalala will give the Commencement Address at the University of Illinois School of Public Health in Chicago.

Arthritis in America: On May 7, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will participate in an event on Capitol Hill, sponsored by the Public Forum Institute, entitled “

Arthritis in America". The purpose of the event is to educate the Washington, D.C. community on the disease's effects on patients, physicians, scientists, advocates, and the health community. Other sponsors of the event include the American Osteopathic Association, the Arthritis Foundation, and the American Medical Women's Association.

HUD

Secretary Cuomo will address the American Institute of Architects in Dallas, TX.

DOT

On May 7-9, Deputy Secretary Downey will travel to Oxfordshire, England, to participate in a conference on "Understanding, Managing, and Presenting Risk in Public Policy:" which is sponsored by The Ditchley Foundations and the Royal Agricultural Society of England.

Energy

Secretary Richardson will travel to New Orleans to join Mayor Marc Morial in announcing that the third Western Hemispheric Energy Ministerial will be hosted jointly by the City of New Orleans and DOE from July 28-30. The Ministerial will include Energy Ministers from all democratically elected Western Hemisphere countries. It will focus on various international energy issues including the liberalization of energy markets, privatization and climate change.

Second Phase of Transfer of Royalty Oil to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) to Begin: A solicitation for offers to exchange up to 24 million barrels of royalty oil produced from Federal offshore leases for crude oil to be delivered to the SPR is scheduled to be issued on April 27 or 28 by the Department of Energy and the Department of the Interior. Offers are due on May 25. In the first phase, contract terms were reached with four of the largest crude oil producing companies in the Gulf of Mexico, Texaco, Shell, BP-Amoco, and Exxon, to deliver approximately 3.9 million barrels of oil to the Reserve over the next three months. The first crude oil under this phase was received at the Reserve's Bayou Choctaw site in Louisiana last week. Secretary Richardson is scheduled to visit the Strategic Petroleum Reserve's Bayou Choctaw site on May 7.

Education

Secretary Riley will travel to Stamford, CT, to deliver a speech at the dedication of the Stamford School Readiness Program.

DOEd to Join MTV in Anti-Violence CD-ROM Release: DOEd's Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program plans to join DOJ, the Music Television Network (MTV), and the National Center for Conflict Resolution Education to announce the release of "Fight for Your Rights: Take a Stand Against Violence," a CD-ROM guide designed to curb youth violence. After the announcement, tentatively scheduled for May 7 at MTV's studios in New York City, one million free copies of the CD-ROM will be available through an 800 number.

VA

Secretary West will preside at the dedication of a \$170 million clinical addition to the Ann

Arbor VA Medical Center, a major tertiary care center, in Ann Arbor, MI. The project has been in planning for over 20 years and has garnered significant public and political support. The addition will enhance ambulatory care facilities and other outpatient services.

EPA

Administrator Browner will travel to Custer, SD to attend National Drinking Water Advisory Council Meeting

ONDCP

General McCaffrey will address the Woodrow Wilson International Center luncheon.

GSA

GSA will join the DC Chamber of Commerce to celebrate the grand opening of the DC Visitor Information Center at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. The event celebrates a "one-stop" information center for visitors to the Nation's Capital. Invitees include Administrator Barram, Kwasi Holman, Executive Vice President, DC Chamber of Commerce and James Earl Jones, Spokesperson for Bell Atlantic.

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Helen Veit@WHO

05/05/99 05:00:16 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: Thursday, May 6, 1999

Thursday, May 6, 1999

State

Secretary Albright will:

- host a breakfast for the German Financial Minister, Fischer, in Germany.
- participate in an Annual State Department Awards Ceremony.
- attend a luncheon with families of the Nairobi and Dar es Salaam bombing victims.
- address the American Jewish Committee Dinner.

Treasury

Secretary Rubin will address the Treasury Department's Annual Awards Ceremony.

Justice

Attorney General Reno will:

- Address Navy Civilian counsels in Arlington, VA.
- Lunch with Victims of East Africa Embassy Bombings at the State Department.
- Meet with Sen. Gregg.

Interior

Secretary Babbitt will:

- attend the opening session of the environmental alliance meetings. The attendees include Rodolfo Gedeon (President, Fundacion Mamonal), Juan Carlos Riascos (Director, UAESPNN), Pablo Leyva (Director, IDEAM), Thomas Black (Columbian Ministry of the Environment). The attendees and their topics are Rodolfo Gedeon ("Investment Opportunities for Sustainable Development in Columbia"), Juan Carlos Riascos ("National Natural Parks: Bilateral Cooperation") Pablo Leyva remarks ("Information Management in the Environmental Sector"), Thomas Black remarks ("Innovative Market Instruments for the Sustainable Development).
- tour old Cartagena with Minister Mayr.
- Sign a "joint declarations and action plan."

BLM's Acting Director will conduct an editorial board with the *Washington Post*. He will seek

to promote increased awareness of the BLM and its mission, along with its role in conserving open space.

USDA

Secretary Glickman will testify before the Senate Agriculture Committee.

Deputy Secretary Rominger will attend the North America Pesticides Summit.

Commerce

Deputy Secretary Mallett will attend Caspian Ambassadors Luncheon.

ESA will release Metropolitan Area Personal Income, 1997.

Labor

Secretary Herman will:

- participate in a kick-off event for DOL's Work Safe this Summer initiative.
- host a farewell reception for Deputy Secretary of Labor Kathryn Higgins.

HHS

Secretary Shalala will be interviewed on the television program, *Capitol Conversation*, on Medicare reform.

Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) will announce the list of contractors who have been awarded Government Wide Agency Contracts (GWAC) to perform work as Program Safeguard Contractors (PSC). These contractors will be on a schedule and will compete among each other for PSC work as individual task orders are issued to the schedule for bid. HCFA will also publicly release the first package of task orders for a two week comment period prior to releasing the task orders to the GWAC PSC contractors for bid.

DOT

Secretary Slater will address attendees at the 15th annual Public Service Recognition Week celebration in Washington, D.C.

Deputy Secretary Downey will participate in a conference sponsored by The Ditchley Foundations and the Royal Agricultural Society of England entitled "Understanding, Managing and Presenting Risk in Public Policy," in Oxfordshire, England.

Education

Secretary Riley will:

- Announce "Comprehensive School Reform" Program with the Vice President and CA Gov. Davis.
- meet with Senators Dorgan and Feinstein.

VA

Secretary West will meet with the national leadership of the Italian-American War Veterans in

Washington, D.C.

ONDCP

General McCaffrey will speak at the National Day of Prayer Observance.

SBA

Administrator Alvarez will be in San Antonio, TX for the National Association of Government Guaranteed Lenders semi-annual conference.

OPM

Director Lachance will:

- participate in the Public Employees Roundtable at the National Mall during Public Service Recognition Week.
- meet with Congressman Tom Allen.

Deputy Director Sepulveda will speak at the 1998 National Combined Federal Campaign Ceremony.

The House Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law of the House Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing on a bill to authorize a cost of living adjustment in the pay of administrative law judges. OPM assisted the bill's sponsor, Representative George Gekas, in drafting the bill, and will be invited to testify at the hearing.

USIA

Acting Director Kemble will address the USIA Alumni Group at USIA headquarters.

SSA

On May 6 – 7, Principal Deputy Commissioner John Dyer will attend the 78th meeting of the International Social Security Association in Geneva, Switzerland. The ISSA promotes international cooperation in the development of social security programs worldwide and is made up of 345 social security institutions in 135 countries.

Carolyn Colvin, SSA's Deputy Commissioner for Operations, will address students in the School of Sociology at the University of Maryland's Eastern Shore campus in Salisbury, MD. Ms. Colvin will speak on "Social Security Reform: Impact on Women and Minorities." Local television and media coverage of the event are expected.

Message Sent To: _____

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Helen Veit@WHO
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05/04/99 05:40:20 PM
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Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Treasury

Secretary Rubin will testify before the House Commerce Committee on financial modernization, focusing on the need to protect the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA), and to maintain appropriate levels of consumer protection. On May 3, we expect Senate Majority Leader Lott to bring a version of Chairman Gramm's financial modernization bill to the floor. Several civil rights groups are organizing a press conference to promote CRA, and will urge Members of Congress to preserve a strong CRA in any financial modernization legislation.

Justice

Attorney General Reno will testify before a House Oversight Hearing.

Deputy Attorney General Holder will speak to the Law Club of the City of Chicago in Chicago, IL

Interior

Secretary Babbitt will be in Colombia, South America to:

- tour the Isles del Rosario with Minister of the Environment Juan Mayr.
- meet with the US Environmental delegation that will include DOI staff and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Brooks Yeager.
- hold bi-lateral meetings with Guillermio Fernandez (Colombian Foreign Minister), Kamman (US Ambassador to Colombia), Carl Cira (USAID) and Brooks Yeager.
- attend a State Dinner hosted by Andres Pastrana, President of Colombia.

USDA

USDA dairy officials will testify before the House Subcommittee on Livestock and Horticulture on USDA's proposed modernization of the federal milk marketing order, in a hearing that is certain to generate considerable attention from the dairy media. 138 Members of the House have cosponsored legislation to overturn USDA's decision.

Commerce

Secretary Daley will

- Meet with Defense Minister John Moore of Australia.
- Give remarks at Asian Pacific Heritage Month event in main lobby of Commerce Building.
- Conduct advocacy phone call with Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago.

Deputy Secretary Mallett will speak to the North Carolina World Trade Association Annual Meeting, in Asheville, NC.

Census Director Kenneth Prewitt will hold a Press Conference in coordination with Goodwill Industries to discuss Census 2000 partnership activities at the National Press Club, in Washington, DC.

Labor

Secretary Herman will participate in a press conference call to launch DOL's Youth Summer Jobs initiative.

HHS

Secretary Shalala will:

- participate in an on-stage interview with the Wall Street Journal Health Care Summit 99: Medicine, Business Public Policy.
- meet with Ambassador James Bolger, United States Ambassador for New Zealand.

Nancy-Ann Min DeParle, Administrator, Health Care Financing Administration, will be the speaker at the Wall Street Journal Health Care Summit '99 in Washington, DC.

Columbine High School Shooting: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA), Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) continues to be in close contact with Colorado state officials as the state assesses its long-term mental health needs. The Governor has established a task force to address the recovery; HHS, in addition to other federal agencies, have been asked to participate. The first meeting is scheduled for May 5 in Denver, CO.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Hepatitis Branch and Office of Communication, in conjunction with other HHS partners, will hold a scientific briefing on hepatitis C at the National Press Club to inform the media about provider education and give a scientific update on hepatitis C virus, the disease, the treatment, and the notice to patients. This will be an interactive meeting with public access via a toll-free number, 1-800-547-9328. Other presenters include the Food and Drug Administration and the National Institutes of Health.

DOT

Aviation Bilateral Negotiations/Discussions Update: Oman: in Washington, May 5-6 ["Open Skies"]

Energy

Secretary Richardson will give remarks to the AFL-CIO Executive Council.

VA

Secretary West will host a group of 12-18 Army War College students, representing all U.S. services and up to 40 foreign countries, for a VA orientation in Washington, D.C.

USTR

Ambassador Barshefsky will:

- Brief the House Freshman Democrats on China and the WTO.
- Meet with the Taiwan Trade Minister.
- Hold a lunch meeting with ambassadors of EU member states.
- Speak to the American Newswomen's Club.

ONDCP

General McCaffrey will

- Meet with Sen. Specter on insurance and substance abuse treatment parity.
- Attend a reception hosted by the National Day of Prayer Task Force.

SBA

Administrator Alvarez will attend the New Markets meeting w/John Podesta and other cabinet members.

FEMA

Director Witt will be in Hot Springs, Arkansas for the Arkansas Public Health Association's Annual Conference. The Director will give the keynote address on Y2K Preparedness, Project Impact and the Livability Agenda.

OPM

Deputy Director Sepulveda will lead a discussion on OPM's 10-Point Plan at the National Image Training Conference and Convention in Fort Worth, TX.

USIA

Acting Director Kemble will host a luncheon at the State Department in honor of the Chinese Cultural Minister. The Minister is in Washington on a USIA-sponsored International Visitor program.

Message Sent To: _____

Helen Veit@WHO

05/03/99 06:24:43 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: May 4, 1999

Tuesday, May 4, 1999

State

Secretary Albright will address the Council of the Americas.

Treasury

Secretary Rubin and the First Lady will unveil the design of the new dollar coin at an event to honor American Indian and Alaska Native women. The coin depicts the image of Sacagawea, the Shoshone interpreter who was a member of the Lewis and Clark expedition. The design was chosen after extensive public input and outreach to various tribal, industry, and consumer groups. Mint Director Diehl, Members of Congress, and tribal leaders will also participate in this event. The new coin was mandated by Congress and will replace the Susan B. Anthony coin, whose stocks are nearly depleted.

Treasury will hold the Quarterly Refunding chart showing.

Justice

Deputy Attorney General Holder will speak at the Martin Luther King Memorial Library in DC.

Interior

Secretary Babbitt will travel to Cartagena, Colombia, South America for bi-lateral meetings with the Colombian Minister of the Environment.

NPS is planning an event to showcase efforts to protect natural resources on Theodore Roosevelt Island, a scenic area which has been impacted by invasive plants.. The President's FY2000 budget request includes about \$20 million to strengthen the NPS's natural resources protection program. Among other things, these funds will strengthen ongoing efforts to restore native species while controlling the spread of invasive species.

USDA

Under Secretary Schumacher will testify before the Subcommittee on International Trade and

Finance of the Senate Committee on Banking, Finance, and Urban Affairs, on international institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization, and their impact on the US agriculture export market.

Commerce

Secretary Daley will attend a Town Hall Meeting with the Vice President in Detroit, MI.

HHS

Secretary Shalala will:

- meet with the Indian Ambassador.
- attend an Asthma awareness event at a local elementary school with the First Lady.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Treatment will release the new best practice guideline # 33, "Treatment for Stimulant Use Disorders," in the Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP) series to help substance abuse service providers and medical personnel treat patients abusing cocaine or amphetamines, including methamphetamine. The TIP is being released in conjunction with a meeting in San Diego of the Federal Government Methamphetamine Interagency Task Force in San Diego, CA.

The New York Times will run an article about heart failure and an uptrend in incidence while other forms of heart disease are trending downward. Article will appear in the paper's weekly Science section.

HUD

Secretary Cuomo will appear on *C-Span*.

DOT

Secretary Slater will attend the Vice President's remarks at the National Town Meeting on Sustainable America in Detroit, MI.

Energy

Secretary Richardson will:

- travel to the West Valley Demonstration Project, where he will enter into an Agreement In Principle with the State of New York, to begin formal negotiations on the completion of the work at the Project. Governor Pataki and Representative Amo Houghten are also scheduled to attend. This is an important step towards establishing a path forward for successful federal and state collaboration at the Project, which is a unique site as it is owned by the State of New York and operated by DOE.
- speak to the U.S. Trade and Development Agency
- speak to the 25 Year Progression of Electricity Deregulation Conference.

Education

Secretary Riley will:

- meet with Chancellor Joe Wyatt of Vanderbilt.

- speak to representatives from higher education associations about improving teacher quality.

DOEd plans to transmit to Congress the Administration's Elementary and Secondary Education Act reauthorization proposal.

VA

Secretary West will testify before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee regarding Medicare.

EPA

Administrator Browner will join the First Lady and Secretary Shalala in kicking off the Nationwide Asthma Screening Program at Draper Elementary School in the District. The screening program, which consists of asthma specialists who volunteer their time to diagnose and treat asthma in children, is aimed at preventing the permanent lung damage that often afflicts children with untreated asthma.

Deputy Administrator Robertson will participate in the National Town Meeting for Sustainable America in Detroit, MI.

USTR

Ambassador Barshefsky will:

- Meet with leaders of the aerospace industry.
- Speak to the Council of the Americas on the FTAA.
- Keynote the Society of American Business Editors and Writers on the Administration's trade agenda.
- Meet with Senator Harkin on trade and worker rights.

ONDCP

General McCaffrey will meet with John Bruton of the American Chamber of Commerce in Mexico to discuss the U.S.-Mexico bilateral relationship and counterdrug cooperation.

SBA

Administrator Alvarez will attend the National Town Meeting on Sustainable America in Detroit, MI.

FEMA

Deputy Director Mike Walker will participate in a Senior Leaders Seminar between FEMA and Army Corps of Engineers at Ft. Belvoir to prepare for upcoming hurricane season.

OPM

Director Lachance will meet with Congressman Dan Miller.

GSA

Administrator Barram will speak at the Scranton Federal Courthouse dedication, Scranton, PA.

SSA

On May 4-6, SSA will host its 1999 National Anti-Fraud Conference in Baltimore, MD. Commissioner Apfel will open the conference. The theme of this year's conference is "Zero Tolerance for Fraud - Advancing the Fight." The event will bring together SSA employees from the field and Headquarters to discuss effective fraud prevention and detection activities in SSA's programs and operations. Over 300 employees from around the country are expected to participate.

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04/30/99 07:42:15 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: Monday, May 3, 1999

Monday, May 3, 1999

State

Secretary Albright will participate in the Official Visit of the Japan Prime Minister.

Treasury

Secretary Rubin will:

- meet with Japanese Prime Minister Obuchi.
- address the Carter Center's *Transparency for Growth: Fighting Corruption in the Americas* conference in Atlanta, GA.

Hedge Funds: On April 29, the President's Working Group on Financial Markets released their report, "Hedge Funds, Leverage, and the Lessons of Long Term Capital Management." This report describes the principal conclusions and recommendations reached by the Working Group during its study of hedge funds. These recommendations include legislative and regulatory actions. During the week of May 3, Under Secretary Gensler will testify before the House Banking Committee or the House Financial Institutions Subcommittee on the report's findings.

Financial Modernization: On May 5, Secretary Rubin will testify before the House Commerce Committee on financial modernization, focusing on the need to protect the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA), and to maintain appropriate levels of consumer protection. On May 3, Treasury expects Senate Majority Leader Lott to bring a version of Chairman Gramm's financial modernization bill to the floor. Several civil rights groups are organizing a press conference to promote CRA, and will urge Members of Congress to preserve a strong CRA in any financial modernization legislation.

Justice

Attorney General Reno will:

- attend a Violence Against Women Event with Senator Biden in New Ark, DE.
- meet with United Way Officials on Youth Violence Prevention.

Interior

Secretary Babbitt will meet with Senator Kyl of Arizona, Rita Pearson, Executive Director of The Arizona Water Resources and Acting Deputy Secretary David Hayes on Arizona Water issues.

USDA

Secretary Glickman will attend the Japan Official Dinner.

Under Secretaries Lyons and Dunn will meet with Assistant Secretary Barry of the Interior Department, and Governor Racicot (MT) to discuss bison issues, in Salt Lake City, UT.

Commerce

Secretary Daley will attend a Roll-out of National Trade Education Tour Massachusetts and Rhode Island in DC.

Deputy Secretary Mallett will meet with Deputy Attorney General Holder.

From May 3-7, the Office for Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) Implementation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs will host Deputy Assistant Secretary Iain Baird and other Bureau of Export Administration (BXA) staff for a CWC-related seminar in Rome.

Representatives of the CWC National Authority, the U.S. Defense Threat Reduction Agency, and the Chemical Manufacturers Association will participate. The Italian Office for CWC Implementation will share its experiences on initial industry inspections by the Office for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). BXA representatives will also visit the Italian Chemical Manufacturers Association. Information from this seminar will assist BXA to develop its own industry inspection program.

ESA will release Personal Income and Outlays, March 1999.

Labor

Secretary Herman will announce the award of fourteen (14), Youth Offender Demonstration Project grants totaling \$12,147,000 in an event with Senator Specter at the Youth Study Center in Philadelphia, PA. These grants will provide services aimed at youth who are or have been under criminal justice supervision or involved in gangs, as well as out-of-school youth in communities with high poverty and unemployment.

HHS

Secretary Shalala will give the Eleanor and Charlie Taft lecture on "One America: Race and Public Health" in Cincinnati, OH.

The week of May 3, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) will release a study based on National Household Survey on Drug Abuse Data that shows adolescents with emotional and behavioral problems are much more likely than those without these serious problems to abuse substances such as alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs. Adolescents who were more likely to abuse substances reported delinquent behaviors, such as

stealing, cutting classes or skipping school, hanging around with others who get into trouble; social problems, such as peer and parental relations; and, attention problems.

HUD

Secretary Cuomo will deliver the keynote at a meeting of the National Coalition for the Homeless.

DOT

Secretary Slater will participate in the National Town Meeting on Sustainable America in Detroit. The Secretary will co-chair the plenary session panel on "Healthy Communities, Healthy Economies" with EPA Administrator Browner. This panel will feature government and community leaders and will address partnering strategies for making communities more livable throughout America.

Energy

Secretary Richardson will

- deliver remarks to the Council of Americas.
- attend National Science Bowl Awards and Luncheon.
- deliver remarks to Business and Community Leaders in DC.
- deliver remarks to New York Mercantile Exchange Dinner in New York City.

Deputy Secretary Glauthier will attend National Science Bowl Finals.

Education

Secretary Riley will speak to an Advertising Council event in DC.

Bill Modzeleski, Director of the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program, is scheduled to participate in a panel discussion at the National Youth Violence and School Safety Summit in Jackson, MS.

VA

Secretary West will address over 3,000 delegates at the annual convention of the Women's International Bowling Congress (WIBC) in Indianapolis, IN. The WIBC Vice President also serves as Chair of a fund called Bowlers Veterans Link, the only national sports organization devoted to raising funds for hospitalized veterans.

EPA

Administrator Browner will:

- participate in the National Town Meeting for Sustainable America in Detroit, MI. Administrator Browner and Secretary Slater will co-moderate a luncheon panel, entitled "Healthy Communities / Healthy Economies", where they will discuss the Livability Agenda.
- join Detroit Mayor Archer at a brownfields site in downtown Detroit to discuss the Administration's Livability Agenda and other Administration initiatives to revitalize Detroit communities. Mayor Archer is expected to announce his endorsement of the Better

America Bonds initiative.

USTR

Ambassador Barshefsky will:

- Attend the welcoming ceremony for Prime Minister Obuchi of Japan.
- Attend the expanded bilateral meeting. The President and Prime Minister will welcome the conclusion of agreements on deregulation and investment; discuss implementation of U.S.-Japan bilateral trade agreements, especially in computer, insurance, and flat glass areas; address steel and APEC issues; and examine matters relating to the upcoming WTO ministerial.
- Attend the Official Dinner.

ONDCP

General McCaffrey will:

- Address the World Presidents Organization, a group of corporate presidents and CEOs representing a variety of American and foreign countries. His remarks will focus on ONDCP's mission and the National Drug Control Strategy.
- Address the 49th annual Washington Conference, sponsored by the Advertising Council and *Reader's Digest*, on "Helping Parents Help Kids Stay Drug Free." This conference will also feature children's artwork, which was entered into an antidrug PSA contest sponsored by ONDCP, the Advertising Council, *Reader's Digest*, and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington. Some of this artwork will be featured in an insert in *Reader's Digest* in June.

SBA

Administrator Alvarez will have a Brown Bag Lunch w/Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight.

OPM

Director Lachance will

- attend the Public Employees Roundtable Breakfast of Champions honoring Public Service Excellence Annual Winners.
- speak at OPM's "Solutions - Conference for HR Employment Professionals," in College Park, MD.

Message Sent To:

Kris M Balderston/WHO/EOP@EOP
Lisa J. Levin/WHO/EOP@EOP
Thurgood Marshall Jr/WHO/EOP@EOP
Anne E. McGuire/WHO/EOP@EOP
Irma L. Martinez/WHO/EOP@EOP
Sean P. O'Shea/WHO/EOP@EOP
Clay Reed/WHO/EOP@EOP
Helen Veit/WHO/GOV@WHO

Helen Veit@WHO

04/29/99 06:17:26 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: Friday, April 30, 1999

Friday, April 30, 1999

Justice

Attorney General Reno will address the commencement of Florida State University.

Deputy Attorney General Holder will speak to the National Service Legal Corps.

Interior

Secretary Babbitt will:

- Attend the Democratic Policy Committee Indian Issues meeting.
- Interview with National Journal regarding the Administration's longest serving Cabinet members.

On April 26-30, in Duluth, MN, FWS and representatives of more than two dozen federal, state and local agencies will participate in the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force. Preventing the spread of the zebra mussel into the western U.S. will be on the agenda, as well as a number of other invasive species threats, including the Mitten crab, an Asian species that thrives in fresh water and was first discovered in CA; the Round Goby, a bottom-feeding European fish that rapidly eliminates other species and the management of ballast water that is used by freighters. Discharged ballast water is among the principal culprits in the release of foreign, invasive species into domestic and coastal waterways. Participants will also hear reports and discussions about fish ecology, non-indigenous species barriers between the Great Lakes and the MS River Basin, and the 100th Meridian Initiative, a specific program aimed at preventing the westward spread of the Zebra mussel.

USDA

By April 30, USDA estimates that it will have exhausted the farm loan accounts it replenished through an emergency transfer of funds on March 26, absent congressional action on your supplemental funding request.

Commerce

Secretary Daley will

- release GDP figures to the press.
- attend meeting of the President's Committee on the International Labor Organization at DOL.
- speak to the National Education Association Board of Directors.

ESA will release Gross Domestic Product, 1st quarter 1999 (advance)

Labor

Secretary Herman will host the ILO meeting at DOL.

HHS

A press conference/briefing will be held to announce the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) cooperative agreement with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to support measles elimination activities in the Americas. Dr. Jeffrey P. Koplan, CDC Director, participated in a ceremony announcing a 3-year, \$8 million CDC cooperative agreement with PAHO.

Upcoming CDC *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)* Articles, Volume 48, Issue 16 (EMBARGOED UNTIL Friday, April 30): Because of space constraints and clearance considerations, the contents of this issue may change.

- Knowledge and Use of Folic Acid by Women of Childbearing Age and Awareness Among Health-Care Providers--United States: Each year in the United States, approximately 4,000 pregnancies are affected by neural tube defects; 50-70 percent of these developmental defects could be prevented with the daily intake of 400 µg of the B vitamin folic acid throughout the periconceptional period. Because approximately half of all U.S. pregnancies are unintended, recommendations from the Public Health Service in 1992 and the Food and Nutrition Board of the Institute of Medicine in 1998 emphasize the importance of folic acid consumption for all women of childbearing potential. This report summarizes the findings of a survey conducted during July-August 1998 and compares these results with a similar survey conducted in 1995 regarding folic acid knowledge and use among women of childbearing age in the United States. The findings indicate that only 7 percent of women know folic acid should be taken before pregnancy to reduce the risk of neural tube defects.
- Playground Safety--United States, 1997-1999: Each year approximately 211,000 U.S. children receive emergency department care for injuries sustained on school and child care playground equipment, making use of the equipment the leading cause of injuries to children in these environments. To develop a national action plan for playground injury prevention, during 1997-1999, the National Program for Playground Safety at the University of Northern Iowa conducted a stratified random sample survey of the Nation's child care, elementary school, and park playgrounds. This report summarizes survey results, which indicate that playground injuries can be reduced by implementing safety measures.
- Childhood Work-Related Agricultural Fatalities--Minnesota, 1994-1997: In Minnesota during 1992-1996, agriculture had the highest fatality rate of any industry (21.3 per

100,000 workers). Since 1992, the Minnesota Department of Health has collected data about work-related fatalities through the Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) program. During 1994-1997, Minnesota FACE investigated six work-related agricultural fatalities of children aged < 19 years. This report summarizes investigations of youth agricultural fatalities in Minnesota for 1994-1997 and provides recommendations for preventing such fatalities.

Energy

Secretary Richardson will:

- Speak to the Committee of 100 annual conference in New York City.
- Interview with the *Newshour with Jim Lehrer*.

Education

Secretary Riley will speak about the Littleton shootings before an audience of about 100 people, mostly parents, at Walt Whitman High School in Bethesda, MD. The Secretary will discuss the shootings, interact with parents, and also discuss what the federal government is doing to curb school violence and help the people of Littleton.

Lynn Simons, the Secretary's Regional Representative, is scheduled to participate in an emergency meeting of the Denver Federal Executive Board to discuss federal agency response to the shootings.

VA

Secretary West will participate in the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the Veterans International Bridge with the President of Mexico in Los Tomates, TX. The bridge will link Mexico and the State of Texas.

EPA

Deputy Administrator Robertson will Attend the Senior Executives Association Annual Awards Banquet.

Fourth Meeting of the Blue-Ribbon Panel on the Use of Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) and Other Oxygen-Containing Additives in Fuel: The MTBE Blue-Ribbon Panel will hold its fourth meeting, in Arlington, VA to address the issues posed by the continued use of MTBE and other oxygen-containing additives (oxygenates) to fuel. The use of oxygenates -- of which MTBE is the most widely available -- is required by the Clean Air Act, and significantly reduces air pollution from automobiles. However, MTBE has been found in numerous drinking water sources in California, Maine, Arizona and New Hampshire. In most cases, MTBE in drinking water indicates that fuel is leaking from underground storage tanks -- MTBE travels more quickly in water than other components of gasoline. Officials in these states have called on EPA to phase-out or establish drinking water standards for MTBE. EPA established the panel in 11/98 to examine the use of MTBE and other oxygenates in gasoline and to gain a better understanding of the public health concerns raised by the discovery of MTBE in water supplies. The panel, which comprises leading public health,

scientific, automotive fuels, water utility, and state and local government experts, will report to the Agency in 7/99 the benefits and risks associated with MTBE and on how to ensure public health protection and continued improvement in air and drinking water quality. EPA also continues to work with the states to clean up already known MTBE contamination.

USTR

USTR will release the annual "Super 301" and "Title VII" reports pursuant to Executive Order 13116 of March 31, 1999.

- This year's Super 301 report identifies as key priorities the launch of the new round of global trade negotiations and strategic enforcement of bilateral, regional, and multilateral obligations of our trading partners. In addition to the efforts underway to secure implementation of existing commitments through dispute settlement and other WTO mechanisms, the report highlights this Administration's of domestic U.S. trade law to open foreign markets and ensure fair treatment for our goods and services. Although this year's report does not identify a priority foreign country practice, it does identify a number of practices of significant concern.
- The Title VII report addressed discriminatory practices by foreign governments in the procurement of U.S. products and services. This year's report provides information on government procurement practices in Korea with respect to airport construction, Japan with respect to computers and construction, and Germany with respect to heavy electrical equipment. These practices are either being addressed under the WTO dispute settlement mechanism, do not meet the criteria for identification, or are being scrutinized as a result of a previous identification.

Message Sent To:

Kris M Balderston/WHO/EOP@EOP
Lisa J. Levin/WHO/EOP@EOP
Thurgood Marshall Jr/WHO/EOP@EOP
Anne E. McGuire/WHO/EOP@EOP
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Sean P. O'Shea/WHO/EOP@EOP
Clay Reed/WHO/EOP@EOP
Helen Veit/WHO/GOV@WHO

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 19, 1999

TELEPHONE CALL TO STUDENTS INJURED DURING THE COLUMBINE HIGH
- SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

RICHARD CASTALDO

TO: Richard Castaldo (17)

DATE: May 19, 1999

RECOMMENDED BY: Thurgood Marshall, Jr.
Kris M. Balderston

PURPOSE: To talk with students injured during the Columbine High School
shootings who are still recovering from their wounds at local
hospitals in Colorado.

BACKGROUND: On April 20, two suspects opened fire on the student body at
Columbine High School killing 12 students and one faculty member.
Of the 23 injured students, five are still recuperating from their
injuries in local hospitals.

Make a copy of this
one for me &
bring it back

Will be for
School - (Lunch)
to see her and her
husband -
want to help on
guns and other
concerns -

Richard will be joined by his father Rick Castaldo, his mother Connie
Michalik (MEH-HALL-ICK), and stepfather Rick Michalik (MEH-
HALL-LIK). Richard was scheduled to attend the Regis University
PeaceJam Youth Conference workshops on May 15, focused on
anger management, suicide prevention, stress reduction, and
depression. Although Richard could not attend, he received e-mail
messages from nearly 100 other youths in attendance. The PeaceJam
Youth Conference links Nobel Peace laureates with teenagers to
teach skills, community service, tolerance, and nonviolence. Richard
is paralyzed from the chest down as a result of multiple gunshot
wounds and remains in serious pain.

copied
Herrnreich
Currie
Streett
Podesta
Marshall
Balderston

CONTACT PERSON AND Richard Castaldo, 303-788-7007
TELEPHONE NUMBERS: Swedish Hospital

Note: This is Richard's direct line. Ask for Connie Michalik (mother)
who is a big supporter of YOU; she attended the Arkansas Ball.

DATE OF SUBMISSION: May 19, 1999

ACTION:

COLORADO

OCA - File Archive

Columbine H.S.
Shooting
(Colorado)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 19, 1999

TELEPHONE CALL TO STUDENTS INJURED DURING THE COLUMBINE HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

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BACKGROUND: On April 20, two suspects opened fire on the student body at Columbine High School killing 12 students and one faculty member. Of the 23 injured students, five are still recuperating from their injuries in local hospitals.

Will be at school - lunch to see her and her husband - want to help on guns and spirit cord necklace



Richard will be joined by his father Rick Castaldo, his mother Connie Michalik (MEH-HALL-ICK), and stepfather Rick Michalik (MEH-HALL-LIK). Richard was scheduled to attend the Regis University PeaceJam Youth Conference workshops on May 15, focused on anger management, suicide prevention, stress reduction, and depression. Although Richard could not attend, he received e-mail messages from nearly 100 other youths in attendance. The PeaceJam Youth Conference links Nobel Peace laureates with teenagers to teach skills, community service, tolerance, and nonviolence. Richard is paralyzed from the chest down as a result of multiple gunshot wounds and remains in serious pain.

CONTACT PERSON AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS: Richard Castaldo, 303-788-7007
Swedish Hospital

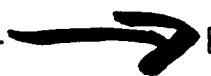
Note: This is Richard's direct line. Ask for Connie Michalik (mother) who is a big supporter of YOU; she attended the Arkansas Ball.

DATE OF SUBMISSION: May 19, 1999

ACTION:

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

Date: 4/22/99ACTION / CONCURRENCE / COMMENT DUE BY: 6:00 p.m. TODAYSubject: DEPARTURE STATEMENT

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☒	☐	MOORE	☐	☐
PODESTA	☒	☐	NASH	☐	☐
ECHAVESTE	☒	☐	REED	☒	☐
RICCHETTI	☒	☐	RUFF	☒	☐
LEW	☐	☐	SOSNIK	☒	☐
BERGER	☐	☐	SPERLING	☒	☐
BLUMENTHAL	☒	☐	STEIN	☒	☐
CAHILL	☒	☐	STERN	☐	☐
FRAMPTON	☐	☐	STREETT	☐	☐
IBARRA	☒	☐	TRAMONTANO	☒	☐
JOHNSON	☒	☐	UCELLI	☒	☐
KLAIN	☒	☐	VERVEER	☐	☐
LANE	☐	☐	WALDMAN	☒	☐
LEWIS	☒	☐	YELLEN	☐	☐
LINDSEY	☐	☐	<u>CERDA</u>	☒	☐
LOCKHART	☐	☒	_____	☐	☐
MARSHALL 	☒	☐	_____	☐	☐

REMARKS:

RESPONSE:

COMMENTS TO JUNE SHIH

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
STATEMENT ON SCHOOL SAFETY GRANTS
THE WHITE HOUSE
APRIL 23, 1999**

Good Morning. Before I leave for the NATO Summit, I'd like to say a few more words about the tragedy in Littleton, Colorado that has shaken all Americans this week -- and the latest steps we are taking to bring our police and our communities together to make our schools safer.

First, I have spoken to Attorney General Reno, who was in Littleton yesterday to help the families of Columbine High School cope with their tragedy. And I'd like to announce that the Justice Department will make available \$750,000 to help the victims in their long journey toward recovery -- from mental health counseling to assistance with medical and funeral bills. As more needs become apparent, we will move quickly to respond to them.

Perhaps what is most disturbing to all Americans is that what we saw in Littleton this week has become too familiar. We've seen the grieving families, the terrified children, the police tape and ambulance sirens before -- though not to this extent -- in Pearl, Mississippi; Paducah, Kentucky; Jonesboro, Arkansas; and Springfield, Oregon. Littleton is the latest reminder that no community is immune to senseless violence.

But it is important not to exaggerate the size of this problem. Let me say again: America's schools are indeed safe. In the overwhelming majority of communities across the nation, a child is still safer sitting in school than he or she is walking down the street. 90 percent of all schools do not experience serious violent crime. But we all know that any act of violence in a school is one too many.

For the past six years, my administration has made school safety a top priority. In 1994, we put in place a policy of zero tolerance for guns in school, requiring principals to expel any student who brings a firearm on campus. We are cracking down on the illegal gun markets that supply firearms to children and criminals, supporting after-school programs to keep children safe in the hours when parents at work and juvenile crime soars.

And last year, in close consultation with parents, students, and school officials from Pearl, Paducah, Jonesboro and Springfield, we developed a comprehensive plan to prevent youth violence in our schools. At our White House Conference on School Safety, I launched an unprecedented collaboration between the Departments of Justice, Education and Health and Human Services to help communities meet their school safety needs -- from boosting law enforcement to the hiring of mental health counselors to the establishment of new after school and mentoring programs. The deadline for these grants is June 1 -- and I encourage all schools to apply for them.

I also launched a new initiative to put more community police officers in our schools. All across America, community police officers have had tremendous success working with citizens to prevent crime in our streets and neighborhoods. They can do the same for our schools every day, by getting to know and working with our troubled young people, mediating conflicts before they escalate into violence. Today, I am pleased to announce that the first round of these grants will be awarded to 337 schools and communities, enabling them to hire more than 600 police officers. We hope to have 2,000 of these officers in place by the end of the year.

But we have much more to do. Many efforts will require new legislation -- and I will have more to say on this on Monday.

This week's tragedy must steel our national resolve to act -- to prevent violence from ever again shattering the peace of our schoolyards; to keep guns and firearms out of the hands of children and away from our schools; to reach out to our troubled youth and to help them resolve their anger and alienation with words, not weapons. That will be the best way to honor the memories of those who lost their lives Tuesday morning.



Kris M Balderston

05/19/99 05:58:58 PM



Record Type: Record

To: Thurgood Marshall Jr/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: final draft Littleton remarks

----- Forwarded by Kris M Balderston/WHO/EOP on 05/19/99 05:58 PM -----



Jeffrey A. Shesol

05/19/99 05:14:47 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Kris M Balderston/WHO/EOP@EOP, Laura A. Graham/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: final draft Littleton remarks

Revised Draft 05/19/99 4:00pm

Jeff Shesol

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS TO STUDENTS OF COLUMBINE HIGH SCHOOL
DAKOTA RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL
JEFFERSON COUNTY, COLORADO
May 20, 1999**

Acknowledgments: the First Lady; Gov. Bill Owens; Rep. Diana DeGette [de-GET]; Rep. Scott McInnis TBD; Jon DeStefano, Jefferson County School Board Pres., Dr. Jane Hammond, Superintendent; Frank DeAngelis, Principal of Columbine H.S.; Heather Dinkle, Student Body Pres., Columbine H.S.; student council reps. from Chatfield H.S. & Dakota Ridge H.S.; emergency workers; all the students & faculty of Columbine; the families of those killed and injured.

I want to thank everyone here for inviting Hillary and me to join you here in Jefferson County, to talk and to listen and to spend time with you. I particularly want to thank the families we met with earlier today at the Light of the World Catholic Church.

This has been a long, difficult month for them, for all of you and for all America. You

have suffered losses of the most terrible kind. You've lost friends, and family, and a certain kind of innocence that no young person should have to part with so soon or so suddenly. And what you're left with is a lot of unanswered questions. There may be some truth to some of the easy answers, but ultimately, we don't really understand much beyond how badly we feel. Lately I've been thinking of an old hymn I used to hear in Arkansas. It goes: "Further along we know all about it. Further along we'll understand why. Rise up, my brothers, and walk in the sunshine. Further along we'll understand why."

You've heard a lot of condolences in the past month, and there's little I can add to the many thoughts and prayers that, I hope, have reached you from around the world. But I have come to Colorado because I want you to know how much America cares about you, and how very much we have learned from all of you. This kind of incident is like a flash of lightning: it can blind us, but it can also illuminate. When we look at Jefferson County, many of us see a community that looks like our own; and we know that if acts of evil can happen here, they can happen elsewhere. But we also see a community that is fundamentally sound and strong. I think most Americans would hope that if they had to face the terrible trials you have faced, they would respond with the same compassion and courage.

Like the hymn says: you are rising up, walking in the sunshine, moving forward. You've returned to school. You've returned to sports, like the remarkable Girls' Soccer team I've heard so much about. Even though you didn't win the championship, the important thing is that you were out there playing. All of you, in your own ways, are looking toward the future, whether it's commencement and college or, right now, just a summer job. These may sound like ordinary things, the stuff of life, and that's what they are; but under the circumstances, they take an effort that is truly extraordinary. Even though the worst has happened, you have reached within yourselves and summoned what is best. I am proud of you -- and you should be proud of what you've done.

I think what has impressed me the most these past weeks is the way you have held fast to your faith. It is a remarkable thing. Just watching these events on television, or reading about them in the papers, a lot of people have been shaken to their foundations. And still -- despite all you've endured -- you still believe in the goodness and grace of a loving God. The rest of us can see how your faith anchors you. It strengthens and sustains you. It is a powerful thing, and a powerful thing to behold.

I know many of you are still hurting. You are in mourning, and that's going to hurt for a long time. But while we mourn, we can also learn. We can learn and -- more important -- we can act. There is no better way to transcend this tragedy, or to honor the lives you have lost, than to use what you have learned to create a better future. A future where hatred and distrust no longer distort the mind or corrupt the soul. A future where what we have in common is more important than what drives us apart. A future worthy of our full potential as individuals, as communities, and as a nation. If you build that future, it would be the most powerful monument you could make to the lives you've lost.

Across America, we've already started building that better future. You've had a lot to

do with that. I'm not sure if you know how true that is. You're at the epicenter of an enormous shockwave, and it's changing a lot of the American landscape -- the way we think about our schools, our families, ourselves. You've touched our hearts and stirred us to action. We've even set up a national campaign to make sure we seize this moment and make it a time of real and lasting change. I know that after meeting all of you, I'll return to Washington even more convinced that there is more we must do to replace the culture of violence with a culture of values; more we must do to keep guns out of the wrong hands; and more we must do to ensure that every vulnerable child is identified early, and gets the help they need.

Two days from now is Columbine's commencement. I know it will be bittersweet -- not everything you hoped it would be when you first walked through those doors as freshmen. For one thing, you couldn't have imagined that your rivals at Chatfield would be cheering you on. Even for those of you who have another year or two -- or three -- to go, I urge you to think of graduation day as another important step you take together, walking in that sunshine, moving forward through life's journey. In the Book of Isaiah, it says: "Your sun shall set no more, and your moon no more withdraw; for the Lord shall be a light to you forever, and your days of mourning shall be ended." Thank you and God bless you.

**PRESIDENT AND MRS. CLINTON, VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. GORE:
THE WHITE HOUSE STRATEGY SESSION ON CHILDREN, VIOLENCE, AND RESPONSIBILITY
May 10, 1999**

"This was exactly the kind of session I had hoped for, where everyone was talking about the problems and the opportunities...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..."

President Bill Clinton
May 10, 1999

Today, at the White House, President Clinton led a strategy meeting to discuss youth violence and develop a strategy for a national campaign to address this issue. Meeting participants included parents, children, teachers, religious leaders, law enforcement and government officials, gun manufacturers and sportsmen, and representatives of the entertainment industry. The President announced 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; public and private commitments to ensure the effective implementation of the V-Chip; and a National Campaign to Prevent Youth Violence.

Surgeon General's Report on Youth Violence. Today, the President announced 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. The report, which will be a collaborative effort by leading experts, will add to the nation's understanding in this field, particularly with regard to newer media such as video games and the Internet.

Gun Industry Support for Legislation. Today, the American Shooting Sports Council, representing leaders in the firearms industry, announced their support for legislation in five key areas:

- * imposing Brady background checks at gun shows;
- * extending the Brady Law to violent juveniles;
- * raising the age of the youth handgun ban to 21 years of age;
- * holding adults responsible for child access to guns; and
- * helping law enforcement to trace more firearms used in crimes.

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 the V-Chip be installed in all new television sets sold beginning January 1, 2000. At today's strategy session, the President announced two new initiatives to make sure the V-Chip becomes a useful tool for parents:

- 1) **V-Chip Task Force.** To ensure that the V-Chip law is implemented effectively, the Federal Communications Commission will establish a V-Chip Task Force to:
 - * ensure the V-Chip requirement is enforced;
 - * promote parental awareness about the V-Chip;
 - * encourage adoption of a standard label identifying television sets that contain the V-Chip; and
 - * study the use of the V-Chip and evaluate the effectiveness of the industry's ratings system.
- 2) **V-Chip Survey and Education Project.** 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 a free booklet for parents on how the V-chip TV ratings system works. The information will be available through a toll-free number and will be promoted through partnerships with TV manufacturers, retailers, parents' organizations, and the media.

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 called 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's working and spread it to new communities, while helping to ensure that the media sends the right message to our children.

PRESIDENT AND MRS. CLINTON, VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. GORE
HOST STRATEGY SESSION ON
CHILDREN, VIOLENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY
Monday, May 10, 1999

Today, the President led a 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. The President announced 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 announced 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 SHOWS SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATION IN FIVE KEY AREAS

Today, leaders in the firearms industry announced 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, released a statement supporting legislation in five areas:

*ð 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. 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.

*ð 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.

*ð 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 trace 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.

*ð 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.

*8 Helping law enforcement to trace more firearms used in crimes. Over the past 2 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 the V-Chip be installed in all new television sets sold beginning January 1, 2000. At today's strategy session the President announced 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 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, less than four out of ten parents (39%) has 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 called 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's working, 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.

Children, Violence and Responsibility

--The Clinton-Gore Administration Record --

GIVING PARENTS THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO PROTECT THEIR CHILDREN

Giving Families A New Tool -- A Content-Based Television Ratings System. Striving to protect children from violence and adult content on television, the President and Vice President garnered a breakthrough agreement from the television industry to create a content-based voluntary ratings system. The new system went into effect October 1, 1997, giving parents the information they need to determine if TV 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. Four years ago, the President and the Vice President used the 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. Now, by January 2000, all new televisions are scheduled to include this screening technology.

Hosting the White House Conference on Children's Television. In July 1996, the President and Vice President convened the White House Conference on Children's Television to improve and expand educational television for children. Conference participants included parents, industry representatives, advocates, experts and advertisers. At the Conference, the television industry joined with the President and agreed to air more educational and instructional children's shows.

Encouraging More Educational Television. At the President's urging, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted clear and concrete rules to encourage the development and promotion of TV programming that would be both welcomed by parents and watched by children. The rules require three hours of regularly scheduled, half-hour weekly educational and instructional programming as a requirement for license renewal.

Promoting a "Family Friendly" Internet. The President and Vice President have worked to make cyberspace a safe place for children. The Administration has enlisted the assistance of numerous stakeholders, including industry leaders, teachers, parents, Internet users and librarians to work towards the creation of a "family friendly" Internet. The Administration's three part strategy includes: (1) industry commitments to provide blocking, filtering and labeling technology for use by parents and teachers using the 'Net; 2) effective enforcement of existing laws; and 3) increased parental awareness and involvement. This strategy is designed to give parents and teachers the tools they need to prevent children from getting access to inappropriate material on the Internet, and to guide them towards high-quality educational resources.

Keeping Children Safe on the Internet with the Parents' Protection Page. Recently, the Vice President announced the parents' protection page, an important new commitment by 15 of the country's premier Internet companies to give parents the resources they need to protect their children from inappropriate material on the Internet. The parents' protection page, which will be available for use by July 1999, will provide parents with the tools and knowledge to supervise and guide their children's

online activities. In addition to giving parents 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.

PROMOTING SCHOOL SAFETY

Creating a New Federal Response for Violent Deaths in Schools. President Clinton has proposed \$12 million in his FY 2000 budget for School Emergency Response to Violence -- or Project SERV -- to help schools and local communities respond to school-related violent deaths, such as those that occurred last school year in Jonesboro, Arkansas; Paducah, Kentucky; Pearl, Mississippi; and Springfield, Oregon. Developed with input from local officials and educators in these and other communities, Project SERV will enable the Federal government to assist local communities in much the same way that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assists in response to natural disasters.

Hiring School Resource Officers, Targeting Assistance to Schools with Serious Crime Problems. To help give schools with crime problems the tools they need to put the security of our children first, at the White House Conference on School Safety, the President announced a new \$65 million initiative to hire up to 2,000 community police and School Resource Officers to work in schools -- and to train police, educators and other members of the community to help recognize the early warning signs of violence. The President recently announced the first installment of the initiative; this funding will allow an additional 600 School Resource Officers to serve in 336 communities across the country.

Forging School-Based Partnerships Between Schools and Law Enforcement. Under the School-Based Partnerships grant program, the Clinton Administration released \$16.4 million in grants to 155 law enforcement agencies in September 1998. The School-Based Partnerships grants will be used by policing agencies to work with schools and community-based organizations to address crime at and around schools. This initiative emphasizes using principles of community policing and problem-solving methods to address the causes of school-related crime. The grants will help forge or strengthen partnerships between local law enforcement and schools to focus on school crime, drug use and discipline problems.

Launching 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 a new Safe Schools/Healthy Students initiative designed to help 50 cities develop and implement community-wide school safety plans. In April 1999, the Departments of Justice, Education, and Health and Human Services announced that they will provide over \$180 million this year, and a total of \$380 million over three years through the Initiative for communities to fund 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. Communities will have until June 1, 1999 to apply for the funds.

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. At the White House Conference on School Safety, President Clinton announced his plan for a significant overhaul of this nearly \$600 million Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Program. Under the President's proposal, schools will be required to adopt rigorous, comprehensive school safety plans that include: tough, but fair, discipline policies; safe passage to and from schools; effective drug and violence policies and programs; annual school safety and drug use report cards; links to after school programs; efforts to involve parents; and crisis management plans.

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 200,000 copies of the guide have been distributed, and additional copies may be obtained through the websites of the Departments of Education and Justice.

Providing Safe After-School Opportunities for More than a Million Children a Year. Last year (FY98), the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program was expanded to \$200 million. This funding is already supporting hundreds of school-based after-school programs in rural and urban schools in 44 states and the District of Columbia, including weekend and summer programs. This year, the President proposed to triple this initiative -- to \$600 million -- to provide safe and educational after-school opportunities for up to 1.1 million school-age children in communities across the country. In addition, the Education Department released a report in June 1998, titled *Safe and Smart: Making the After-School Hours Work for Kid*. 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.

Targeting Young People with a National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign. In July 1998, President Clinton launched the national expansion of the Anti-Drug Media Campaign first proposed in the 1997 national drug control strategy. 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 'Net -- that drugs are dangerous, wrong and can kill you.

KEEPING GUNS AWAY FROM YOUTH

Won Passage of the Brady Bill. Since taking effect in 1994, the Brady Law has helped to prevent over a quarter of a million felons, fugitives, stalkers, and other prohibited purchasers from buying handguns. In November 1998, the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) took effect under the Brady Law, allowing access to a fuller set of records that law enforcement officials can use to conduct checks of all prospective gun purchases -- not just for handguns. To date, NICS has conducted over 3.4 million background checks on gun purchasers, and the FBI has stopped over 36,000 illegal gun sales.

Banned the Manufacture and Importation of 19 of the Deadliest Assault Weapons. The 1994 Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act banned 19 of the deadliest assault weapons and their copies, while specifically protecting more than 50 legitimate sporting weapons. Cop-killing assault weapons, like the Uzi, are the weapons of choice for drug dealers and gangs -- not hunters and sportsmen. A recent Justice Department study found that the 1994 assault weapon ban contributed to a

decrease in criminal use of the banned guns and a reduction in the overall gun murder rate.

Cracking Down on Illegal Gun Trafficking with 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. Over the past two years, 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. Last year alone, ATF initiated over 300 investigations in these cities, which involved over 3,300 illegally trafficked firearms. Additionally, over the last two years the President has proposed hiring more than 280 new Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) agents and more than 40 new Federal prosecutors to arrest gun traffickers and violent criminals, and crack down on illegal gun sales.

Requiring 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.

Signed 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.

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. In school year 1996-97, the U.S. Department of Education estimates that, under zero tolerance policies, 6,093 students were expelled from public schools for bringing a firearm to school.

Introduced the Youth Gun Crime Enforcement Act. The President recently announced new legislation to strengthen the Brady Law and the assault weapons ban, restrict access to guns by our youth and crack down on illegal gun traffickers. The President's proposed bill will: (1) raise the age of the youth handgun ban from 18 to 21 years of age; (2) ban youth possession of semi-automatic assault rifles; (3) prohibit violent juveniles from ever owning guns; (4) require child safety locking devices for guns; (5) reduce illegal gun running by limiting the purchase of handguns to no more than one per month; (6) halt the importation of large capacity ammunition magazines; (7) require Brady background checks for the purchase of explosives and at gun shows; and (8) help law enforcement trace more crime guns to their source.

White House Strategy Session on Children, Violence and Responsibility

May 10, 1999

List of Participants

Administration

Honorable Janet Reno, Attorney General
Honorable Donna Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services
Honorable Richard Riley, Secretary of Education
General Barry McCaffrey, Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy
Honorable John Podesta, Chief of Staff to the President
Honorable Bruce Reed, Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy and Director, Domestic Policy Council
Honorable William Kennard, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission

Students

Shane Cambroner, City Year Staff member and former Americorp member
Terrence Gray, Peer Mediator, T.C. Williams High
Eric Heydenberk, Conflict Resolution Program, Strayer Middle School
Maria Montiel, Peer Mediator, T.C. Williams High
Simonna Woodson, Peer Mediator, Arsenal Tech High School

Gun Manufacturers and Gun Owners

Honorable Bill Brewster, President, R. Duffy Wall & Associates; NRA Board Member
Paul Jannuzzo, VP & General Counsel, Glock Inc.
Georgia Nichols, Vice-President and General Counsel, O.F. Mossberg and Sons
Robert Ricker, Executive Director, American Shooting Sports Council
Ed Shultz, President and CEO, Smith and Wesson

Law Enforcement

Judge Alan Page, Associate Justice, Minnesota Supreme Court
Steve Young, National Vice-President, Fraternal Order of Police

Television/Motion Pictures

Leslie Moonves, President and CEO, CBS Television
Bob Iger, Chairman, ABC Group and President, Walt Disney International
Jack Valenti, President, Motion Picture Association of America
Decker Anstrom, President, National Cable Television Association
Edward Fritts, President, National Association of Broadcasters
Andrew Shue, Actor, Founder, Do Something Foundation

Internet/Video Games

Steve Case, Chairman and CEO, America On-Line
Doug Lowenstein, President, Interactive Digital Software Association

Music

Gloria Estefan, Recording Artist
Hilary Rosen, President and CEO, Recording Industry Association of America

Teachers/Parents/Mentors

Bob Chase, President, National Education Association
Pam Eakes, President and Founder, Mothers Against Violence
Sandra Feldman, President, American Federation of Teachers
Ginny Markell, President-Elect of the Parents-Teacher Association
Mary Ellen Maxwell, President, National School Board Association
Dr. Samuel Sava, Executive Director, National Association of Elementary School Principals
Roxanne Spillett, President, Boys & Girls Clubs of America

Faith-based Leaders

Abraham Foxman, National Director, Anti-Defamation League
Dr. Prema Mathai-Davis, CEO, YWCA of the USA
Monsignor Thomas McDade, Secretary of Education, US Catholic Conference
Reverend Eugene Rivers, Co-Chair, National Ten Point Leadership Foundation

Experts

Dr. Maya Angelou, Professor and Poet
Jonathan Barnett, Professor of City and Regional Planning, University of Pennsylvania
Carl Bell, M.D., President and CEO, The Community Health Council and Professor of Psychiatry, University of Illinois
James Garbarino, Ph.D., Co-Director, Family Life Development Center, Cornell University
Robert Pynoos, M.D., Director, UCLA Trauma Psychiatry Service, Professor of Psychiatry, Neuropsychiatric Institute

Foundations/Non-Profits

Drew Altman, President and CEO, Kaiser Foundation
Sarah Brady, Handgun Control, Inc.
Nancy Dickey, President, American Medical Association
Governor Roy Romer, Chairman, Policy Advisory Committee, The Advertising Council, Inc.
Honorable Eli Segal, President and CEO, Welfare to Work Partnership

Elected Officials

Honorable Ken Salazar, Attorney General, Colorado
Honorable Sharon Sayles Belton, Mayor of Minneapolis

Members of Congress

Honorable (Rep.) Richard Gephardt, D-Missouri
Honorable (Senator) Harry Reid, D-Nevada
Honorable (Senator) Sam Brownback, R-Kansas
Honorable (Rep.) Jennifer Dunn, R-Washington

TOTAL (56)

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 10, 1999

PRESS BRIEFING BY
BRUCE REED, PRESIDENT'S DOMESTIC POLICY ADVISOR

The Briefing Room

3:10 P.M. EDT

MR. REED: Good afternoon. I'm Bruce Reed, the President's Domestic Policy Advisor, and I thought I would give you a readout from this meeting we just held in the East Room. The meeting went on for about three hours. There were 60 participants, 50 of who spoke. And we were able to secure real, lasting commitments to move forward in this effort to reduce youth violence.

Let me just run through a few of them. First, there was an extraordinary exchange between the representatives of the gun manufacturers and Sarah Brady, a leading gun control advocate, on the importance of finding common ground. We have, in fact, found common ground in five areas in which the President had laid out two weeks ago here at the White House.

The gun industry agreed in principle to support legislation to raise the handgun ban from 18 years to 21 years of age; close the gun show loophole by requiring background checks at gun shows; pass juvenile Brady legislation to ban violent juveniles from buying a gun for life; hold parents criminally responsible for recklessly giving access to a gun later used to commit injury or cause death; and finally, to expand gun tracing, which is a leading law-enforcement tool to track down guns used in crimes, and to stop illegal gun trafficking.

Bob Ricker, who's the head of the lobbying arm of the gun industry, said, we can make progress if we're all big enough to step forward. Sarah Brady said that this is not about being pro-gun or anti-gun; it's not Republican or Democrat, liberal or conservative; it's about safety. And other representatives of the gun industry all said, we want to be part of the solution, and said that their involvement here at today's session grew out of a meeting here at the White House a year and a half ago, where they stepped forward to offer voluntary compliance in providing child safety devices with the guns that they sell.

Second, there was an exchange between the Vice President, Steve Case, and Doug Lowenstein, who represents the trade association for video game manufacturers. The Vice President asked Doug Lowenstein if his industry would be willing to commit to developing an on-line rating system for video games. Currently, there's a rating system for video games that you purchase in stores,

but there's a big loophole for video games on line. And Doug Lowenstein, on behalf of the video game industry, and Steve Case, on behalf of AOL, agreed to work together to find a way to plug that loophole on-line.

Steve Case also announced that AOL is building on the efforts that were announced here last week, of creating a parents' protection page. They're also doing something they call PACT, which is a pledge that parents and children can make together when they go on-line to commit to store guns in a safe place if they own guns, to talk to one another, and so on. And we have copies of what they put out here.

Steve Case also talked at some length about how important -- what an important moment this is for the Internet. He mentioned that when cars and televisions first emerged on the horizon, everyone thought that they would be good for the country -- and they have proved to be good for the country, but there have been some consequences that weren't anticipated then from sprawl to violence on TV; and that it's very important to look now at how the Internet is developing in its infancy, to make sure that 50 years from now people will believe that the Internet has been a development that brought us closer together and not pushed us further apart.

As the President announced in his pool spray, the Kaiser Foundation, in partnership with the Ad Council, is going to be launching an ad campaign of public service announcements to encourage parents to talk with their kids about tough issues. The Kaiser Foundation is also stepping up parental education on the V-chip with a new national education campaign on that. As you may know, by July 1st, half the television sets sold in this country will contain the V-chip. The FCC announced today that it will put in place a V-chip task force to make sure that by the beginning of next year, there are V-chips in every new set sold in America, and to do more to educate parents on how they work and encourage them to use them.

And there was, I think, considerable interest in the V-chip model. The Vice President talked about how important this will be in changing market signals, that once parents have the ability to screen out violent programming, advertisers will take note; that, as the Vice President said, even if only three percent of parents block out a particular program, that will make an enormous difference in the marketplace, and send a signal to advertisers and to networks that violent programming is less desirable.

There was good support from the television industry for the voluntary ratings system and for doing more with the V-chip. Bob Iger from ABC and Les Moonves from CBS were both there to commit to do whatever they can to make sure that the V-chip is used and well-known. Bob Iger talked about how many people in the entertainment industry are hypocritical about this issue,

that whenever the finger is being pointed at them about violence, they say that their medium has no influence, but when they go out and talk to advertisers, they say that the audience is listening and taking note. And he said that everyone in the entertainment industry does need to recognize that their work has a real influence.

And then finally there were several commitments made to help launch this grass-roots campaign. As the First Lady announced in the Rose Garden, we will be forming a non-profit organization to carry out the work of this effort, modeled after the national campaign to prevent teen pregnancy, as well as the welfare to work partnership that we've created over the last couple of years.

Let me tell you a few of the best moments from the discussion. I think one young man stole the show, Eric Heydenberk, from Quakertown, Pennsylvania, who is starting a web page to counsel other kids on what to do about being bullied, about conflict resolution and about how to talk to one another. He also brought a copy of his latest CD from his jazz band, which he gave to the President. And I was sitting next to Steve Case, who was ready to offer him a job. He's 12 years old, he's about this tall. And Jack Valenti said to all the kids who spoke at the meeting that if they wanted to run for Congress some day he would gladly get behind them.

There were some interesting moments between parents and kids. Sandy Feldman, head of the ATF, talked at some length about what needs to be done in the schools. But she also made the point that we need to help parents understand that it's all right for them to snoop on their children. And some of young people who were there, including Simonna Woodson, one of the students, said that she actually might get in trouble with her peers back home for saying it, but she thought that was a great idea, that she very much welcomes her parents meddling in her life because it shows that they have an interest and because it gives them a chance to talk.

And then, finally, I think there were several people, from the President on down, who challenged the media to consider the consequences of what they produce. The President told in the meeting the story that he told out in the Rose Garden about how there was a time when Hollywood tried to make movies that were consistent with the messages parents were trying to send and that made us larger as a nation, and that lots of things have changed over the last 30 years and culture is one of them. And we'd be kidding ourselves to believe otherwise.

So the overall tone of the meeting was extraordinarily constructive, no finger-pointing, a lot of people stepping up to the plate to take responsibility. Not a bit of politics in the room. Both Senator Brownback and Congresswoman Dunn spoke very thoughtfully about what they feel we can do as a nation to come together.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

Date: 5-6-99 ACTION / CONCURRENCE / COMMENT DUE BY: ASAPSubject: Departure Statement

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☒	☐	MOORE	☒	☐
PODESTA	☒	☐	NASH	☐	☐
ECHAVESTE	☒	☐	REED	☒	☐
RICCHETTI	☒	☐	RUFF	☐	☐
LEW	☐	☐	SOSNIK	☒	☐
BERGER	☐	☐	SPERLING	☒	☐
BLUMENTHAL	☒	☐	STEIN	☒	☐
CAHILL	☐	☐	STERN	☐	☐
FRAMPTON	☐	☐	STREETT	☐	☐
IBARRA	☒	☐	TRAMONTANO	☒	☐
JOHNSON	☐	☐	UCELLI	☒	☐
KLAIN	☒	☐	VERVEER	☒	☐
LANE	☐	☐	WALDMAN	☒	☐
LEWIS	☒	☐	YELLEN	☐	☐
LINDSEY	☐	☐	<u>Socarides</u>	☒	☐
LOCKHART	☐	☒	_____	☐	☐
MARSHALL →	☒	☐	_____	☐	☐

REMARKS:

Comments to Jordan Tamagni

RESPONSE:

99 MAY 6 PM 8:41

Draft 5/06/99 8:00pm

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
DEPARTURE STATEMENT ON YOUTH VIOLENCE
THE WHITE HOUSE
May 7, 1999**

Good morning. This weekend, I will be visiting the communities so terribly damaged by tornadoes this week. Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Oklahoma, and with the people of Tennessee, who also endured terrible storms and destruction.

Before I depart, I want to say a few words about something else that is on all our minds in the wake of the tragedy in Littleton, Colorado: what we can do to keep our children safe from violence.

For years, it seemed that many of our most troubling social problems were insurmountable -- that the teen pregnancy rate could not be reduced, that drunk drivers were immune to social pressure, that traffic fatalities were unavoidable. But the American people knew better. Working together with national, state, and local leaders, in their communities, their schools, and their homes, they are solving these problems from the grassroots up. Teen pregnancy is down. Drunk driving is socially unacceptable and criminally prosecuted. And the use of seat belts and child safety seats is nearly universal.

To protect our children and turn them away from violence, we need the same kind of grass roots effort -- a national campaign that draws on all of our commitment, all of our resources, and depends on all of us taking responsibility.

On Monday, we will begin laying the groundwork for that campaign, at a White House strategy session that includes the people who can really make a difference: parents and young people, teachers and religious leaders, law enforcement, [gun manufacturers], and representatives of the entertainment industry. Together, we will talk about how we can take responsibility -- to shield children from gratuitous violence, to keep parents involved in their children's lives, to reach out to troubled young people and do more to keep guns out of their reach.

Today, I am pleased to announce Eli Segal, one of my closest advisors, will lead our national campaign. Under Eli's leadership, AmeriCorps grew into a volunteer army that has already helped 100,000 young people serve their communities and earn money for college. Under Eli's leadership, the Welfare-to-Work Partnership has grown from just five companies two years ago to more than 10,000 companies who have helped us move more than 400,000 people off the welfare rolls. And under Eli's leadership, our national campaign for youth violence will help us fight the culture of hate and turn around the terrible trend of youth violence.

I am looking forward to our meeting on Monday, and to working together with the American people to give our children the childhood they deserve. Thank you.

LIST OF SHOOTING VICTIMS' FAMILIES

Cassie Bernall (17)

Brad and Misty Bernall (parents)

Chris Bernall (brother, 15)

Hal and Laura Jones (grandparents)

Lee and Jasmine Jorgensen (grandparents)

Steven Curnow (KUR-NOW) (14): You will separately with the mother and father.

Bob Curnow (father)

Bill and Kathy Curnow (grandparents)

Jill Curnow (aunt)

Ryan Curnow (uncle)

Sue Curnow (mother)

Nancy Curnow (sister, 19)

Ray and Charlotte Brandenburger (grandparents)

Richard Brandenburger (uncle)

Jim Brandenburger (uncle)

Corey DePooter (DEH-PUTER) (17)

Neal and Patricia DePooter (parents)

Jena DePooter (sister, 16)

Kelly Fleming (16)

Don and Dee Fleming (parents)

Erin (sister, 18)

Matthew Kechter (KEK-TER) (16)

Joe and Ann Kechter (parents)

Adam Kechter (brother, 12)

Daniel Mauser (15)

Tom and Linda Mauser (parents)

Christine (sister, 13)

Daniel Rohrbough (ROAR-BAW) (15)

Sue and Rich Petrone (mother and stepfather)

Brian Rohrbough (father)

Lisa Mauer

Matt Petrone (brother, 21)

Nicole Petrone (sister, 17)

Andrew Petrone (brother, 13)

William "Dave" Sanders (47)

Linda Sanders (wife)

Angela Sanders (daughter)

Connie Sanders (daughter)

Cindy Thuiroin (daughter)
Melody Smith (Linda's sister)
Rich Jarman (nephew)

Rachel Scott (17): You will separately with the mother and father.

Beth Scott and Larry Nimmo (mother and stepfather)
Dana Scott (sister)
Betheny and Don McCandless (sister and spouse)
Craig Scott (brother, 16)
Michael Scott (brother)

Darrell Scott and Sandy Hollingshead (father and stepmother)
Cory Hollingshead (brother, 20)
Tyler Hollingshead (brother, 17)
Billy Eperhart (family counselor)
Larry Scott (brother)
Jeff Scott

Isaiah Shoels (18)

Michael and Vonda Shoels (parents)
Melissa Shoels (sister)
Michelle Shoels (sister)
Anthony Shoels (son)
Baka Shoels
Sam Riddel (advisor)

Lauren Townsend (18): You will separately with the mother and father.

Rick and Sue Townsend (father and stepmother)

Dawn Anna and Bruce Beck (mother and stepfather)
Josh Townsend (brother)
Kristin Townsend (sister)
Shane Frakes (Kristin's fiancée)

Kyle Velasquez (16)

Al and Phyllis Velasquez (parents)
Daniel Velasquez (brother, 21)
Rose Cordova (aunt)
Gloria Alire (aunt)
Krista Velasquez (Daniel's fiancée) and baby, Andrea (2)

Victim Advocates:

Betzy Biknase
Beverley Wiese
Danielle Rice
Paula Kittay
Karen Joyce-McMahon
Carrie Wecker

Rachael Nelson
Diana Breuske
Carol Malegiza

Superintendents:
Jane Hammond
Gene Huddle

AGENCY RECOVERY EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF COLUMBINE SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

The Department of Justice

- **The Office for Victims of Crime(OVC):** OVC provided supplemental funding to Jefferson County totaling \$1.5 million to assist in their efforts to meet the extraordinary burdens imposed upon Littleton victims and their families. The Victims of Crime Act grant funds, which amounts to half of the total funds, will be used to support compensation for up to \$20,000 per victim. This money will be used to pay for costs associated with funeral expenses, medical and hospital care, lost wages by parents needing time off work for childcare, and mental health services.
- **Supplemental Grant:** A victim assistance supplemental grant will be used to partly fund the Columbine Resource Assistance Center, a new center that will offer mental health counseling, victim assistance services and a teen drop-in site. This grant will account for the other half of the total DOJ funding.
- **Overtime and Other Assistance:** DOJ has also agreed to reimburse the Jefferson County Sheriff's office, the Jefferson County Schools, and the other affected law enforcement agencies for overtime accrued in the immediate aftermath of the incident. Additionally, funding for additional security required at Jefferson County schools and victim counseling centers will be provided. These funds will be distributed through the Colorado Department of Public Safety. This understanding was reached with the State on April 24 and has enabled the Jefferson County School District to secure increased security services that they would otherwise have had no ability to fund. Recent estimates from the Colorado Department of Public Safety total approximately \$1.4 million. DOJ is currently reviewing the potential for additional funds that may be used for increased security within the school district during the 1999-2000 school year. These funds would be used to help ensure appropriate security and reassurance for the district's students during the process of long term planning.

The Department of Education

- **Technical Assistance:** DOEd linked several school security experts with the Jefferson County school security officer in charge and helped facilitate a visit by the Superintendent of Springfield, OR to Colorado. These experts helped Jefferson County Schools' security staff identify steps they need to ensure security for all students.

- **Recovery Efforts:** DOEd staff continue to work closely with Jefferson County School officials to secure resources necessary for recovery. Jefferson County Public Schools have submitted a request for approximately \$850,000 (costs incurred from April 20-May 31, 1999).

The Department of Health and Human Services

- The Center for Mental Health Services of SAMHSA is the primary agency working with Justice and Education on the Department response to the Columbine shootings. During the week of May 17-25, a State-to-State needs assessment team will meet in Jefferson County consisting of representatives from HHS, the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors, the National Technical Assistance Center, and representatives from the State Mental Health Agencies of California, Louisiana and Colorado.
- Their task was to assess both the short and long term mental health needs of the community impacted by the shooting. The team expects to submit a report to the school district, based on their findings, in the next few weeks.

BACKGROUND ON COLUMBINE HIGH SCHOOL VICTIMS

Cassie Bernall, 17

- Two years ago, Cassie became a born-again Christian. She was active in church youth programs, Bible study groups, and recently visited Britain. Her favorite movie was Mel Gibson's "Braveheart." Cassie was asked whether she believed in God, answered yes, and was then shot.

Steven Curnow (KUR-NOW), 14

- A freshman, Steven dreamed of being a Navy top gun F-15 pilot. He watched "Star Wars" movies so often he could recite dialogue. He played soccer as a boy and learned to referee to earn pocket money.
- Bob Curnow, Steven's father, is a Department of Energy Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) employee. Secretary Richardson called the Curnow family to express his condolences.

Corey DePooter (DEH-PUTER), 17

- Corey loved to golf, fish, and hunt, was a former wrestler, and recently took a maintenance job at a golf club to save money for a boat.

Kelly Fleming, 16

- Kelly was an aspiring songwriter and author, and wrote scores of poems and short stories based on her life experiences. She was learning to play the guitar and had just moved to Colorado from Phoenix, ten months ago. She was eager to get her driver's license and obtain a part-time job.

Matthew Kechter (KEK-TER), 16

- Matthew was a junior, who hoped to start for the football team. He lifted weights, played offense and defense, and maintained an "A" average in class.

Daniel Mauser, 15

- A sophomore, Daniel excelled in math and science, earned straight A's on his last report card, ran cross-country, and joined the debate team. He recently returned from a two-week trip to Paris with his French club.
- His father, Tom, has been very active as an advocate for Handgun Control, spoke at the White House event with the First Lady on May 8, and attended the anti-NRA rally in Denver, CO.

Daniel Rohrbough (ROAR-BAW), 15

- Dan helped at his father's electronics business and worked on family farms in Kansas during the summer. He enjoyed computer games, stereos, and home theater systems. He was shot while holding the exit door open for fleeing students.

Rachel Scott, 17

- Rachel played the lead in a student-written school play, "Smoke in the Room." She was also active in Celebration Christian Fellowship Church and liked photography. During the shootings, her younger brother Craig, 16, played dead in the library and helped lead others to safety.

Isaiah Shoels, 18

- Isaiah was due to graduate in May. He suffered health problems as a child and had undergone heart surgery twice. He wanted to attend an arts college and become a music executive. Though small in stature, he lifted weights, played football, wrestled, and could bench-press twice his weight. According to witnesses, he was shot in the head because he was black and an athlete.

Lauren Townsend, 18

- Lauren was a senior and captain of the girl's Varsity volleyball team coached by her mother; Other players said that she was "consumed" by the sport. She was a member of the National Honors Society, a candidate for class valedictorian, and wanted to major in biology in college.

Kyle Velasquez, 16

- A sophomore, Kyle idolized his 21-year-old brother Daniel. He dreamed of being a firefighter or a Navy pilot. He spent Sundays in the fall watching the Denver Broncos play.

William "Dave" Sanders, 47

- A computer and business teacher for 24 years, "Dave" coached girl's basketball and softball. During his first year (1997-98) the basketball team posted a winning record after finishing next to last the year before. He was married with three daughters and ten grandchildren. He was shot twice in the chest while directing students down the hallway to safety. He survived at least three hours until students were rescued.

May 19, 1999

REMARKS TO THE COLUMBINE COMMUNITY

DATE: May 20, 1999
LOCATION: Dakota Ridge High School
Jefferson County, Colorado
TIME: 3:45 - 4:15p.m.
FROM: Kris M. Balderston
Sean P. O'Shea

I. Purpose

To deliver remarks to the Jefferson County, Colorado, community after the recent school shootings.

II. Background

The Columbine High School students recently joined students at nearby Chatfield High School to resume classes after the shooting. Although the Columbine students are attending classes at Chatfield, you will be speaking at Dakota Ridge High School since classes will be in recess during your remarks. Dakota Ridge expressed interest in helping the students of Columbine and they feel this is their opportunity.

This gathering will include a variety of groups who have been dealing with the Columbine school shootings throughout the last month. Those in attendance will anticipate a forward-looking message. Seniors from Columbine, who will be in the audience, will graduate in two days, on May 22. The commencement is continuing as planned and will also have a similar theme of looking toward the future.

III. Participants

YOU

The First Lady

Jon DeStefano, School Board President, Jefferson County School District

Dr. Jane Hammond, Superintendent, Jefferson County School District

Frank DeAngelis, Principal, Columbine High School

Heather Dinkel, Student Body President, Columbine High School

IV. Press Plan

POOL PRESS

V. Sequence of Events

- Off Stage Announcement of YOU, the First Lady, Dr. Jane Hammond, Jon DeStefano, Frank DeAngelis, and Heather Dinkell.
- Dr. Jane Hammond, Superintendent of Jefferson County Schools, welcomes and introduces Principal Frank DeAngelis.
- Frank DeAngelis, Principal of Columbine High School, delivers brief remarks and introduces Ms. Dinkel.
- Heather Dinkel, Columbine High School Student Body President, delivers brief remarks and introduces the First Lady.
- The First Lady delivers brief remarks and introduces YOU.
- YOU deliver brief remarks.
- YOU work a ropeline.
- YOU depart.

NOTE: John Cougar Mellencamp will have performed prior to your arrival.

VI. Remarks

To be prepared by speechwriting.

VII. Audience

Injured Columbine Students With Whom You Spoke over the Telephone:

Sean Graves

Patrick Ireland

Groups:

Columbine High School Students

Columbine Student who have recovered from their physical injuries (seated in separate section)

Families of Shooting Victims

Emergency Workers and Police

Columbine High School Faculty

Chatfield and Dakota Ridge Student Government Representatives

Elected Officials:

Colorado Attorney General Ken Salazar

Colorado Senate Majority Leader Tom Blickensderfer

Colorado State Senator Ed Perlmutter

Colorado State Senator Bryant Sullivant

Colorado State Senator Jim Congrove

Colorado State Senator John Evans

Colorado State Senator Norma Anderson
Colorado State Representative Mark Paschall
Colorado State Representative Penn Pfiffer
Colorado State Representative Glenn Scott
Colorado State Representative Scott McKay
Colorado State Representative John Witwer
Colorado State Representative Don Lee
Colorado State Representative Maryann Keller
Colorado State Representative Sue Windels
Littleton Mayor Pat Cronenberger
Jefferson County District Attorney Dave Thomas
Jefferson County Sheriff John Stone
Jefferson County Commissioner Richard Sheehan
Jefferson County Commissioner Michelle Lawrence
Jefferson County Manager Ron Holiday

May 19, 1999

MEETING WITH FAMILIES OF VICTIMS OF COLUMBINE HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

DATE: May 20, 1999
LOCATION: Light of the World Catholic Church
Jefferson County, Colorado
TIME: 2:00-3:30p.m.
FROM: Kris M. Balderston
Sean P. O'Shea

I. Purpose

To meet the families who lost children from the recent school shootings at Columbine High School in Colorado.

II. Background

On April 20, two students opened fire inside Columbine High School killing 12 students and one faculty member. After the incident, most of the families went into seclusion. The federal government, through the Departments of Treasury, Justice, Education, and Health and Human Services, have provided various forms of assistance to local school and law enforcement officials. Federal assistance has included financial assistance for funerals, mental health counselors, and technical assistance.

On April 25, the Vice President and Mrs. Gore attended a memorial service for the victims of the shooting at Columbine High School and laid flowers for the victims' families at a makeshift memorial site.

On April 22, Attorney General Reno visited Columbine to meet with students, federal and local law enforcement officials, victims' advocates, counselors, school officials, and family members. In addition, she spoke at the Light of the World Catholic Church at a community meeting that same day.

After the shootings, the students of Columbine moved to nearby Chatfield High School to resume classes. Columbine seniors will graduate on May 22. The local community came together in the wake of these tragedies to help the students move forward with their lives and cope with their emotional loss. The families of the victims have each been assigned individual liaisons to assist them with any needs. The church has served as a major community center throughout the aftermath of this tragedy.

These family members, including parents, grandparents, siblings, and other close relatives will meet you at the church.

III. Participants

YOU

The First Lady

Frank DeAngelis , Principal of Columbine High School

Parents and Families of Victims (See Attached Sheet)

Victims' Advocates (See Attached Sheet)

IV. Press Plan

CLOSED PRESS

V. Sequence of Events

- YOU and the First Lady are greeted by Dr. Jane Hammond, Superintendent of Jefferson County Schools, Jon DeStefano, School Board President, and Frank DeAngelis, Principal, Columbine High School.
- YOU and the First Lady are accompanied by Principal DeAngelis into the Sanctuary.
- Principal DeAngelis introduces YOU and the First Lady to the families.
- YOU and the First Lady sit and meet with the family members.
- YOU and the First Lady move from table to table to meet with each of the 12 families.
- YOU and the First Lady depart.

Note: Frank DeAngelis will move YOU and the First Lady from table to table.

VI. Remarks

None.

VII. Attachments

- Agency Recovery Efforts on Behalf of Columbine School Shootings
- Background on Columbine High School Victims
- List of Shooting Victims' Families



Record Type: Record

To:

cc:

Subject: AP article on POTUS visit to Littleton

Clinton Visiting Victims' Families

By SANDRA SOBIERAJ
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) President Clinton's trip today to Littleton, Colo., on the one-month anniversary of the massacre at Columbine High School retraces sadly familiar terrain for the president, who traveled one year ago to Oregon and another high school ravaged by gunfire.

In the Oregon incident, two students were killed and 22 injured during a rampage by a 15-year-old suspect also accused of killing his parents the day before and leaving their home rigged with bombs.

But something about Columbine where 12 students and a teacher were killed and 23 others were injured before students Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold turned their arsenal on themselves made it the last straw for a violence-weary nation, Clinton said Wednesday as he prepared to meet with victims' families and survivors.

"The aftermath of that shooting, I think, has had an even more profound impact on the country than all the school shootings last year did. And you can see it by what is happening in the Congress now," Clinton said, referring to gun control measures working their way through the Senate.

"I think there is finally a feeling that it's time for everybody to stop making excuses, it's time for everybody to stop trying to place blame and instead to basically say, 'I would like to assume whatever my share of responsibility is for giving a safe childhood back to our children.'"

He spoke about the trip at a Democratic National Committee fund-raising event in New York.

The president and his wife, Hillary, were meeting with victims' relatives at Littleton's World Roman Catholic Church, which is about three miles from Columbine and the place where counselors worked with survivors after the shooting.

After those private meetings, which press secretary Joe Lockhart called "a more personal session rather than a sort of policy session," the Clintons travel to Dakota Ridge High School to address Columbine students, rescuers and community leaders, before returning to Washington.

The president, Lockhart said, wants to "articulate how the country shares the grief of the Littleton students and the Littleton community, and highlight the remarkable resilience of these students and of this community."

Randy Lapp said his 16-year-old son, Joshua, who escaped from the Columbine library, will attend the meeting. But he is not sure if the visit will help Joshua recover.

"The only thing that's going to help kids like my son is a lot of counseling," Randy Lapp said. "That's the only way he can deal with this."

Tom Mauser, whose son Daniel was killed, said he was looking forward to meeting with Clinton. Mauser has criticized the National Rifle Association, and formed a gun-control group called Sane Alternatives to the Firearms Epidemic.

"Certainly we'll talk about my son," Mauser said. He also plans to give the president some written questions, which he declined to specify.

Marilyn Saltzman, a spokeswoman for the Jefferson County Public Schools District, said the president's visit "is a wonderful opportunity for students to see a visible sign of the caring there is throughout the nation."

"We're hoping it will help the healing process," she said.

(20 May 1999 02:04 EDT)

FACSIMILE

TMT -

FYI

DATE: 4/22TO: Sean O'SheaFAX#: 456-2525

Sum

FROM: Elizabeth Summy
Deputy Chief of StaffPhone: 202/690-7431 Fax: 202/401-5783

COMMENTS:

* indicates new information as
of this morning.

4 Pages [including this cover]

HHS Response to the Columbine High School Shooting

April 22, 1999

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA): CMHS (Center for Mental Health Services) has been in contact today with Fred Acosta, the Colorado State Disaster Mental Health Program Coordinator, to offer technical assistance if requested by the State. CMHS manages the FEMA/CMHS crisis counseling program for natural and human-caused disaster which is triggered by a Presidential disaster declaration.

To accommodate the anticipated volume of offers of mental health professionals, the State Mental Health Agency will use the same system for credentialing mental health crisis counselors as was implemented for the Denver-based Oklahoma City Trial crisis. We have been asked to hold off on any action to provide crisis counselors so as to not overburden them with the response.

School and mental health officials from Kentucky, Oregon, Arkansas and Mississippi who were involved in follow-up efforts stemming from the school shootings in their area have offered assistance to Colorado. Colorado mental health officials have guessed that 8,000-10,000 people will be in need of direct crisis counseling services.

The state is now coordinating with all the major state and local agencies. The Colorado State Disaster Mental Health Program is serving as the liaison with all Federal agencies with related mental health programs as well as a liaison to all local community health centers. The coordination between the state mental health authority and local mental health personnel is working well. A large facility near Columbine High School has been volunteered for use as a local mental health center to serve the impacted community residents. Crisis counselors and experienced mental health professionals who know the FEMA/CMHS program are on the scene and have called upon many of the mental health professionals who worked with the Oklahoma City Trial situation for assistance.

Of serious concern for the Colorado State Mental Health Agency is the longer term mental health needs of the community. Currently, FEMA/CMHS concur with the response plan for crisis counseling in the next 2-3 days. We will continue to have conversations to plan longer term efforts. HHS estimates that federal support to the state for long term crisis counseling will cost approximately \$3 million per year for 3 years. In addition to a direct operations program management cost of \$100,000 per year for 3 years.

 Discussions of an 800 toll free hotline are underway.

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA): As part of the occupational health program at HRSA, there is a nationwide network of specialized professionals who have been trained, and utilized, in crisis response situations. The agency stands ready to support the state

should they request assistance in mental health/crisis management.

Office of Public Health & Science (OPHS): As Assistant Secretary for Health and U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. David Satcher is ready to make the resources of his posts available as needed to deal with the aftermath of the school shootings. He is personally willing to lend assistance by meeting with Colorado officials, through educational efforts about emergency response and about the problems posed by easy access to firearms, and through counseling efforts to help students, families, and the community at large.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): The Nation Center for Injury Prevention and Control has no immediate role. But in response to previous acts of school violence, CDC and SAMHSA have been and continue to collaborate on various violence-prevention activities in multidisciplinary settings, including schools. Examples of such collaborations, within HHS and the other agencies, includes:

1) In September 1998 through an ongoing collaboration with the Department of Justice, CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, provided \$894,000 to DOJ's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Programs for the purpose of awarding these funds to its grantee, the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence at the University of Colorado. These funds are being used to provide technical assistance and information to schools and organizations to implement the school-based violence prevention activity known as "Blueprints for Violence Prevention Programs." "Blueprints" comprises an integrated package of programs and expert assistance for States, communities, schools, and local agencies to address issues related to violence, crime, and substance abuse. CDC's objective, through the provision of these funds, is to help schools select and implement effective violence prevention programs, disseminate information about these programs, and support technical assistance to schools that want to start school-based violence prevention activities.

2) CDC, in conjunction with the Department of Education and the Department of Justice, is conducting a study, School-Associated Violent Deaths in the U.S., 1994 to 1998. The objectives of this study are to provide an ongoing systematic investigation of homicides and suicides associated with schools in the U.S., identify common features of these events, and quantify the level of risk for school-associated violent deaths. There were 173 incidents between July 1, 1994 and June 30, 1998. The majority of these incidents were homicides and involved the use of firearms. While the total number of events of school-associated deaths has decreased, the total number of multiple-victim events appears to have increased. Complete data are not yet available for 1998-1999; the current study is expected to be completed by fall 1999 and a final report available by the end of the 1999.

 **Administration for Children and Families (ACF):** ACF, with expertise in youth servicing programs, is working to develop a plan to help deal with the long term issues affecting children and families should their assistance be requested.

FYI: On April 22, MTV Special airs "Warning Signs," the first major piece of programming in "Fight for Your Rights: Take a Stand Against Violence," The program aims to help youth pro-actively address the problem of violence, American Psychological Association (APA) and MTV

have teamed up to provide youth with information about identifying the warning signs of violent behavior and how to get help if they recognize these signs in themselves or their peers.

Victims of violence in America today are most likely to be between the ages of 12 and 24.

According to MTV: Music Television research, violence is the number one concern overall among its viewers. And, in a recent American Psychological Association (APA)/Penn, Schoen + Berland poll, 40 percent of youth say they have been concerned about a potentially violent classmate.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DOMESTIC POLICY COUNCIL

FACSIMILE FOR: Kris B.

DATE: _____

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FACSIMILE FROM: LEANNE SHIMABUKURO

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FAX TRANSMITTAL FORM**DATE:** 03/19/98

FROM: DIANE THOMPSON
Executive Secretary to the Superintendent
Alexandria City Public Schools
2000 North Beauregard Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22311
Telephone: (703) 824-6610
Facsimile: (703) 824-6699
E-Mail: dlthomps@worldweb.net

TO: Jose Cerda**FAX:** (202) 458-7028**RE:** Dr. Berg's speaking points follow:(Herbert M. Berg, Ed.D., Superintendent,(b)(6)Please fax any information to Dr. Berg at (703) 824-6609.Thank you.**NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING THIS PAGE):** 8

If any portion of the following transmittal is not received, please contact me immediately at (703) 824-6610.

Alexandria City Public Schools, measured by all standards, is an urban, American school district.

Our high school serves students born in over 90 countries of the world, who speak more than 50 different languages.

Many races, religions, nationalities, and cultures are present at T. C. Williams High School.

When we speak with the seniors each Spring prior to graduation and ask them to reflect on their most important positive high school experiences, many describe experiences that were enriched by the rich cultural diversity of the school.

Accounts in the newspapers and other publications overemphasize the negative conditions in urban high schools.

On the whole, this school, and others in our district, operate in an orderly atmosphere, where students who come to school each day can expect to receive effective instruction in a welcoming climate.

We believe the reasons for this are quite simple.

Number one, our Board identified safe and secure schools as one of its highest priorities.

Number two, the principals and staffs believe that our students must feel safe and secure in their classrooms and their schools in order for them to learn.

Our faculties and all who work in our schools are committed to providing safe environments for every student.

Number three, the Alexandria Schools enjoy a positive working relationship with the Alexandria City Police Department.

We have the support of a uniformed police officer who serves as a School Resource Officer.

These officers are committed to developing positive, pro-active relationships with our students.

Number four, adult Hall Monitors are among the persons we rely on to keep our schools safe.

Most are parents and grandparents who live in our community and have worked in our system for more than 20 years.

They have developed relationships with students, parents, and staff, and have served as coaches, mentors, and advisors to our students.

All go well beyond their employee roles to offer assistance and support.

Number five, it's also important to note that three years ago the Alexandria City Public Schools established a "zero tolerance" policy with regard to weapons and drugs.

This expectation was widely communicated to our students, their parents, and to our community.

It applies to all of our students in each of our schools.

In the first year of implementation, there was a notable increase in the number and frequency of suspensions and expulsions for weapons and drugs.

Once students realized that the School Board, the Superintendent, and all employees were serious about the policy and committed to its implementation, a decline in the number of incidents occurred in year two, that has continued in this third year.

The number of incidents that could have resulted in suspensions has declined by more than 40% in our schools over the past two years.

- **We believe that this decline reflects our students' adjustment to the policy.**

And finally, our political, civic, business, and faith community leaders are regular tutors and mentors in our schools.

The young people who accompany me today are proud students of T. C. Williams High School.

Regardless of when they joined us, they have been welcomed into a public school system that gives its highest priority to offering quality instruction, challenging learning opportunities, and enriched cultural, academic, and social experiences in safe and inviting schools.

- These fine students join me in introducing the President of the United States, a strong and steadfast supporter of our public schools.
- Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States.