

FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an
administrative marker by the William J. Clinton
Presidential Library Staff.**

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: Cabinet Affairs

Series/Staff Member: Kris Balderston

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 23921

FolderID:

Folder Title:
Littleton, Colorado [3]

Stack:

S

Row:

24

Section:

4

Shelf:

11

Position:

3

**PRESIDENT CLINTON:
AN OPEN DIALOGUE ON PREVENTING SCHOOL VIOLENCE**

April 22, 1999

"I think it's important that, all over America, students and teachers have a chance to discuss their feelings about this. We are working to reach out to the country...and to do everything we can to minimize the chance that anything like this will happen again."

President Bill Clinton
April 22, 1999

Today, in Alexandria, Virginia, President Clinton spoke with students and faculty of T.C. Williams High School about the tragedy in Littleton, Colorado. The discussion was broadcast live into 12,000 schools nationwide by Channel 1, a classroom cable network. The President talked about ways of preventing school violence, such as the school's mediation program and other methods of conflict resolution.

Reassuring Americans in the Wake of Tragedy. The President reassured students and faculty that, in spite of the Littleton tragedy and the resulting concerns of students and parents, America's schools are still among the safest place for children to be. Only about 10% of public schools report serious or violent crimes to their local police departments.

Asking Ourselves Difficult Questions. The President urged all Americans to examine what our responsibilities as individuals and as a society are in the cause and prevention of tragedies like the one in Colorado. He discussed the role of schools, parents, students, the government, and communities in helping to diminish acts of violence.

Encouraging Respect for Others. The President urged students to appreciate America's diversity and support others who may feel disrespected or discriminated against: The tragedy, he said, is an opportunity for us to learn to "lift other people up, and recognize the inherent dignity and worth of all individuals and all ethnic, religious and cultural groups."

Working to Keep Schools and Communities Safe. School safety continues to be a priority, and over the past few years, the Administration has taken the following measures to ensure that America's schools remain safe:

- * Policies for zero tolerance for guns and drugs;
- * Putting new community police officers in schools where they are needed;
- * Supporting more counselors in schools;
- * Encouraging more after-school, mentoring, and conflict resolution programs; and
- * Assistance in implementing uniform or dress code policies.

Last year's White House Conference on School Safety provided a valuable opportunity for Americans to learn ways to improve the safety of their schools and communities. At the Conference, the President issued an Annual Report on School Safety which was sent to every school in the nation, and was intended to give parents, principals, and policy makers an accurate, yearly snapshot of school crime and steps they can take to make their schools safer.

Responding to the Early Warning Signs of Troubled Youth. In August 1998, the Departments of Justice and Education released *Early Warning, Timely Response: A Guide to Safe Schools*. The guide provides schools and communities with information on how to identify the early warning signs and take steps to prevent and respond to school violence. Every school in the nation received a copy, and additional copies may be obtained through the Department of Education website.



Sean P. O'Shea

04/22/99 06:05:15 PM



Record Type: Record

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

cc:

Subject: UPDATE ON AGENCY EFFORTS AT COLUMBINE HIGH SCHOOL

April 22, 1999
As of: 5:55p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

FROM: KRIS M. BALDERSTON
SEAN P. O'SHEA

SUBJECT: UPDATED AGENCY EFFORTS - Columbine School Shooting

Incident Update

Two more explosive devices were found in the school as federal and local law enforcement officials continue to sweep the school. ATF agents are also assisting in tracing the weapons recovered.

The Vice President

The Vice President will travel to Colorado on Sunday with Mrs. Gore.

The Department of Treasury

ATF agents continue to assist local law enforcement officials sweep Columbine high school for additional explosive devices; two additional explosives were found this afternoon. Additionally, ATF is assisting in the tracing of weapons in conjunction with the Jefferson County Sheriff's department.

The Department of Justice

The Attorney General met with around 800 student, parents, and local officials this morning in Jefferson County. In addition, she met with First Responders, SWAT team members, EMT's, and other officials involved in responding to the shootings. The Attorney General conducted a press conference following her day long meetings with families which was carried live on CNN. Her visit has been very well received by the community. DOJ has added a link to DOEd's website and their "Guide to Safe Schools." DOJ is producing an additional 150,000 new copies of the "Early Warning, Timely Response: A Guide to Safe Schools." The Attorney General will return to Washington tonight.

In a comprehensive response to current requests from Colorado authorities, the Department of Justice is providing up to \$1.5 million in immediate supplemental funding to support: (1) direct compensation to victims and their family members for funerals, uncovered medical expenses, lost wages of parents, and private mental health counseling for direct victims; (2) additional personnel and overtime for people

providing critical incident stress management services to first responders; and (3) additional victims services/counseling personnel for the affected and responsible agencies for immediate and longer-term needs.

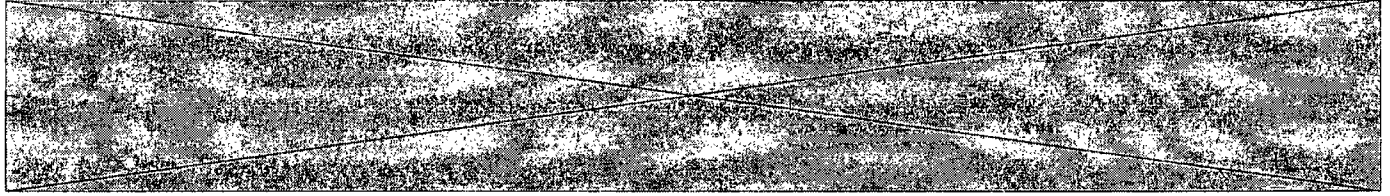
The Department of Health and Human Services

The Center for Mental Health has a box on their website "www.mentalhealth.org" on which persons can click to download "Emergency Service" guides as well as links to other organizations responding to the crisis.

NOTE: Secretary Herman will return to Washington tonight. Secretary Richardson and Glickman have canceled their trips due to inclement weather.

Message Sent To:

Lynn G. Cutler/WHO/EOP@EOP
Barry J. Toiv/WHO/EOP@EOP
Joseph P. Lockhart/WHO/EOP@EOP
John Podesta/WHO/EOP@EOP
Douglas B. Sosnik/WHO/EOP@EOP
Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP@EOP
Jose Cerda III/OPD/EOP@EOP
Jennifer M. Palmieri/WHO/EOP@EOP
Stacie Spector/WHO/EOP@EOP
Mickey Ibarra/WHO/EOP@EOP
Maria Echaveste/WHO/EOP@EOP
Sara M. Latham/WHO/EOP@EOP
Lawrence J. Stein/WHO/EOP@EOP
Marjorie Tarmey/WHO/EOP@EOP
Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP@EOP
Janet Murguia/WHO/EOP@EOP
Laura A. Graham/WHO/EOP@EOP
Ron Klain/OVP@OVP
Monica M. Dixon/OVP@OVP
Trooper Sanders/OVP@OVP
Karen Tramontano/WHO/EOP@EOP
Fred DuVal/WHO/EOP@EOP
Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP@EOP
Katharine Button/WHO/EOP@EOP
Heather M. Riley/WHO/EOP@EOP
William H. White Jr./WHO/EOP@EOP
Elizabeth R. Newman/WHO/EOP@EOP
Julia M. Payne/WHO/EOP@EOP
Leslie_Thornton@ed.gov
ann.harkins@usdoj.gov
james.johnson@do.treas.gov
bill_modzeleski@ed.gov
esummy@os.dhhs.gov
Jane.bullock@fema.gov @ inet
Ben_Tucker@ed.gov
Kris M Balderston/WHO/EOP@EOP
Thurgood Marshall Jr/WHO/EOP@EOP



For Immediate Release: April 22, 1999

Contact: Julie Green (202) 401-3026

**Remarks as prepared for delivery by
U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley
regarding school safety and the tragedy at Columbine High School**

Good afternoon. Today is a day of grief and suffering for all Americans in light of the great tragedy that has occurred in Littleton, Colorado.

Like all Americans I extend my prayers to the many, many families in Littleton who are suffering today.

As the father of 4 children and the grandfather of 10 children, my heart goes out to each and every one of these families and to the teachers, faculty and staff at Columbine High School.

This tragedy represents a new scale and level of school violence that we have never seen before. And it says something about the easy ability of young people to get access to guns. If this type of tragedy doesn't bring about a public outcry I don't know what will.

My message to every gun owner in America is very direct -- lock up your guns today. Think hard about what has just happened and please don't assume anything. This is not an issue of being pro-gun or anti-gun. The issue here is the safety of children. Time and again, the young people who have caused these types of tragedies have been able to get access to guns. America needs to realize that kids and unsupervised gun use do not mix.

My message to parents is to reach out to your children and listen to them. We have to do everything we can to connect even to the most angry and alienated young person. Young people

who are cut off and isolated can be, as we have seen, deeply disconnected.

I urge parents to slow down their lives. As a society we must make much more of an effort to help families, to make sure that there is some responsible adult in the life of every young person -- even the most alienated and angry young person.

My message to the young people of South Carolina and all across America is to think hard about what has happened because this concerns you and your friends. If you are worried and concerned about a friend who is becoming disconnected and isolated please contact an adult who At the beginning of this school year, at the instruction of the president, a copy of the "Early Warning Guide" was sent to every school superintendent and principal in the country. I ask every principal and educator in South Carolina to take out a copy of this "Early Warning Guide" and read it again. This guide was written by a group of national experts and it is based on sound research.

The guide places a strong emphasis on prevention and gives educators and teachers a clear understanding of the 16 warning signs that can help school officials prevent tragedies similar to Littleton. This guide must be used in a responsible manner and schools must not use it to over-label and stereotype a few individual children. Our national experts, who have holding workshops all across the country, stand ready to assist you.

As you will note in the cover letter for this "Guide," which was signed by the Attorney General Janet Reno and myself, one of the the key insights of this document is that keeping children safe is a community wide effort. This is why we will be sending out an additional 100,000 copies to community groups, PTA's and PTO's, faith communities and other concerned citizens. There is no single answer to this type of tragedy and we should not look for one. Every level of society -- from community groups, to schools, to faith communities, state officials and national leaders -- can contribute to supporting families as they seek to raise their children safely.

I urge all concerned citizens to become involved in helping to make our schools safer. Copies of this "Guide" can be found on our website at www.ed.gov and are also available free of charge by calling 1-800-USA-LEARN.

In addition to the "Guide" other federal efforts to improve school safety include a new \$300 million comprehensive school violence prevention initiative, and a proposal to the Congress to establish "Project SERV" -- a \$12 million effort to help school districts that have to confront these types of tragedies.

I will be happy to answer any questions.

###



Sean P. O'Shea

04/22/99 04:42:21 PM



Record Type: Record

To: Kris M Balderston/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: FW: SCHOOL SAFETY STUFF

----- Forwarded by Sean P. O'Shea/WHO/EOP on 04/22/99 04:42 PM -----



Seidman Ricki L <Ricki.L.Seidman@usdoj.gov>

04/22/99 05:15:15 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Sean P. O'Shea/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: FW: SCHOOL SAFETY STUFF

-----Original Message-----

From: Seidman Ricki L

Sent: Thursday, April 22, 1999 1:38 PM

To: 'O'Shea, Sean'; 'Cerde, Jose'; 'Shimabukuro, Leeanne'

Subject: SCHOOL SAFETY STUFF

Attached please find : a bullet on what we should say about victim support services (\$ up to \$1.5 million already committed); our latest version of general tps and q&a (Jose, I think you already have), briefing materials for the AG's Littleton trip), and this a.m.'s AP story from Eric's press avail. Please call with any questions.

Jose -- please call to discuss whether you might include the MTV anti-violence guide/conflict resolution CD Rom in tomorrow's remarks (I know hindsight is 20-20, but POTUS could have mentioned it at T.C. Williams today). I will messenger a copy over to you. 1,000,000 copies are being distributed. MTV has already started airing PSAs w/ 800#. We might also want to save it for something else. AG has plans to do formal launch of this at MTV studios in New York on May 7.

Sean, please forward to Chris....

Thanks, Ricki



- OVC.suppunding.bullet1.wpd



- Columbine Briefing Materials.wpd



- AP story on DOJColorado.....rtf



- general q&A.421.wpd



- general talkingpoints.421.wpd

Phillip Caplan

04/22/99 12:30:30 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Mickey Ibarra/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc: Kris M Balderston/WHO/EOP@EOP, Mary E. Cahill/WHO/EOP@EOP, Karen
 Tramontano/WHO/EOP@EOP, Douglas B. Sosnik/WHO/EOP@EOP
Subject: Re: POTUS CALL 

i think we need to wait a bit until all of the dead are identified and memorial services are beginning to be planned. the president will send a message to be read at a memorial service tonight for the teacher who was killed (bob chase requested it and will read it). i think a combination of cab affairs, iga and my office will be able to get letters done...i'm not sure the president will want to call each family, but he might.



Leslie_Thornton@ed.gov
04/22/99 01:05:00 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Kris M Balderston@EOP

cc:

Subject: Tomorrow

Friends --

As some of you know, I will be traveling to Philly tomorrow for my Mom's 74th birthday so I will not be in the office at all, though I will be around the city until about noon. If you need to reach me, please feel free to page me at 1-800-skygram, pin# 1161133.

I plan to stay at home with my Mom for the weekend. Her number is 215-248-3634. Don't worry about calling me there if you need to.

Let me know if there is anything I can do today to help with issues for tomorrow.

Leslie

forces are basically destroyed -- opposition that there's an implicit agreement that U.S. ground troops are allowed?

MR. LOCKHART: Again, I don't know how the agreement manifests itself, but I'm not sure that there can be an implicit understanding.

Q Do you think U.S. considers the U.N. a failure, now, because NATO has to go in Kosovo, not the U.N. And many members feel the same way in the U.N.?

MR. LOCKHART: No, I don't think so. I think this is a situation in Europe. This is exactly why we have NATO. We're going to spend the next three days talking about both commemorating 50 years of the most important alliance we have, military and political alliance we have, and all that it's done to keep Europe safe in the last 50 years, in the last half of this century, and the challenges that NATO as an organization faces moving into the next century.

So I think this is a difficult issue for NATO. No one believes that any of these decisions are easy, or any of these issues are easy. But this is exactly why we have NATO, and it's a test, and will ultimately demonstrate the importance and utility of NATO.

Q Just to follow, I'm sorry. The U.S. still favors U.N. support, and has faith and trust the way it did for the last 50 years?

MR. LOCKHART: Sure. I mean, the United States is still a full partner in the United Nations around the world. And we will continue to be.

Q Joe, do we know if the Russians will send anybody of any diplomatic level to the meeting?

MR. LOCKHART: Can we get that answer?

MR. LEAVY: Yes. We're still hopeful that there will be --

MR. LOCKHART: Okay. We do not have the final answer. I don't expect that there will be a senior level -- I don't expect that there will be a senior level delegation, but there could be some diplomatic representation. We'd encourage them to do that.

Q Joe, at the event out in Alexandria, the President talked about sending a new initiative up to the Hill. Do you have any details on that?

MR. LOCKHART: Well, there are a couple of things. I think I talked a little bit yesterday about the omnibus crime

bill. The President, in the State of the Union, talked about doing a new crime bill with a particular emphasis on juvenile justice. We've talked about some of the items, including the Brady Bill extension. I expect that to come sometime next week, to go up to the Hill, and we'll do something to commemorate that here.

The second issue is, we have the reauthorization of the -- the Elementary and Secondary Education reauthorization -- there's some acronym for that -- which will come sometime next week. Within that is some --

MR. TOIV: That will not come next week.

MR. LOCKHART: Okay. Well, within that, which the President will continue to talk about, there is an element of the Safe and Drug-Free School Partnership. We'll have some ideas on that next week.

Q Were there anything on either of these bills that have been added since Littleton?

MR. LOCKHART: I don't know that we've added anything. I think, as you know from the State of the Union and some of the things we've talked about, we've had some ongoing initiatives that we think address important issues. I'm not aware that there's anything in addition that will come.

Q -- no legislative response to Littleton?

MR. LOCKHART: No, right. I think we have a number of legislative issues that are quite relevant to the discussions that are ongoing, now, in this country, and we look forward to talking about those in greater detail next week.

Q What did Reno tell the President about the situation?

MR. LOCKHART: She gave him an update of the investigation on the ground. And again, I think she gave him the kind of public information that you all have seen, and the kind of private information that the investigators for now would like to keep private, and also gave the President a sense of the community, and how they've pulled together on the ground. I think the President mentioned that there's some extraordinary people in Littleton and in the surrounding areas who have pulled the community together. The Vice President has reached out and talked to a number of people there. And there, again, is some extraordinary work being done.

Q Has the President addressed the idea of security within schools? Some now say that security guards within schools ought to be armed, that's the only way to protect students. Even Governor Ventura, I believe, now supports it. Has the President

addressed that? What about armed security guards?

MR. LOCKHART: I don't know if -- I haven't heard any particular discussion on arming all security guards within school. I know that we have a program that we'll continue to talk about, and talk some more about in the coming days, about using the COPS program to help with school resource officers. But I would have to check on whether there's any specific ideas on --

Q Did the Attorney General discuss with him these two big bombs that have now been found in the cafeteria --

MR. LOCKHART: I think she gave him the latest information, which I think was reported out within the last half an hour by the spokespeople out there.

Q He amended the amount of weapons and explosives that are now available to kids these days. Does he think his proposals go far enough -- the Brady Bill and things like that? Does he think he's now going to have to revise it and increase the --

MR. LOCKHART: Well, I think the proposals represent the best thinking that we have within our government, now, on how to deal with this. We have, through the years, moved very aggressively on the issue of guns and violence, particularly with youth. There have been a series of laws we've passed -- with quite stiff opposition at times. We have gone back every year and tried to get as much as we can; this year will be no different. We will have a comprehensive crime bill this year. I think that, in its scope, will be like the first omnibus crime bill the President set up, and we are looking forward to debating these issues and getting this moving quickly.

Q Joe, on gun control, the Brady Bill extension -- forgive me, I don't remember -- what is the Brady Bill extension, and will there be any specific new gun control initiatives the President will include in it?

MR. LOCKHART: There will be, and -- to the Brady Bill extension we've already talked about, which is there used to be a five-day waiting period for handguns. That lapsed under the first Brady Bill, and we are now proposing instituting a three-day, which --

Q Why don't you want to do a five-day?

MR. LOCKHART: Well, this -- you have to think of this -- it lapsed in the context of having this national insta-check system, but we believe even with a national insta-check system, we ought to have a three-day, just -- if nothing else, as a cooling off period for those who would not be eliminated under an insta-check.

Q Joe, what about the additional gun control measures?

MR. LOCKHART: We'll have additional ideas to discuss next week.

Q Joe, guns will still be available after five days and kids can have access to guns. Do you think anybody thinking in the administration or Congress --

MR. LOCKHART: It's one of the things the President has already talked about and will be included in the legislation he'll talk about next week, which is holding parents, adults responsible, criminally responsible for the transfer of firearms to -- I think, those of you who were on Capitol Hill, there's a bill introduced today by Carolyn McCarthy that has a number of the same ideas that the President's legislation will represent next week that seeks to toughen the penalties for either parents or adults with some responsibility with children to stiffen the penalties and make the price much higher for those who allow children to get access to guns.

Q Is it correct that the President has to authorize, issue a special order authorizing the use of the Apache helicopters in Albania?

MR. LOCKHART: I believe he does have to authorize that.

Q Why are those particular units under that sort of a structure, because everything else is under Wesley Clark's command and also, when will that authorization come through?

MR. LOCKHART: The first part is because I don't know, and the other is, I'll let you know when we know.

Q Do you expect the air campaign to be substantially improved by the introduction of these helicopters?

MR. LOCKHART: I think it's just one part of the air campaign which continues to intensify.

Q Has Russia said that they are not coming and you all are hopeful that, in fact, some kind of information group will attend? What exactly --

MR. LOCKHART: No, I think as far as the foreign minister or a high-ranking official, foreign ministry or other official coming, they've indicated that they don't plan to attend. I don't know that we have heard definitively on whether they would send a diplomatic representative to represent them in

the non-NATO part. I think they've made clear, in a variety of ways, of their problems with NATO's operation and their unwillingness to participate in the NATO portion of this.

Q Wait, they could have participated in the NATO portion of this?

MR. LOCKHART: Yes. But there are also things that are happening later on in the weekend which they might --

Q Joe, in the last two days both you and the President have said we need to take a look at the vast access to violent material on the Internet or the violent content of video games. The President was careful to talk about first amendment issues. So in what context should we frame that? Is he talking about parental oversight? Is he talking about legislative remedies? What does that mean?

MR. LOCKHART: I think he's talking about everything. I don't think you can look at this issue through the lens of any one particular part of it. I don't think you can look at these tragedies that we've had only through the lens of gun control issues, because there are certainly cultural and societal; you can't look at it just through family issues. I mean, there are those who will argue that you can do it that way, all we need to do is toughen this law. Or there are those who argue that somehow it's a reflection of the breakdown of American families in our society.

I think the President believes this is a combination. We need to continue to move forward with the ideas that we have in the pipeline, as far as legislation. We need to continue -- you know, for instance, we've done a lot of work with on-line companies and Internet service providers as far as trying to protect children in the aftermath of the Supreme Court striking down the CDA.

So I think we have to take -- the President believes we have to take a comprehensive approach that looks at all of these elements and balance these issues. And we are going to continue to do that. I think sessions like today are important for the President to be exposed to children, to peer counselors, to mediators, to get a sense of exactly what it is we can do.

Q Joe, yesterday you said the information was not conclusive, all the information wasn't in. But today the President did come out and say, as you said, that there were a lot of components to this issue. One component was the racial aspect -- it was on Hitler's birthday and they hated African Americans, as well as Hispanics. Will the President deal with this on a racial issue and dispatch his new office on race to that area possibly?

MR. LOCKHART: Well, again, we'll wait until we have

some more information before we make that decision. I think what the President more broadly was speaking about -- and he spoke about this repeatedly -- is the problem that he says bedevils us at the end of the century around the world. We as a nation, as a culture, deal with it as well or better than anyone in the world about our ethnic differences -- whether they be racial, religious -- and defining ourselves in a way that we create who we are by downgrading someone else.

We obviously have tragic incidents in this country -- some that are based on race, some based on other hatreds. But we need to continue, as the President has said repeatedly, to stay focused on that issue and work to overcome them, whether it be racial or otherwise.

Q Can I follow up? On a related note, is this the kind of subject that office would be dealing with, though, if they were to take it on?

MR. LOCKHART: Sure. I think if as the information comes in we find that one of the underlying problems, one of the underlying causes of this situation were racial problems, either in the school or in the community, I'm certain that Ben and his office would try to become involved and bring their resources to bear.

Q Greg Craig spoke up at the Vermont Law School on Tuesday and he said -- he described what he said was one of the most depressing parts of the impeachment process for the President, and he referred to the 100-0 vote in the Old Senate Chamber to go forward with the impeachment trial. And Craig said, the President thought the partisan nature and the unfairness of the process had been lost and we are now beginning from scratch, and that his spirits were very low as a result of that.

How would you square that with your statements here that the main objection at the White House was to the partisanship of the process, that the President's lowest moment came --

MR. LOCKHART: Well, I speak for myself and I speak here as accurately as I know how to do, and Greg will speak for himself.

Q Joe, is it a given that Clinton will go to the Denver, to Littleton, and it's just a matter of timing?

MR. LOCKHART: No, I think as happens in some instances like this, the local community comes together. If the local community believes there's an appropriate role for the President, I think the President would be anxious to play any positive role he can. But this is the sort of thing that takes time. They're sorting out some fairly traumatic and significant issues on the

John:

Set out below is our current thinking about the situation.

Tomorrow

Have the President through Channel 1 [or through some other appropriate medium] talk with school children, their parents and teachers. Bruce is waiting for the DoEd to vet Channel 1 which has been criticized because it is a commercial station available to the schools. If Channel 1 does not work, Loretta's team is looking at other options.

Friday

Upon departure to the NATO Summit the President announces the COPS grants for schools and other resources outlined in Bruce's memo. This announcement should be set up by having Reno--if she travels to Denver--brief the President prior to the departure statement--either Friday morning or Thursday evening. He would then reference the Reno briefing and announce the grants. **Note: Reno is prepared to travel from Minneapolis to Denver, you need to make a decision about whether/when this should happen. Kris Balderson needs to advise Reno's staff soon.**

Saturday

The radio address should focus on bringing the nation together in this time of crisis. Waldman will be drafting.

Sunday

We believe there will be a memorial service in Littleton. The President may want to ask the Vice President to attend -- he is available. An open question is whether the President attends church service on Sunday in the District either at his church or at a church that is addressing the crisis. Balderson is working with education to see if anything is happening. We need some guidance here re: his schedule.

Monday/Tuesday

There are three items under consideration -- we believe it is too early yet to tell whether one, two or all three items are appropriate.

1. Legislation: The President could introduce his Safe Schools Bill. Rather than just introduce it and let it linger, we believe if we chose this route we should have the President meet with a bi-partisan group of members to discuss these issues and then send the legislation.
2. Speech: The President could give a major speech on the cultural issues and changes that may lead to these violent episodes--how we are raising our children, videos and violence, cults etc. Again, it is too early to know whether a speech of this type will be appropriate for this situation.
3. Legislation: Prior to the NRA Convention, the President introduces his gun bill -- siting the difference between the administration, the Republicans and others.

Please consider these options, and give me some feedback so we can proceed.



Leslie_Thornton@ed.gov
04/21/99 03:01:00 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Kris M Balderston@EOP

cc:

Subject: FW: Support for the Columbine High Community from US West

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Bob Toye [SMTP:rjt@alex.telephone-pioneers.org]

> Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 1999 2:19 PM

> To: Carey Macdonald; Bob MacFarland; Bob Wenzel; Elizabeth Fehily; Irene
> Chavira; Jack Sawka@aol.com; Jim Moberg; John Motusesky; Juan Rodriguez;
> Mike Watson; Randall Chard; Vicki Collins

> Cc: Lynn Simons @ DOE; Menahem Herman @ DOE; Ginny Van Scoyoc@Lucent;
> Bonnie Browning; Carolyn Martinez; Cheryl Malone @ AT&T; Kathy Willers;
> Mary Ebert; Roslyn Cernosek; Sharon Fee; Tom Hutchinson; Janeen Del
> Vacchio; Bill Maroney on AOL; Branwen Tempero; Broc Swetnam; Denise
> Robinson; Dorisann Wiltsie; Eileen Inrig; Flora Mitchell; Howard Emry;
> John Lyon; Rae Gonzales on AOL; Tom Rothgeb; TPA Clerical Desk
> Subject: Support for the Columbine High Community

>

> The tragic events yesterday at Columbine High in Littleton, Colorado, have
> touched us all deeply, I know. You may have heard that the President has
> asked the U.S. Secretary of Education and his organization to stand ready
> to
> respond with whatever support is needed. To that end, and in support of
> our
> partnership with the DOE, I have already contacted Lynn Simons, the
> Secretary's Regional Representative, offering our organization's volunteer
> assistance as needed.

>

> As an initial step, U S WEST Pioneers from Colorado Chapter have
> established
> a memorial fund to aid in the recovery of students and staff at Columbine
> High. This fund will be used to help replace supplies and equipment
> destroyed in yesterday's tragedy.

>

> Pioneers and employees wishing to participate in this fund can send their
> contributions, payable to the Telephone Pioneers - Auraria Council, to:

>

> Lisa Groebe
> U S WEST
> 1801 California, Room 610
> Denver, CO 80202

>

> PLEASE be sure to write "Columbine Memorial Fund" on each check.

>

> On behalf of U S WEST Pioneers and the Columbine High community, thank you

> in advance for your support of this cause. I will keep you posted as
> further details develop.
>
> --Bob Toye
> Partnerships & Programs
> Denver, CO
> 303-571-9274



SUNTUM_M@A1
04/22/99 03:38:00 PM

Record Type: Record

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

cc:

Subject: Lockhart briefing

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 22, 1999

PRESS BRIEFING BY
JOE LOCKHART

The Briefing Room

2:20 P.M. EDT

MR. LOCKHART: Good afternoon, everyone. Welcome to everyone here and welcome to everyone who has brought their daughters and sons.

Q Where's yours?

MR. LOCKHART: My daughter is at school today. A little too young, I think, for this program. I look forward to at least getting respect from a small part of the audience today, those under 10. (Laughter.)

Let me bring you up to date on a couple of things. As you know, the President is working on two different issues today -- many of you who just came back saw him at the T.C. Williams School. Just before he left here he had about a 10-minute conversation with the Attorney General who is in Littleton, Colorado. She gave him an update of the situation on the ground.

She's there to offer any help that federal law enforcement can give to the local community, listen to and talk to community leaders, law enforcement officials, and she gave the President a rundown of the situation on the ground, which would very much track the rundown that the sheriff's office and the spokesmen from there have given to you throughout the day.

We will now, this afternoon, move to the meeting shortly with Secretary General Solana. I can tell you in a way of update, as many of you saw the Pentagon brief this morning in the NATO time slot, I gave you details of the -- over the last several days, NATO forces have engaged in a series of aggressive attacks on an increasing number of military, political and economic targets. They compromise the command and control apparatus of Milosevic's repressive forces. These national targets include radio and television relay stations, the ruling party building, and other command and control facilities and forces in the field in Kosovo.

As I believe the Pentagon discussed in great detail this morning, there are increasing signs that Yugoslav forces are hurting, their ability to conduct combat operations is being reduced, there are increasing signs of defections from the military. There are signs it is becoming more and more difficult to recruit conscripts, and that the ability to support and resupply the troops in Kosovo is eroding.

Many of you know the President spent several hours last night with Prime Minister Blair. They discussed the situation on the ground in Kosovo, the NATO Summit that will start tomorrow. Their message was clear and united: NATO is determined; they will continue the air campaign, will continue to attack Belgrade's military and industrial complex, and continue to tighten the pressure on Milosevic's ability to resupply his

forces until our military objectives have been met.

Questions?

Q Has the President heard from Chernomyrdin, who's left Belgrade?

MR. LOCKHART: We have not, as of -- I checked this a little bit ago. We have not received any report from his visit to Belgrade, one way or the other.

Q What about the attack on the residence, President Milosevic's residence? Some people are suggesting that the NATO allies are looking for a way to kill President Milosevic. Is that the objective?

MR. LOCKHART: No, that's not the objective. The building that was targeted is an important communication, and command and control facility. We have targeted -- that target is part of NATO's overall effort to seriously damage Belgrade's war machine, to take away the instruments of repression in Kosovo. We will continue to hit targets that have military value like that.

Q Can I follow up on that? Can I follow up on that?



Sean P. O'Shea

04/22/99 02:50:08 PM



Record Type: Record

To: Ben_Tucker@ed.gov @ inet, Leslie_Thornton@ed.gov @ inet
cc: Kris M Balderston/WHO/EOP@EOP
Subject: President's discussion with students at T.C. Williams High

----- Forwarded by Sean P. O'Shea/WHO/EOP on 04/22/99 02:50 PM -----



SUNTUM_M@A1

04/22/99 02:41:00 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
cc:
Subject: President's discussion with students at T.C. Williams High

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 22, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN DISCUSSION WITH STUDENTS

T.C. Williams High School
Alexandria, Virginia

12:45 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mr. Porter. I think all of you know that we are being joined by several million students through various media outlets that are covering this, and so let me begin by saying I'm delighted to be here at T.C. William High School. Thank

you, Mr. Porter. Our Superintendent, Herb Berg, is here, and I'm glad to be back in this school district again that has hosted me for so many important educational announcements.

Senator Robb and Congressman Jim Moran are both here with us, along with Mayor Kerry Donley. I thank them for joining us, and our two teachers, Ellen Harmon and Barbara Finney.

I want to spend most of my time today listening to you. I have a few questions I want to ask and I'm going to turn it over to the teachers as soon as I make a few opening remarks. But I got up this morning and I made some notes and worked over them again, and I'd like to say just a few things.

First of all, we're here, obviously, because of the terrible tragedy in Littleton, Colorado, and because, even though it is the worst example of school violence we've seen, it is by no means the only one. And indeed, I think that some of the people joining us today are from Paducah, Kentucky, and Jonesboro, Arkansas -- at least those two communities which had examples of school violence last year.

I think it's important that, all over America, students and teachers have a chance to discuss their feelings about this, their ideas about what we should do. And it's especially important for younger children, who might be quite traumatized, and wonder whether they are, in fact, safe at school. So I want to talk a little about all of that.

There is really nothing more important than keeping our schools safe. And we've tried to do a lot of things in that regard over the last few years -- having a zero tolerance for guns and drugs policy, putting new community police officers in schools where they're needed, trying to support more counselors in schools, more after-school, more mentoring programs, more conflict resolution programs. We've tried to help school districts and students and teachers who wanted to do it to have -- for younger children, elementary and junior high school, using school uniform policies or dress code policies where they wanted to implement those things. But we know that there are things which have to be done sort of beyond the government and beyond anything government can do.

I spent a lot of time thinking about this, but I want to say, last night and today I thought about the work that my

wife has done on this for many years, and I went back and re-read the chapters in her book that deal with the problems that children have in coping with violence, and the responsibilities of parents and the larger society. I thought about the work that the Vice President's wife, Tipper Gore, started doing well over a decade ago on this whole issue.

And I think we have to ask ourselves some pretty hard questions here: What are the responsibilities of students themselves? What are the responsibilities of schools? What are the responsibilities of parents? What is the role of the larger culture here? Is there a sense in which the fact that all of you are exposed to much higher levels of violence through television, through video games, that you can actually figure out how to make bombs on the Internet -- does that make a difference? Does it make these kinds of things more likely to happen? What are our responsibilities?

But before I open it to you, I'd just like to make one other comment. I think, particularly for young people who may be quite frightened as a result of this, or for parents who may wonder about the safety of schools, I think it's worth restating two or three basic things. First of all, on balance, our schools are still the safest place our kids can be in most communities under most or all circumstances.

Secondly, I think it's worth reminding everyone that in spite of these horrible instances, our country is still fundamentally a good and decent place, and our people are good and decent people. And we have seen the way the community of Littleton responded to this -- people standing in line for hours to give blood; people showing up to volunteer their services as counselors and in other ways; with the way people have reached out to each other. We see a kind of microcosm of how America has reacted to this.

And I think it's important that the young people of our country know this and that the parents know this, that they should remember we -- as horrible as this is, we have seen once again what is basically decent and good about America. And we should remember that most schools are more nearly represented by the kind of conversation we're having around here today than by the horrible incident we saw in Colorado.

So I think that's enough for me to say. But I'm interested in what you think about it -- what your reactions are, what you've done here to try to avoid this, and what you think the responsibilities of the rest of us are, starting at home and going all the way up to the President, and also the cultural issues I mentioned.

You know, we have to acknowledge, as Hillary does in this book -- and I went back and read some of the things we talked about over the last 20 years -- that we do have more violence among younger people in America than other cultures do. And everyone has to take a hard look at what all the elements of our society are that contribute to that and what we can do to diminish it.

I also would like to say -- let me just mention one other thing. I think it's important because of the action in which we're involved in Kosovo today. We don't know all the facts about what happened in Littleton, but one of the things that's come out of this that's really made an impression on me is that the young men who

were involved in this horrible act apparently felt that they were subject to ridicule and ostracism

and they were kind of social outcasts at the school. But their reaction to it was to find someone else to look down on. And, apparently, they were very prejudiced against African Americans and Hispanics, and observed Adolf Hitler's birthday, and otherwise reacted to that.

This is something that you see a lot, around the world and throughout human history, that people who themselves feel disrespected, instead of developing an enormous sympathy for other people who have been subject to discrimination, instead look for someone else to look down on; so they can always say, well, I may be dissed at school, or I may be subject to disrespect in some other environment, but at least I'm not them.

And I think that's a larger problem we really have to fight, because you look around this room -- of course, we're in perhaps the most diverse school district in America today -- but this is a great opportunity for us, as long as we lift other people up, and recognize the inherent dignity and worth of all individuals and all ethnic, religious and cultural groups.

And so I think that's another point that needs to be made here -- they had the wrong reaction to the fact that they were dissed. Hey, look, everybody gets dissed sometime in life. Even the President -- (laughter) -- sometimes, especially the President.

So these are some of the things that I was thinking about that I hope will spark your thoughts. And I think I'll turn it back to you and to the teachers to discuss this in any way you'd like.

MS. HARMON: Okay, maybe I'll start us off, here. I'm a government teacher here at T.C., and many of these students are government students. We've been discussing this quite a bit between yesterday and today. We also have some peer mediators here with us today, and I believe some other students.

Goodness knows, adults have enough to say about this, so this is really your time to have a conversation and to share your thoughts with the President on this and with each other. So I'd like to just open it up to the students. And is there somebody who has a question or a comment that they'd like to share right away?

Who wants the mike?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, pass the mike.

MS. FINNEY: Mr. President, I would like for one of my mediators to tell you how mediation works in this school, and it definitely works. I respect the mediators, they are models of

respectful behavior, and mediation really is based on respect for human dignity.

Now, I have some very good mediators in this building. Unfortunately, I could not bring them all in here and I was very limited. So I got some of my veterans. And I would like to hear from Zori (phonetic) first. Zori is one of our veterans who is a senior who will be going off to college, and I will miss her.

STUDENT: Hello. Well, first of all, I think that because of the peer mediation program in this school, it has helped a lot of students. And I think that if they had that in maybe Littleton or if they had a type of setting where students could just basically talk and release, and it seemed like -- it really did seem like a tragedy in Littleton, from a buildup of anger or aggression that really should have been let out. And I think that works with programs like peer mediation.

MS. FINNEY: I'm sorry, I'm Mrs. Finney, the peer mediator advisor.

Q Hello, my name is Tomika Barber (phonetic). A mediation works where there are two students -- sometimes even more -- Ms. Finney gets a complaint. It can come from an administrator; it can come from students, themselves; teachers. And we have a circle table where we sit, two mediators, and let's say, for example, myself and Zori, and we sit at the table and the people that's are getting mediated, they come in and they're seated down also.

We have four basic ground rules that we tell them that they agree to follow. One is no name-calling, no interruptions, to be honest, and to work hard to solve the problem. And we get into the mediation that way. And we ask who would like to go first. We hear both sides of the story.

We then recount it to them, asking them, well, this is what you're saying to us. And once we come to agreement that this is what happened with the problem, the situation, then they try to, themselves, find a solution for it. And we, as mediators, we help them find solutions for their problem. And they have an option of going through with this, following through, being able to calm down, sit down and talk this problem out with us. And it's a good program.

THE PRESIDENT: I wanted to ask this question -- because I honestly believe that young people can help each other -- particularly at this age -- maybe more than adults can, maybe in some cases, more than their parents can, if things get out of hand.

But what I want to ask you is, how do they get there, if they're really angry? What if they're too embarrassed about what they think is being done to them to talk about it? Do they get there only when they come to you, or do other kids say, hey, these two people are having trouble, or these two groups are having trouble. You need to go to them. Can you all talk to me about that?

STUDENT: Yes, Mr. President. My name's Jenny Dennis. I'm also a peer mediator here at T.C. And just as Tamika said, people can be referred to mediation. Students themselves can come and let Ms. Finney know privately and confidentially that they would like to be mediated with other students -- they feel threatened, or embarrassed, like you said, and they just need to get things off their chests.

And one of the things that Zori did say was that the problem in Littleton appeared to be anger that had built up, and the action that was taken could have been prevented, I think. But one of the things that we do do, in mediation, is we let the students vent out their problems. Each side gets a turn to talk, and sometimes there can be confrontations right at the table, but Ms. Finney and an administrator are there to take care of the problem.

And I've noticed a lot of times that the more they talk about the situation, the more the real story comes out. It's hearsay that goes by, and the venting out, letting them talk about it, and talk to each other really helps them to get the anger out that it appears it built up in these few teenagers in Littleton.

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead.

STUDENT: Another good thing that this school has is, we have a safety hotline that's been instituted. And then that safety hotline, they can reach peer mediation, and it's confidential. It should be instituted in all the schools across the country, I feel. And this really could have been prevented if they had something like this, because a lot of people said they were threatened by the people in this crew. And a lot of people said that they'd seen it on the Internet. Somebody could have called the safety hotline, if this school had one instituted.

THE PRESIDENT: So you're saying if they had a hotline, as opposed to a peer mediation group, then someone who was afraid --

STUDENT: No, they work together -- they work together.

THE PRESIDENT: That's what I mean. In addition to. So, if someone were afraid, they could call the hotline and say, here's what I think is going on.

STUDENT: Yes. And it's confidential, you just --

THE PRESIDENT: Okay. Suppose I call the hotline and say, listen, I just talked to one of these people, and they're talking about getting guns and shooting people -- then what happens? I called the hotline, here. What happens?

STUDENT: Peer mediation can be contacted with that.

Because you have given us a name, or Mr. Porter can talk to them or something.

THE PRESIDENT: I think this is good. That's wonderful.
Okay.

STUDENT: Hello. I'm a peer mediator, and what's so wonderful about peer mediation is that peers can talk to other peers without them being punished. So it's more like they feel more confident when they come to peer mediation, because you don't have to worry about getting punished, or teachers bringing attitudes toward you or anything, you feel more comfortable.

And the peer mediators, they learn more, too, because as you help others, you see that other problems, or you could handle them in a simpler way because you see what the teacher sees it through. Like, if you're doing a teacher's job, then you could see what they're going through and how petty everything looks. That's what I got out of it.

STUDENT: And prevention is better than cure, and it prevents all of that from happening beforehand.

STUDENT: Mr. President, as you noted earlier, this is a very diverse school. And one of the problems in Littleton was perhaps that that school was not as diverse, and the people who were feeling ridiculed felt that they maybe didn't have a place to go, like a group that they fit in with. And here at T.C. Williams, being so diverse, everyone really has a group they can be with. There really is no way a person cannot have a group they can go to, because there are so many different types of people here at T.C. Williams. It's really stunning, if you look down the halls how many different people we have, how many cliques, how many social groups, racial groups, national groups. It's really amazing.

STUDENT: May I just comment on that? I'd love to tell you all the great things that makes T.C., makes all of us feel so safe, and makes T.C. such a great place. But the fact is that I think the kids in Littleton also felt that their school was just as safe as we all do. And the thing is, is that I don't know if it could have been prevented, you know, and if there are things.

But the thing that I'd like to say is that what's so great about T.C. is our administrators in T.C. We're all -- I feel -- personally, I feel like we're all able to come to the administrators, and the administrators and teachers in some way are all connected in the community, and we all know each other pretty well. And they're very -- they know what's going on, some way or another. Before the kids find out I think the administrators just jump on it. And I think that's really important, to have a real keen administration. But, you know, I don't think that Littleton's administration was any less than that.

THE PRESIDENT: First of all, I think that's a very brave thing for you to say. But there's no doubt that those people are very good people, that they have a good school, that they thought things were rocking along -- which is why -- that's why what you said I think is very important, that there needs to be some organized outlet that people can access privately. Because nearly everybody in America believes this couldn't happen in their school. So I think having this way to call and say, this is going on -- we all need warning systems.

STUDENT: But, see, the problem is -- what I feel is, I feel the administrators knew about this because a lot of people say, like, on the news and stuff, the students seemed to know about this crew already and seemed to not have done nothing about it. They didn't bother to prevent it -- because they had a page in the yearbook for this crew and everything already.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, but the point I'm trying to make is that -- a lot of people seemed to have known in general, but most people didn't -- a lot of the people who knew, I think, didn't know that they might do what they did. And that's why it's important to feed all this stuff in someplace, because there are people who do know that -- let me come back to the beginning here. I'd like for you all to talk about this.

Let me just say what I was going to say. One of the things that all kids are taught by their parents, you know, is this old "sticks and stones will break my bones, but words will never hurt me." That ain't true, if you'll let me use bad grammar. (Laughter.) That's not true, because a lot of this stuff starts with words, you know?

And even in what I do and the people I deal with, it's amazing how much energy is lost and how many things are not done for America because people in Washington, D.C., at the highest levels of power and influence, get hurt by what other people say about them -- mean, bad things other people say about them. And then they get in the position where they try to bait each other to say mean, bad things, you know.

And I think that somehow, maybe we all -- particularly in a culture that desensitizes people to violence, if they're profoundly alienated -- and I still think that's a big part of this -- all of us have to do a better job of teaching young people not to let themselves be defined by the words other people use against them.

That's something that really struck me when I read these accounts, is how alienated these young people were because these athletes were saying bad things about them or who else was saying bad things about them. They were different. But, then, they had to look for somebody to feel bad about.

That's why I like this peer mediation thing, because it tends to take the sting out of words at the earliest possible time. But people really still get hurt so badly by what is said about them. And somehow, we've got to make people more immune to that.

Go ahead.

STUDENT: What really bothers me is the students, the two students having so many bombs and just having those booby -- I was wondering where they got it. And it seems to me that they're really into this Internet, having their own web page. I think that they got their sources -- I mean, how to make them -- out of the Internet. I mean, what is our government doing to prevent this information, dangerous information, you know, so that they don't make bombs and they don't blow people up and they don't hurt people?

THE PRESIDENT: You know, when the bomb blew up in Oklahoma City and the Federal Building was destroyed and all those people were killed, we pointed out that the way the Internet is going with these web pages -- people can learn how to build bombs like that on the Internet. And there is a limit to how much we can control it. And we're looking for ways to try to at least help parents deal with what their children can get off the Internet, and a way to use ordinary law enforcement tactics effectively against people who are trying to do illegal things over the Internet. But it's very difficult.

I mean, one of the things that's wonderful about the Internet is kind of its capacity for infinite expansion. And that's one of the great things about it. I don't know how many teachers here now get research papers where all the sources are off the Internet. But it's great. That's the good news. The bad news is it's almost impossible to find this stuff, sort it out and figure out whether it's illegal or not, and do something about it.

But I agree with you, it's going to be one of the big challenges we face, because there's been a lot of talk about -- if you've seen in the last three or four days about whether the Internet plus having very young people play very violent video games where they learn to shoot people and stuff, that those two things have added an extra element to an otherwise already pretty violent culture. And I think we're going to have to take another look at it.

It's not easy. I don't want to pretend that it's easy. If you look at how many thousands and thousands of pages, web pages, are being added to the Internet every day, it's the fastest growing organism in human history for communications. And it presents us a great challenge.

STUDENT: Hello. My name is Sean Sinota (phonetic). I can say that, whose responsibility is it, really, over the Internet? Because it would be very hard for the government to control it, and

then you get into the ideas of free press and, you know, free speech. But what about the parents, what about the teachers, you know? These kids don't just have these computers in their own house and doing their own thing. There should be people watching them. It's not your responsibility, or anybody else in the government's responsibility to keep kids off it. It all comes back to home. It all comes back to school. It all comes back to the community.

And I think that if people really wanted to have things like bombs taken off the Internet, then it would have to come from back home, come from people, come from houses, come from parents that are upset with their kids looking at how to make bombs and how to shoot guns. Not from the government, but it has to come from people that can -- they can cry all they want about how kids are looking at it, but it all really comes from yourself. Just keep your own kids off of it, and keep yourself off of it. And eventually, that's the way to destroy it.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I do think it's important that in all these discussions, we not take the focus away from the home. I agree with that. If you look at all the facts that we know from the incidents that happened last year -- all the school violence incidents -- it appears that there were some cases in which the parents were -- to go back to what you said, about how other kids knew and they didn't call in -- there appears that there were some cases in which the parents knew that the kid had a problem, including an obsession with guns and bombs; and there were other cases where they didn't know, and might not have been able to know. But I do think that we shouldn't minimize that.

The only thing I want to -- to go back to what you said about the Internet -- I agree with that. You don't want me to choke off the Internet. It's one of the greatest things that ever happened. But we've got to figure out a way to apply the ordinary restrictions of the criminal law in that context, just like you would any other. I think that's all you're saying, is we need to -- if somebody's doing something illegal there, we should -- but the problem is, how do you -- how do parents limit their children's access to something they shouldn't be able to see?

And I do think that the role of the Internet, and the way it's bringing everything into the home, has made a parent's job much more difficult. And it's harder to know what to do and how to do it. It's much, much harder. And I think we ought to just fess up to that.

But I'm sympathetic with you. We don't want to destroy what's great about the Internet. It's revolutionizing the American economy; it's opening up opportunities for people, opening up educational opportunities; bringing whole libraries to homes of people who could never afford them. I mean, it's doing a lot of good. But we've got to figure out a way to deal with these downside risks.

STUDENT: My name's Erica Brisker (phonetic), and in terms of talking about parents and things, as much as I can see, people that I can perceive about this, that administrators and students knew what was going on, or knew that there was --

THE PRESIDENT: A problem.

STUDENT: -- things happening, that there was a problem. I would think that the administrators would try to call the parents, to let the parents be aware of it, because it's the best way to do it since the parents are supposed to be in charge of the kids in their home. And that at least if both the parents and the administrators had a watch on, that they might be able to fix the problem. At least, even if they didn't know that there were bombs in the house, or whatever, they might be able to call and deal with mediation or whatever needed to happen.

MS. FINNEY: I also want to say, Mr. President, that there was a young man that was on the news the other day saying that he knew these two guys. And he also said that he heard them planning this last year. If this young man had had the initiative to tell someone he trusts in the school, or his parents -- I mean, we don't know now, but I would hope these kids here, sitting here, if they have a peer or they hear about it, that they can get in touch with someone. And someone -- it would be someone like me, their administrators, a supporter, and we will take that time to try to get those students in, just to see what's going on.

And I know I have very sympathetic mediators, especially the ones I have here today. And I have some more good ones, and they always come and inform me of things that might be happening or they have observed. And we try to get a handle on that. And if we get that, we can eliminate some of the problems.

THE PRESIDENT: I want to hear from the students, but that goes back to what you said. What I would like to -- the message to go out across all the millions of students like you that are listening, and all of the schools, is that no matter how good your school is and no matter how good your programs are, we need a little humility here. And you're not doing something bad if you hear people talking about doing something or you see them becoming profoundly alienated in ways that could be destructive, if you tell someone who's in a position of responsibility to do something about it. They're not going to be punished if they hadn't done anything wrong, but we might be able to prevent more of these things.

I do think that one of the lessons that will come out of this incident, no matter what the facts turn out to be, is that there has to be a hotline, there has to be some sort of early warning system; there has to be a climate in which children feel, young people feel that they can ring the alarm bell when they see something like this.

STUDENT: Hi, Mr. President, my name is Cindy.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes, you've been waiting a long time -- she's been waiting longer than anybody else. (Laughter.)

STUDENT: Coming from a different background, I'm Hispanic, and I go every day to maybe -- my two parents that work, and they work hard. But I think that what we're missing are morals. I think that we should be taught correctly. And even though they're not home, they know I'm doing right. Thus, it should also go to the administration in the schools. There should be more discipline toward the students.

THE PRESIDENT: I agree with that. But what happens if all of that still doesn't work because young people at some point develop a whole other life? I mean, when you look at what is apparently the fact here, these -- they created a whole new culture for themselves, a whole other life, which -- we don't know the facts yet about what their parents did or didn't know, about what the schools did or didn't know. I think it's important for us not to make hasty judgments about Littleton.

I agree with what you say. But I also think in addition to what you say, we've got to have some warning system to protect everybody else.

Go ahead.

STUDENT: Usually, when I watch the news there's a lot of blame being placed on movies and video games. I really feel that people should stop placing blames on things like that and just actually spend more time with their children. For instance, my mother runs a salon -- usually, she's not able to be at home, but usually, once she gets back home around 8:00 p.m. or after closing, we all sit down together and work out our little discussions or problems we have at school. So I really think that's really missing in society today.

STUDENT: Also, Mr. President, I think that one thing that my parents taught me is that, like a tree, you form it when it's little, and how you form it when it's little, it comes up right. So it should all start when you're a little person. Don't start to discipline your children like when you're 15. You can't do nothing at that age. It should start at home when the children are starting to grow -- maybe at the age of three, four, when they're learning their morals, when they're learning what's right and what's wrong. In that way, that tree won't be bended, that tree will be straight.

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead.

STUDENT: I just had a quick question for you. A lot of blame has been placed in different areas -- areas of higher crime, saying that those kids are going to be more inclined to repeat

crimes. Seeing that this was an area, it's like a white suburban area, an area of lower number of minority people, what do you think this is going to mean for the country? Do you think it's going to take the focus off of racial groups as being like the cause of problems?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I hope so. You know, it's interesting -- all of these instances of school violence, even though they occurred in schools which some had a lot of racial diversity, some had not much racial diversity, but they all occurred away from inner-city areas with very high unemployment and high general crime rates. They tended to occur more in small towns and rural areas or suburbs, where you normally would not think that society itself falling apart around you would happen.

Now, part of that could be the absence of the kind of warning and alert systems that you often have in the big city schools. I mean, a lot of big city schools, for example, all routinely have metal detectors and things like that because they know they've got to protect their kids. But I think what it means is that whatever is out there in our culture, whether it is the failure of parents to teach their kids, whether it is that plus then the extra exposure to violent experiences when you're young, kind of one step removed through media or video games or whatever, whatever it is -- what it shows is that the people in rural America and in suburban America, in low-crime America and upper-income America are just as vulnerable to having alienated young people in gangs or in isolation take violent action. I think that's what it shows. And it should destroy any of our racial or economic stereotypes about this. This is something that can happen anywhere. That's the point you made, and I think that's right.

STUDENT: It's great that our school has the hotline we can call and the peer mediators that we can go to. But we also, in this school, have social workers and psychologists. I mean, there's people in school who are trained professionally that are here. And I think that's great that we have that choice. I mean, we have so many choices that we can choose from. We can go to the peer mediators, or we can call the Safety Hotline, or we can go see these professional social workers that we have in the school.

And I was wondering, I mean, how much of the schools around the U.S. do they have that? I mean, I want to know if it can prevent --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the truth is that some do and some don't. More and more, I think, schools are doing that. Some have economic constraints; some may not think they need them. But I believe that -- I can tell you this. One of the things I have tried to do is to make it possible for schools to have more trained personnel and more options to serve children, and have a whole variety of different needs.

And I suspect that one positive thing that will come out of this awful incident is that schools all over America today will be

doing an inventory of what kinds of supports they have for their children. And they will -- I expect, just because we're doing this, your principal and your teachers will be flooded with inquiries over the next two weeks about what you have done here; about the peer mediation thing, about the -- what kind of social workers you have, what kind of psychologist do you have, what kind of support do you have -- because I think we will see everybody taking a serious look at this.

I'm glad you made that point, though, because there are people who have genuine emotional problems that require more professional, intense, longer-term help than even the peer mediators can provide. So I think that's an important point you make.

STUDENT: Hi, my name's Jannelle Mitchell (phonetic) and I'm a senior here at T.C. And I just wanted to know that, I mean, when is there going to be a change? I mean, there's been a lot of acts of violence in the schools recently, and I think that, now that you know about peer mediation and hotlines and everything, I think there should be immediate action towards these things, so they don't happen again. Because as a student, I need to have that guarantee of safety, and truthfully, I really don't feel safe anymore. Maybe not at this school, it's really safe here, but at other schools. I feel very sorry for the students who don't have the resources that we have.

And I think that it's going to need immediate action, for kids in other places that don't have the resources that we do, so they can feel safe when they go to school. I mean, it's a real tragedy that something like this had to happen before real action is done. And I want to know, when is the government, when are you going to do something for the other students out there?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, first of all, you should know that we have provided, already, funds -- last year -- for a lot of these services for schools. And the Attorney General and the Secretary of Education put out a booklet that basically cited the best practices in all the schools.

We don't -- the federal government doesn't run this high school. You know, you have a local school board, and most of the money comes from the state. We give some money, so -- but what we did, we sent out a handbook, which basically had the best practices, for early warning signals, for preventive programs. for the kinds of things that you do here. And we've provided a lot of support to help schools to have the services they need to make them more safe.

Now, in the next few days I'm going to send another piece of legislation up to the Congress to do even more of this. But for it to work, people have to use the resources that are there, and implement the systems that are there, and it has to be done in every school in the country.

Let me just say -- this is kind of along the lines of

your question -- when I called the County Commission in Littleton, Colorado, the woman who's in charge of the local county government there, she was very, I thought, quite brave, considering it was in the middle of this crisis. The school hadn't even been -- not all the children had been taken out yet. And she said, well, if this can happen here, it can happen anywhere, and maybe, finally, every school in America will do what is necessary to try to prevent this.

So we have -- last year we had the first White House conference in history on school safety. We have sent things to every school in America and we have -- and I said, I'm going to send another bill this week, or in the next few days, to do more. But it has to -- every school has to realize that if you want to be safe you have to be prepared, just like you are here.

STUDENT: Hi. I'm a junior here at T.C. Williams. I just want to say that there's really no way where you can point out to a racial group or a social class that they're the ones responsible. I think we should -- parents, teachers, the government, the students, themselves -- we should all work together to try to prevent this thing.

Many things we try -- many times we forget that a small crack can cause a big problem. We tend to ignore students, parents, teachers and so forth. We tend to ignore -- there are things which occur in life, or things that you hear when you're walking down the hallway and we just think nothing of it.

But many things shape an individual -- influence from parents, what they have taught you when you were little; influence from your teachers; the actions which your friends made. But, overall, as an individual you should be shaped by all these actions and everything that has gone around you to make the right decision and know when to act on something.

And there's really -- I mean, of course, you're going to put limitations on where you can get this information and that information -- like, make bombs and everything -- but there's always going to be a way in which someone will be able to obtain that information. You can't just block it off forever or destroy the information completely -- that would probably be the only way to solve it.

But I think it all depends -- it goes back to all of us working together. It's not an individual, it's not a parent's fault, it's not a student's fault. It's everybody working together to achieve this goal and the common welfare of everybody and the safety for students, parents and the community, itself.

STUDENT: My name is Anna, and I just wanted to say that one of the greatest things about the hotline is that it's anonymous. And I think oftentimes students are more tuned into other students. As connected as teachers and the community can be, it's very student-to-student relationships, where they can pick up on things

that are going on.

And I think a lot of times students don't come forward if they're suspicious of things because they're afraid of the backlash or getting called names or more confrontation. I think being able to have an anonymous source is very important, so that there are people aware that can take the right steps into looking into things. So I think that having an anonymous hotline is very important.

STUDENT: Mr. President, I also think that racism should stop, because even though we are a different color, we have a different background, we're all individuals, and we all should treat -- we should all be treated equally. We all can achieve anything we want. So the racism should stop, because the racism leads to bad things, like what happened in Colorado.

That could have been prevented. The individual shouldn't feel left out, they should feel as part of a group. Like us at T.C., we're all part of a group. We're part of a big family here, and we're happy to be here.

So I think that racism cannot produce anything good. So we should all see each other as individuals that are equal.

THE PRESIDENT: Great.

Yes?

STUDENT: My name is Ryan. I was just going to say the same thing. I think, in addition to the peer mediation and the safety hot lines, there really isn't any sure-fire guarantee that this isn't going to happen again, because all it does is -- it takes one person for this to happen again. And I think the main message we need to spread here is that high schoolers all over America, you know, you just need to be more sensitive to others and more considerate. Because I think, obviously, this is one of the reasons why it happened in the first place and other places, too, like Paducah and Jonesboro.

So I think high schoolers everywhere just need to be more considerate and sensitive to other's feelings, because I mean, it really will take a long while to change the mentality of, really saying, that, okay, words won't really affect the way I feel. But in the meantime, I think being more considerate and just accepting people for who they are, like we do here at T.C., will hopefully eliminate some of the animosity.

THE PRESIDENT: I must say, these things you say to me are among the most impressive things of all, because all of us want to be part of groups, and we are part of groups whether we like it or not; we're all part of groups. You know, we just -- from the families we're born in and the lives we live.

And the trick is to convince people that it's good to be part of a group, a racial, an ethnic, a religious, a cultural group, to be an athlete, to be a scholar, to be into music, to be into whatever. But it's not -- it doesn't have to be negative when compared with someone else. That's the thing that breaks your heart.

And also, it's very important -- another reason I like this hotline and I like what you said is that it's very hard to be 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 years old; and if you are very lonely and very alienated and you feel you don't belong with anybody or anything, and then all of a sudden, one or two other people come along and they're just like you, and then you find something on the Internet that you can read that you can relate to, and then things begin to spin out of control. And I think what you said about reaching out to people who seem to be alone and have nobody to care about them. I think that's very, very important as well.

I think that you know it a lot better than I do. But as old as I am, I can still remember, it was -- I had some pretty tough times when I was 13, 14, 15, 16 years old -- and I had a very fortunate life. You realize how hard you have to work to keep from getting into patterns that will be destructive throughout life where people feel that they only count when they're in a group, that then they're opposed to somebody else, they can look down on somebody else. It is the curse of human society throughout the world.

Go ahead. You two, and then -- this young man hasn't spoken yet, but go ahead. We'll get you the mike as soon as he finished. Who wants to go next? Go ahead.

STUDENT: Back to what you were saying about -- you said earlier about desensitizing our society. It seems like at this point, the children, the younger people still are more vulnerable to influence -- they're a lot more desensitized than maybe like 20 years ago. And I think the media really does need to take more responsibility for that, because the best-sellers in the box office these days are movies which have the most people killed. You know, like -- in the trailer, you see, oh, those people are dying, and the violence, and we see on the news, it seems like all the news is bad news. So I think because of that, the value of a human life has gone down. And that's why you see kids who think maybe they wouldn't understand the impact of what they really did when they went into school that day, or any other of the seven cases of school violence.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Let me say this -- I really respect all of you very much to have said that this is a matter of personal responsibility, family responsibility, and you don't want to blame the culture. I respect you for saying that -- I don't want to blame the movies or blame the video games; what you've said and how you've talked with your mother and everything.

But I think you have to recognize -- let me just say, for example, when I was your age, if anything, the racism was more pronounced, the social hierarchies in the schools were dramatic. If

you were between those who were in and those who were out, people fought regularly on the school grounds and they were vicious to each other and -- but you didn't have as much gun violence.

And I think it is unquestionable that more people have more access to more weapons, and more people at an earlier age can move from profound alienation and misery into using violence against others than was the case 20 or 30 years ago, because they either have -- they have more opportunities and because they've been desensitized, and maybe because they don't have a chance to sit down with a mother or a father the way you do every night.

So the only thing I'm saying is, I think it's important not to oversimplify this. And I hate it when people blame someone else and don't take responsibility for what they did, but I don't think we can be blind to the fact that there are more opportunities and there is a greater openness to taking violent action on the part of alienated people today than there was 20 or 30 years ago.

And I think the experience that these children have before, maybe -- maybe even when they're very young, before they form proper barriers in life about what's right, what's wrong, what can or can't be done, makes them quite vulnerable.

STUDENT: I'm a little concerned at the backlash that's going to go out against people who are like into Gothic culture and rock music, because they're going to be blamed for instigating this whole situation. And I'm also concerned about being able to say things at school when you're angry, because when you're angry, you say things that you would not normally say. I'm really concerned that people are going to be suspended on the spot if they say something like "I hope something bad happens to you because I'm angry at you."

THE PRESIDENT: So how do you think we should deal with that?

STUDENT: I really think that people should be more careful of what they say and use -- like when they're angry, there are more positive ways of dealing with the anger than saying bad things to other people, or screaming. There are healthier ways to deal with your anger than just going out and threatening people because they're totally mad at them, or sitting there and brooding over it.

Like we said, there are counselors here, there are psychologists. If there is somebody people can talk to, to talk about what's making them angry and what's making them unhappy, I would think it's a lot easier. Because I, personally, have a family that I can talk to when I have stuff to complain about, and I find it much easier to deal with after I vent out some of that negative emotion, like when I talk to my dad about what's bothering me at school or what's the problem.

THE PRESIDENT: Good for you. Let me say, just generally, I don't think -- if all of you who have participated in this conflict resolution thing -- maybe you've seen enough of this in other students to know this -- but I can tell you from having lived a lot more years, this is a big problem later in life, too. Sometimes it's a bigger problem for men than for women because of the cultural sort of preconceptions of our society.

If you don't learn to talk about your feelings when you're young, and you don't have a constructive outlet for it, it just gets harder and harder and harder as you get older. And we're talking today about avoiding terrible tragedy. But we ought to talk just a minute about having a good life. You know, most people won't do anything really terrible and most people will have some sort of life, but if you want to have a good life you have to have some constructive outlet for your feelings.

And that's one thing that I really like about this whole way we're talking today. And I hope that it's something that will go out across the country and will change the way young people just live their lives. And I hope it's something you can take out of high school, because -- you'd be amazed how many people my age, in very responsible positions, still can't manage their anger because they never learned to have a constructive way to talk about it.

So this is not just -- I mean, I know we're here to talk about this school violence, and I don't want to get off the subject, but I think that this is a general problem of life. And you have said a very important thing. And I hope that all of you will remember this, that it's not just something for high school. And to avoid having bad things happen, learning to manage your anger and to actually share how you really feel about something, and get it behind you is one of the most important aspects of growing up. And you would be amazed how few people can really do it right.

STUDENT: My name's Kelly Catrone (phonetic), and I just want to say that I think we also need to take a look at how easy it was for these boys in Colorado to get these guns. And I know we already have a waiting period on how long you can get guns, or whatever, but I think we need to take some other action to make regulations on weapons and other guns, so that they don't fall into the hands of the wrong people, and this sort of thing doesn't happen again.

THE PRESIDENT: There is no other country in the world where it is so easy for people to get and misuse weapons. And we have a culture of having a right to own weapons, and a right to use them, and a big hunting culture -- and I grew up in it, participated in it, and enjoyed it very much.

But I have -- every little thing I've tried to do, from the passing of the Brady Bill to the passing of the assault weapons ban, all these things have met with violent opposition, as if I were trying to destroy the American way of life. And all I'm trying to do

is keep more people alive.

And so I think that we need -- we don't have, really, time to talk about this, because I want all of you to talk, but this will be a part of what we are trying to do, to strike a better, proper balance between making it harder for people who are violent to get guns and misuse them, without interfering with the constructive role that it plays in our society.

MS. HARMON: I was just going to say, we're running a little short on time. Maybe we could take a few more questions. It's up to you.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

STUDENT: We are one of the most free countries in the world. Like, we have more freedoms, more rights than almost any place else in the world. And the easy answer in the wake of a dilemma like this is restriction of those rights, take some of them away -- high school kids, make them wear uniforms, make them have clear backpacks.

We have to be careful that we ensure people's security without running high school like a prison system. We have to find a way where we can ensure people's safety without at the same time treating young people like second-class citizens. And I'm really worried that in the wake of a disaster like this, then the first thing people are going to say is, oh, they're kids, they're rights don't matter, you can just take them away -- take away their freedom of speech, take away their freedom to be a person. And I just hope that that doesn't happen.

THE PRESIDENT: First, I think that's a point well taken. You mentioned school uniforms -- let me tell you the position I took on that. I spent some time in Long Beach, California, which is the third biggest school district in California, which means it's huge. And it's the biggest school district that early introduced the school uniform policy -- not applied to high schoolers, for obvious reasons. But they did it in part because when the junior high schoolers had uniforms -- which were basically just two-color outfits they wore every day -- it distinguished them from the gangs, which created a safety problem. And it made all the kids safe.

But they found, interestingly enough, that kids from upper-income as well as lower-income families did better in those very troubling years where you're moving right into your teenage years. And it lowered dropouts, it increased attendance, it reduced discipline problems. It worked fine. What we tried to do was to say if the community decided they wanted to do it, then we would help them. And we've seen it happen a lot.

Now, my only question in this regard, in the order question you asked -- and, again, I think it's very important that we not rust to judgment in Littleton. Those people are still grieving;

they are still heartbroken. We do not have the facts there. It is very important that none of us make judgments about that now. But we can make judgments about how we want all schools to run.

But one of the things that struck me there was this whole black trenchcoat deal, and whether or not -- if the hotline, if they'd had a hotline, and whether or not you had this kind of stuff there -- whether the school administrators should have been able to say, we're not going to have a school uniform policy, but we'll have a non-provocative dress code policy. Is that too much of an infringement on individual liberty?

We can't answer that question. You've raised a good question. But let me just give you the other side of it. And you have to decide, in every case, whether it's an infringement on liberty or it's like going through a metal detector at an airport. I don't know how many times, before I became President, I was just traveling around like all the rest of us, how many times I went through a metal detector at an airport, and I set it off because of my belt buckle, or the money clip in my pants, or whatever, so I had to turn around, take it all out, go back in, blah blah blah. Well, when all this started, people said, well, is this going to be an infringement on our liberty, right? And then people saw planes hijacked and blown up, and they said, please infringe my liberty a little bit -- (laughter) -- so that no one felt -- I say, nearly no one felt that it was an undue infringement on our liberty.

I'll give you another maybe what you think is a harder case, motorcycle helmet laws. You'll say, I ought to have a right to split my head open if I want. But that's not entirely true, because if I hit you and you split your head open, and you wouldn't have if you'd had your helmet on, then I and society are supporting you, in a way.

So these questions -- I am glad you made the point, but the point needs to be debated against the larger, the other large issue of individual freedom versus heading this stuff off. That's all I'm asking. And you might keep little models in your head about the importance of free speech, see, on the one hand, and the airport metal detector on the other, and then whenever somebody comes up with a specific, argue it within that framework.

STUDENT: My name is Lauren Losanto (phonetic), and, Mr. President, your wife, Mrs. Clinton, knows what she's talking

about. It takes a whole village to raise people. And if we all -- as a community, and a nation, and everything in a world -- if everyone just looks out for everyone else's kids, including their own, good things are going to happen. And Mrs. Clinton just knows what she's talking about, I think.

THE PRESIDENT: I agree with that. Thank you.
(Laughter.) I think that's very important, that -- one of you asked

me what I was going to do. I think that the import of what everybody said, all of you said today, is that we all have responsibilities here. And that all these children are our children, and we all have responsibility.

Who's next?

MS. HARMON: I'm sorry to have to say this, but the afternoon is drawing to a close here, students do have to move on. And we're delighted --

THE PRESIDENT: You guys have got to get on the buses, right?

MS. HARMON: Yes, coming up anyhow. We're very happy that all the students could participate today, and we're so glad that you shared your thoughts in the candid way that you did. So thank you very much. And especially thank you to President Clinton for coming here and sharing, and listening to us as well. We're delighted to have you here.

THE PRESIDENT: Let me just say this -- I know we've got to sign off. First, you were terrific, and I thank you. I thank you for being honest. I thank you for being forthright. Second, in the next few days, as the agony of the grief fades in Colorado, and as the facts tend to come out more, I think -- I'm speaking not only to those of you who are here in this room, but the millions of children all across our country who are listening, and the teachers, and the educators -- we are going to be working hard on this. And anyone who has more ideas for us needs to feel free to send them to us at the White House, and send them to the Secretary of Education.

We are working to reach out to the country. We want to do what we can to create more environments like this one, and to do everything we can to minimize the chance that anything like this will happen again. And we want to, in the process, reassure the children and the parents of America that overwhelmingly our schools are good, safe places.

Thank you. (Applause.)

END

1:48 P.M. EDT

Message Sent To: _____



Maya.Seiden@hq.doe.gov
04/22/99 10:52:00 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Sean P. O'Shea/WHO/EOP, Kris M Balderston/WHO/EOP
cc:
Subject: Columbine High

Robert (Bob) Curnow, a contractor at DOE's Western Area Power Administration, is the father of Steven Curnow, a freshman at Columbine High School, who died yesterday. Mr. Curnow's is a single parent. No siblings mentioned. No mother's name provided. Mr. Curnow's home phone number is 303-948-3494.

There are five other Western Area Power Administration employees whose children attend Columbine H.S. and were at school on Tuesday. (No ages provided nor addresses; home phone numbers are listed below.) All escaped unharmed.

Iris Tyacke
Brittany, daughter
303-973-6987

Elaine Watson
Jessica, daughter
303-979-6254

Chuck Marquez
Chaz, son, and Katlyn, daughter
303-979-6037

Betty Nelson
Catherine, daughter
303-973-2350

Gary Burton
Penny, daughter
303-933-3075

Patrick Etchart, an employee at DOE's Rocky Flats facility, is the spouse of a teacher at Columbine H.S. Mrs. Etchart was at work on Tuesday, but she is OK.
His office number is 303-966-7547.

We have asked all three Colorado office to notify us if they hear of any other

families affected by the shooting. We will pass that information along to you.



Sean P. O'Shea

04/22/99 10:25:36 AM



Record Type: Record

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

cc:

Subject: UPDATE ON AGENCY EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF COLUMBINE SCHOOL SHOOTING



April 22, 1999
As of: 10:10am

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

FROM: KRIS BALDERSTON
SEAN P. O'SHEA

SUBJECT: Columbine School Shooting - Agency Efforts - UPDATES

The Department of Justice

The Attorney General arrived in Denver, Colorado last night. This morning she will get briefed by the Jefferson County Sheriffs' office, the District Attorney, and ATF and FBI agents involved in the Littleton incident. At 10:00am (Mountain Time), she will attend and speak at a community meeting at the "Light of the World" Catholic church. Additionally, she will meet with 15-20 victims' advocates who are working with family members and children to provide moral support. The AG will also meet with the Superintendent of Schools and the Principal of Columbine during the afternoon as well as those ATF agents who continue to assist in bomb sweeps in conjunction with local law enforcement officials. The AG will then have a Media Availability in the evening (Time TBD) before her departure at 6:30pm (Mountain Time).

Justice noted that they had approximately \$750,000 in immediate support through their Victims of Crime grants (more details are forthcoming; DOJ is working with DPC on this issue).

The Department of Education

DOEd reiterated the fact that federal counselors have still not been requested as local officials report their counselors have the incident under control locally. Money is being allocated to help assist in funding local counselors for the long run. 100,000 more copies of DOEd's Early Warning Guide (found at www.ed.gov) have been printed and are being distributed nationally.

The Department of Treasury

ATF officials continue to assist in the local law enforcement investigation along with bomb sweeps. It is believed that witnesses may be interviewed as early as today.

The Department of Health and Human Services

HHS reiterates that federal assistance, in the form of crisis counselors, has not been requested and they do not anticipate such a request for the short term effort. Fact sheets are being provided to the local mental health officials for their use.

Message Sent To:

Lynn G. Cutler/WHO/EOP@EOP
Barry J. Toiv/WHO/EOP@EOP
Joseph P. Lockhart/WHO/EOP@EOP
John Podesta/WHO/EOP@EOP
Douglas B. Sosnik/WHO/EOP@EOP
Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP@EOP
Jose Cerda III/OPD/EOP@EOP
Jennifer M. Palmieri/WHO/EOP@EOP
Stacie Spector/WHO/EOP@EOP
Mickey Ibarra/WHO/EOP@EOP
Maria Echaveste/WHO/EOP@EOP
Sara M. Latham/WHO/EOP@EOP
Lawrence J. Stein/WHO/EOP@EOP
Marjorie Tarmey/WHO/EOP@EOP
Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP@EOP
Janet Murguia/WHO/EOP@EOP
Laura A. Graham/WHO/EOP@EOP
Ron Klain/OVP@OVP
Monica M. Dixon/OVP@OVP
Trooper Sanders/OVP@OVP
Karen Tramontano/WHO/EOP@EOP
Fred DuVal/WHO/EOP@EOP
Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP@EOP
Katharine Button/WHO/EOP@EOP
Heather M. Riley/WHO/EOP@EOP
William H. White Jr./WHO/EOP@EOP
Elizabeth R. Newman/WHO/EOP@EOP
Julia M. Payne/WHO/EOP@EOP
Leslie_Thornton@ed.gov
ann.harkins@usdoj.gov
james.johnson@do.treas.gov
bill_modzeleski@ed.gov
esummy@os.dhhs.gov
Jane.bullock@fema.gov @ inet
Ben_Tucker@ed.gov
Kris M Balderston/WHO/EOP@EOP
Thurgood Marshall Jr/WHO/EOP@EOP



SUNTUM_M@A1
04/21/99 03:36:00 PM

Record Type: Record

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

cc:

Subject: Lockhart briefing

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 21, 1999

PRESS BRIEFING BY
JOE LOCKHART

The Briefing Room

1:40 P.M. EDT

MR. LOCKHART: Let me take a couple of minutes at the top here to bring you up to date. I think as the President said this morning in reflecting some of his personal feelings about what the people of Littleton are going through, and also as far as from a federal government -- the support that we stand ready to offer, let me just go through a little bit of that.

As I said this morning, Secretary Riley has been in contact with the Jefferson County School Superintendent this morning to offer any assistance to the community, specifically the Secretary outlined our joint efforts, our interagency efforts between Education, Justice, Health and Human Services, to provide crisis counselors in particular and any other assistance that might be needed.

Additionally, Secretary Riley provided local officials with contact names and numbers for those officials seeking federal assistance throughout our government. They talked to a number of people nationwide who are expert on this, soliciting their help and have had a very good response.

Specifically, the Department of Education is working on offering the identifications of persons who can provide crisis

counseling assistance and payment to get those persons to Colorado; identification of persons who have experienced similar tragedies to provide hands-on help in the days immediately following this incident. Again, we can offer some assistance in paying for those people to travel and some assistance while they're there.

Identifications of persons who can help the school district plan for long-term recovery efforts, which the Department of Education is currently working on in the cases of Springfield, Oregon. Again, DOE can offer some assistance and financial assistance on that front.

Finally, identification of security experts. Often, in such a shooting or in such an incident like this, a school district will want to do a thorough security review of school safety plans, policies, et cetera. Again, the Department of Education stands ready to offer help on that front.

As far as at the Department of Treasury, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms provided 13 ATF investigators on the scene, in addition to two canine handlers and two explosive experts. ATF was asked by the county sheriff to assist in clearing the scene of explosive devices, and that was done with the help of ATF. Seven destructive devices were found in the trunk of one of the suspect's vehicles, and 12 small devices were found outside the school. ATF's crime scene mapping system has also been requested by the county sheriff.

ATF will also be involved in tracing firearms,

described as two sawed-off shotguns, one handgun and one carbine. In addition, ATF will help canvass explosive licenses in an effort to determine who purchased the explosives related to the incident. ATF will also send a peer support team, including two chaplains to provide services to victims, witnesses and investigators.

The Department of Justice, along with ATF, the FBI, agents are on the ground providing technical assistance to local law enforcement officials. They are not active in the investigation as it's considered a local effort at this point. Additionally, these agents may be able to provide assistance for added security to local hospitals as necessary.

FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the FEMA State Director is in touch with local officials to assess needs in dealing with the ongoing community relation initiatives. FEMA officials involved in the Jonesboro incident have been put in contact with the county sheriff in Littleton. These FEMA personnel will provide guidance and expertise as necessary to those in Littleton. Two FEMA public affairs officials will travel to Colorado to work with state and county officials.

And as far as the Department of Health and Human

Services, the HHS Center for Mental Health Services has contacted the Colorado State Mental Health Director to offer assistance with crisis counseling, if requested. In addition, the Surgeon General and his office stands ready to provide assistance if necessary.

Q Why doesn't the President condemn these guns? I know his attitude and so forth. But shouldn't he say again what it is to have such a proliferation of firearms in this country?

MR. LOCKHART: Well, I think the President has spoken very clearly in the past and will continue to about what we've already done to reduce the pervasiveness of guns, particularly with children, and what we need to continue to do.

I think in this particular case there's a lot we don't know, and I think there's a premium on not jumping to conclusions and not drawing conclusions from the facts that we do know. But there are a number of initiatives that are currently being put forward by the administration -- that we will have an omnibus crime bill that will include some of the things that we've

But for instance, the President has pushed for the Brady law extension. And let me emphasize that it's unclear that any of these would relate directly to the incident that we're going through now, but the Brady law extension would provide a three-day waiting period for handguns, which had lapsed last year.

The upcoming crime-related measures will eliminate the gun show exemption for the Brady law, which the President has talked about, a provision for a child to access -- holding adults criminally responsible for allowing easy access to guns, requiring gun dealers to provide a safety lock with every gun, a lifetime ban on possession for juveniles who commit violent crimes, and in our budget, there's more funds for ATF agents, more federal prosecutors and for more cities to do gun tracing.

Again, there may be further ideas we can look at as we move forward, and it's not completely clear based on the set of facts we have that any of this relates directly. But I think it's important that we continue to build on the initiatives that the President's talked about for the last six years.

Q Where are we at with a possible presidential visit to Littleton? And also, are the grief counselors that have been

discussed, are they federal grief counselors? Where do they come from and --

MR. LOCKHART: As Denver is one of the regional federal cities where there are regional offices for the federal government, we have a number of assets in that city who are federal employees.

And, in fact, the Department of Education, when we talked to them yesterday, remarked that some of the best people they have who specialize in crisis counseling are based in Denver.

Q These are federal grief counselors?

MR. LOCKHART: Yes. Well, they certainly -- they are people who work in recruiting people who can come in and do crisis counseling who are government experts. These are not federal people who spend --

Q The federal government is going to coordinate -- they're not federal.

MR. LOCKHART: Correct, yes.

Q And what about a trip?

MR. LOCKHART: I don't have any information on any travel. I think the President is obviously deeply concerned and shocked by the incident, as he expressed to you both last night and today, and if we find an appropriate way to go and help in the process that's ongoing there in a way that's not intrusive to the vast efforts that will have to transpire over the next few days, we'll try to do that.

Q Joe, the shooting seemed to have a lot of overtones of racism, and that area had problems with racism before -- not the school, perhaps, but problems of racism before. You're talking about dispatching a lot of federal efforts and agencies to this area. You haven't said anything about the new race office here at the White House to go help and to --

MR. LOCKHART: I think, again, let me just emphasize that we need to be careful about drawing any conclusions based on the incomplete information we have. And what we have now is incomplete information. As the information becomes more complete, if there is a federal asset that can be brought to bear to help the situation, to help in the situation, to help in the rebuilding effort that will need to be done there, both on a personal level with the families, communities and the school, we will do that.

Q There are eyewitnesses saying that people were shot because either they were jocks or because they were black or --

MR. LOCKHART: Let me just say that we are certainly aware of those reports, of those eyewitnesses' accounts. And if there are federal resources that can be brought to bear here, that can be positively contributed, we will certainly do that. But I don't, based on an incomplete picture of what transpired here, don't want to draw too many conclusions at this point.

Q Last night the President spoke of the danger of this year becoming another kind of wave of crimes, as there was

-- what can the President do, including a trip there, that would perhaps mitigate the possibility this would become a wave of additional school violence?

MR. LOCKHART: I think we've done, from the federal government's point of view, a lot on this effort, as far as trying to raise awareness about looking at the causes and looking at the availability of firearms for this kind of tragedy to happen.

But as the President said, we can never do enough. We always need to remain vigilant and talk to schools, talk to school administrators, talk to parents and have parents talk to their children. Again, we can't draw any conclusions at this point on the circumstances that led to this case. I think it would be counterproductive to try to understand, based on the limited information we have, as to why this has happened.

But I think the President is committed to continue the dialogue and the discussions we've had, and to continue to keep working hard at making sure that we're doing everything we can.

Q Would you discourage us from thinking that the President might be able to travel at anytime within the next 48 hours or before the NATO Summit?

MR. LOCKHART: Well, I think, as we always do, we'll provide you with the best information we can about his travel when those decisions have been made.

Q Joe, there is a lot of talk that television violence and particularly interactive games that are popular with young boys play a role in teen violence. Is the President looking at anything in that area?

MR. LOCKHART: I think, obviously, that's an area that has been discussed widely over the last few years and it's something that we're going to have to take a hard look at. Again, I can't -- I'm reluctant to draw any conclusions today based on the limited information we have, but it's a policy area that has gotten a lot of attention, both here in Washington and by experts around the country. I think if you go back and you look, there have been discussions in the past about this, and the First Lady has talked about this and the importance of reaching children and the importance of looking at the effect of things like interactive games and video games. And I think it's clearly something that deserves a look. But, again, I don't want to draw a straight line between that issue and the tragedy of yesterday, with the information we have.

Q Joe, to follow on that, the President spoke today about the need for parents to shield their children from violent images. Could you elaborate a little bit on what he might have been referring to today? Is it movies, is it videos, is it television shows? And, secondly, is that at all at odds with his close relationship that he has enjoyed with Hollywood?

MR. LOCKHART: Well, I think the President has spoken for those of you have followed him for the last five or six years about the importance of parents being involved with their children, talking to them, making sure that they know what they're watching, how they're reacting to it. That hasn't changed. And I don't see a connection between any relationship he has or may not have with someone in Hollywood.

He, I think, has spoken quite passionately on this subject. And it's, as he said here last night, it's something that we can never stop, we can never rest and say, okay, we've done enough here, because despite schools statistically and in relation to other places being a safe place, and despite all the work local communities have done, parents have done, the federal government has done to work on these problems, that there are limits and we should never be in the case where we think we've done enough -- because we can never do enough.

Q Joe, on that point, there are two different things you can do. One is to declare certain things illegal. Obviously, what they did yesterday was already illegal. The other thing that you seem to be talking about is a bully pulpit sort of function, to encourage people, the parents to talk to their kids, and school administrators to work with children who may be troubled and that sort of thing. To what extent does the White House look at this as a problem that requires legislation?

MR. LOCKHART: Well, I think you can look at part of this issue as something -- you know, the President has had strong views, strong legislative proposals, many of the provisions of which have been enacted and some that haven't, on juvenile justice and on assault weapons -- the assault weapons bans, the Brady Bill, which have had very positive results, I think, for our country. So this is a mix. There are legislative remedies we should never stop looking to see. We're doing everything we can.

But there is also, as you describe it, a bully pulpit function. I think the President has a unique role in bringing Americans together and in raising issues. And I think this is an issue that has consumed a significant amount of his time as far as trying to raise this issue. You will remember some months ago we had the White House Conference on School Safety where we brought experts from around the country together. And out of that, there were a number of efforts to provide communities with additional resources to address this, to provide them with an early warning system guide to address these issues. So I think it's a mixture of both things.

Q One thing you could say as you look back at all this is that you took action. On these other things, you've come up with ideas, people have talked about doing all of the things that you're now talking about doing, and still it doesn't prevent these things. Is there something that you see that you need do to that you haven't already done?

MR. LOCKHART: Again, I don't think we ever want to be in the position where we close ourselves off to ideas, to say we can't do more and we shouldn't do more. We have done -- I think the federal government has taken a lead role on this, working with state and local communities. There obviously are some limits, though, and I think we need to recognize that there's limits to what we need to do. But I think we shouldn't lose that it's hard to calculate or measure, with all the preventative work we've done, what we've prevented -- because we often can only focus on what we did not prevent or what we cannot prevent.

But I think what the President tried to communicate, both last night and today, is despite everything we've done, last night -- or yesterday -- tells us that we need to keep constantly looking at this and seeing if there is more we can do.

Q Well, Joe, all the communication that's gone back and forth between the administration and the local community, is there any sense, do you have an assessment of how well your previous efforts worked there? In other words, did Littleton get the handbook, did they use the handbook? Did they do any of the things that you have suggested --

MR. LOCKHART: I think the handbooks were distributed to schools throughout the nation.

Q Right, but I mean Littleton, specifically.

MR. LOCKHART: Right. We have not yet gotten into that level of conversation. I think there's some more immediate needs that the administrators there, the police force, have been dealing with. We will continue to deal with them on their most immediate needs and then there will be time, as we know more, to look at the issues that went into this, what led up to this. And it's an issue, at this point, that we don't know.

Q On a more general level, has there been any attempt since the White House conference and the handbooks have been distributed, to actually assess whether they've done more than just land on some principal's desk?

MR. LOCKHART: Let me leave it to -- I'm going to leave it to Secretary Riley to address that. I know he's been available and talking to people today. But I know from talking to them that this wasn't a situation where they just handed, you know, sent out a book and said, okay, you're on your own. There are ongoing efforts.

We have -- out of the conference, the President made several announcements. One is on hiring more, through the COPS program, hiring more school security officers. That has moved down the line. We are ready to make the grants on that. And also something like \$380 million in grants for school districts, for



Leslie_Thornton@ed.gov
04/21/99 12:10:00 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Kris M Balderston@EOP
cc:
Subject: FW: Update

Kris --

FYI

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Modzeleski, Bill
> Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 1999 12:42 PM
> To: Johnson, Judith; Thornton, Leslie; Rogers, Diane; Sullivan, Kevin;
> Frank, David; Green, Julie; Cohen, Mike
> Cc: Rudy, Deborah; Gillespie, Charlotte; Strizzi, Sara; Small, Meg;
> Modzeleski, Bill
> Subject: Update

>
> Let me update you on a couple of conversations I had re. the shooting:

>
> 1. Bruce Reed called (along with a cast of others in his office, e.g.,
> Jose Cerda, Lynn Culter) to make sure we take a close look at the SDFS
> proposal to ensure we have something in it that addresses what happened
> yesterday. In addition to Project SERV there is the Gun Free Schools Act
> and the requirement that all schools receiving funds develop a Safe
> Schools Plan that has as a component a Crisis Response Plan. I have Deb
> Rudy pulling our reauthorization team together to see if there is anything
> that can be done. If you have suggestions please forward them to me or
> Deb.

>
> 2. Conversation with ED Ray: Ed is the head of school security in Denver.
> Here are a couple of points he made (he and his staff provided assistance
> to Jefferson County):

>
> --while Jefferson County is the largest school district in the State, they
> have a very small security operation. Columbine had one school security
> supervisor, this person was unarmed. Columbine also had a School Resource
> Officer, however, it is unclear whether the officer was on duty or the
> role of the officer in the crisis. Jefferson County Public Schools cover
> a host of different communities, there are 15 police departments providing
> services to various schools.

>
> --it appears that the guns the kids were carrying came from the home of
> one of the boys. One of the parents is some sort of gun collector. There
> is also some evidence that the bombs may have been made in one of the
> homes.

>

> --law enforcement officials feel that the kids DID give off signals that
> something traumatic was going to happen yesterday. These signs ranged
> from things they told other students to things they put on their web page.
>
> --the school / police department still have not finished going through the
> entire school. This is one of the largest crime scenes in the history of
> the State. Investigation needs to be complete before anyone comments on
> how the kids were killed...however, there is some indication that not all
> the shootings were random (and that some of the youth may have been
> outright executed). Again, confirmation of this needs to await word from
> the coroner.



OLCOTT_E@A1

04/21/99 12:01:00 PM

Record Type: Record

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

cc:

Subject: 1999-4/21 POTUS remarks at volunteer event

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 21, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
DURING VOLUNTEER EVENT

Presidential Hall
Old Executive Office Building

10:37 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. You know, Hillary and I look forward to this day so much every year. We want to thank you for what you do. We want to say to America we could not run the White House without you.

It happens that this day was scheduled on what has turned out to be a very sad day for America. And since, in my mind, you represent the best of American citizenship by what you do here every day as volunteers, I think it is important that we take a little time to ponder how we, as American citizens, should respond to what has occurred in Colorado.

First of all, I think it is important that we remember that we must come together and pray together, but also commit to act together. In Littleton, we saw and we continue to see horror and agony. We also see in that horror and agony the ties that bring us together as a national community -- the police officers rushing toward the sound of gunfire with bravery and professionalism, the students risking their own lives for their friends, the doctors and paramedics summoning all their skills under astonishing pressure, the parents and neighbors whose love and concern sustained their children through that last long night and who will be called upon to do much more in the days and weeks to come. We see, in a moment of agony, what is best in our community and in our country.

I have been particularly struck by the story of Mrs. Miller, the teacher who heard the gunfire and led dozens of students to safety in the choir room,

who worked to keep them calm and quiet for hours while students removed ceiling tiles to let in more air. Doubtless we will learn more stories of quick thinking and grace under pressure as the details unfold. All of us are struggling to understand exactly what happened, and why. There is a deep desire to comfort the grieving and counsel the children. We must also focus on what we are going to do.

In Littleton, agents from the ATF and the FBI already are on the ground, providing tactical assistance to local authorities. Highly trained crisis workers are ready to help people cope with their loss. Fortunately, one of the most outstanding centers in the nation for this sort of work is in Denver.

Perhaps the most important thing all of us can do right now is to reach out to each other and to families and their young children. It is very important to explain to children, all over America, what has happened, and to reassure our own children that they are safe.

We also have to take this moment, once again, to hammer home to all the children of America that violence is wrong. And parents should take this moment to ask what else they can do to shield our children from violent images and experiences that warp young perceptions and obscure the consequences of violence -- to show our children, by the power of our own example, how to resolve conflicts peacefully.

And as we learned at the White House Conference on School Safety, and as is reflected in the handbook that the Secretary of Education and the Attorney General sent to all of our schools, we must all do more to recognize and look for the early warning signals that deeply troubled young people send often before they explode into violence. Surely more of them can be saved and more innocent victims and tragedies can be avoided.

In the days ahead we will do all we can to see what else can be done. For now, when the school has apparently just been cleared of bombs, and not all the children who were slain have been carried out, I think it is important on this day that we continue to offer the people of Colorado, the people of Littleton, the families involved, the sure knowledge that all of America cares for them and is praying for them.

So I ask you to now join me in a moment of silent prayer for those who lost their lives, for those who were wounded, for their families and those who love them and care for their community.

(A moment of silence is observed.)

Amen.

Now let me say that on this sad day I also want America to know that I came here to be with you because, in many of the sad moments of this administration and many of the greatest moments of our happiness and achievements for the American people, the ability of the White House to connect to them rests solely in the hands of people who are not paid employees of the federal government. Most Americans still have utterly no idea how many hundreds

and hundreds of people volunteer at the White House, without which we could not do our jobs.

I got a note the other day from a person thanking me because the child of a friend of his had received a letter from the White House. And he said, I know you didn't sign that letter, but children expect to get their letters answered. That is just one example of things that would not happen, were it not for you. All over America, whenever someone comes up to me and tells me that they've had some contact from the White House that I know came because of a volunteer, I am once again grateful for what you do.

So I thank you for sharing this very profoundly sad moment with me, and with our country. But I also thank you for making it possible for us to do our work -- for the people of Littleton and the people of America. We are very, very grateful.

Thank you, and God bless you. (Applause.)

END

11:45 A.M. EDT

Message Sent To: _____



Leslie_Thornton@ed.gov

04/21/99 11:15:00 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Kris M Balderston@EOP

cc:

Subject: Update from Leslie

Kris --

RWR called Jane Hammond, the Jefferson County Public Schools around 8-9 Denver time this morning. She was busy meeting/counseling with students and parents, and was/is meeting with parents and students all day today. RWR talked to her assistant and relayed all the things we talked about -- what we're able to do -- that we can help with counselors/experts, pay for their services, pay for them to go there, etc. He expressed his concern, sympathy, and left our numbers, including Bill Modzeleski's name and number as our contact person.

RWR also did a number of brief interviews after his statement this morning, and we are putting out an official statement later today. We planned to do a press conference this afternoon but we were informed by Joe's shop that we should not.



Leslie_Thornton@ed.gov

04/21/99 09:08:00 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Kris M Balderston@EOP

cc:

Subject: FW: Follow Up to Shooting

Kris --

Per this morning's conference call.

Again, my e:mail is: Leslie_Thornton@ed.gov

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Modzeleski, Bill

> Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 1999 9:57 AM

> To: Thornton, Leslie

> Cc: Johnson, Judith; Rogers, Diane; Sullivan, Kevin; Green, Julie;

> Frank, David

> Subject: Follow Up to Shooting

>

> As a follow up to the shooting in Colorado we have made the following

> contacts:

>

> --William Molonoy, Chief State School Officer, Colorado: Judith Johnson

> called Mr. Molonoy and offered assistance of ED. Need follow up call.

>

> --Susan Goren, President, National Association of School Psychologists:

> Susan offered help of NASP in providing assistance to the school system.

>

> --Jenelle Kruger, Safe and Drug Free Schools Program Coordinator, Colorado

> State Education Agency: Offered assistance of SDFS Program.

>

> --Marleen Wong, Director of Mental Health, Los Angeles Public Schools:

> Marleen has been instrumental in helping various communities that have

> experienced crisis similar to Colorado. Marleen offered to help in this

> effort.

>

> --Kathryn Thurman, Director, Office for Victims of Crime, Department of

> Justice. OVC and SDFS have joint agreement with National Office for

> Victims of Crime to form crisis response teams and send those teams where

> they are needed. Kathryn has been working with community victim advocates

> and feels that the community is very well prepared to deal with this

> crisis. She doesn't know how well linked the school system is to the

> community.

>

> Actions for Today:

>

- > Primary focus will be to make contact with the superintendent of Jefferson
- > County schools and find out what assistance is needed. We can offer the
- > following:
 - >
 - > o Identification of persons who can provide crisis counseling assistance,
 - > and payment to get those persons to Colorado.
 - >
 - > o Identification of persons who have experienced similar tragedies to
 - > provide "hands on" help in days immediately following incident. We can pay
 - > for travel and per diem of these persons.
 - >
 - > o Identification of persons who can help school district plan long-term
 - > recovery plan. We are doing this with Springfield, Oregon and it is
 - > working extremely well. We can pay costs of getting person to Colorado and
 - > per diem expenses.
 - >
 - > o Identification of Security Experts. Often after such a shooting a school
 - > district wants to do a thorough review of its school safety plans,
 - > policies, etc. We can help identify a person(s) to conduct such a review
 - > and pay costs for getting person to Colorado.

Memorial Fund

United Way Healing Fund accounts set up at 1st bank, Norwest bank, Bank One, and Key bank.

United Way Donations Line (303) 433-8383

Public Vigil tonight (4/21) at 5:30 at Civic Center Park

Public Vigil tomorrow (4/22) at 10:00 at Light of the World Church (Bowles & Kipling)

* **Public Vigil Sunday (4/25) at 10:00 at Clement Park**

* **Community Memorial Service - May 2 at Coliseum at 2:00pm**

Governor Owens & former Governor Romer will attend service at Foothills Church, 6100 Devinney Way tonight at 7:00pm

Conflict Center # (303) 433-4983

Red Cross Hotline # (303) 722-7474

Swedish Medical Center Fax # (303) 788-6029

Jeffco Mental Health Trauma # (303) 425-0300

Grief Counselors # (303) 982-6990

Victim Outreach # (303) 202-2196

Columbine Ministry # (303) 433-9100

**Inverness Hotel offering rooms for out-of-town family (contact @ Inverness Terry Murphy)
Also Marriot, Alamo and Hertz for cars; MCI for calling cards; United & Frontier Airlines-tickets**

**Denver Health Hospital
Clinical Social Work Department
303-436-6000**

**Victims Services 2000
303-640-5176**

**Brandy Roadhouse Crisis Hotline
970-491-5744**

**Light of the World Catholic Church
Crisis Debriefing Sessions
Counseling 24 hours a day**

4:30 CALL

POTUS will give a departure statement before he leaves.

JUSTICE is giving \$1.5 M to direct compensation, funerals, uncovered medical expenses, counseling, additional personnel and overtime, additional victims counseling personnel, etc. Grantee is that part of the country and victims apply for allotment of the money.

Saturday's Radio Address will mainly focus on this event.

VP Will go out to one of the memorial services-(tentative).

May 2nd, there will be a memorial Service. At the County Coliseum at 2:00 PM.

Colorado educational Association is meeting at the Hyatt in Denver and the Cabinet Members.

JUSTICE:

800 people at the community meeting this morning. She finished the meeting with first responders at 4:45 PM. At 5:00 the AG's press conference will be live on CNN. There is a feeling of healing. There will be 150,000 more copies of the guide printed. The AG and Eric Holder will do morning shows unless the VP goes to Colorado. The Morning shows might be done from the White House Lawn to amplify the President's message. The Attorney General and the Deputy Attorney General should both try to do

Meet the Press for the Attorney General and face the Nation. Wolf Blitzer for Eric Holder. Secretary Riley is doing a Radio address in South Carolina. Has added a direct website button .. Justice is planning an EDUACTION HHS, NIJ-expert focus group on school safety and crime prevalence and risk factors and school and family community partnerships.

Alexis Herman and the Attorney General are out there.

EDUCATION:

They have been linking up various people from the outside with the school. Outside resources will probably be called up for assistance. Columbine can't close the school down and call it a year without really making an effort for a long-term healing process.

TREASURY:

Beth-ATF continues to trace the weapons that were recovered-CONFIDENTIAL. ATF has to contact every individual who had a part in the gun being supplied to the boys. Some of this has been leaked.

HHS:

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has resources available on the internet for the public. The Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) website is mentalhealth.org. There is a box to click on for "Emergency Services" which has a list of publications, links to FEMA and the Red Cross, etc, this is more for disaster victims. There is also a "School Violence Prevention" icon and site. This page provides information about the new CMHS school violence prevention initiative and is designed for potential grantees

and administrators. Two fact sheets have been added to the website: *After a Disaster: A Guide for Parents and Teachers* and *After a Disaster: What Teens Can Do*

FEMA:

4:30 CALL

POTUS will give a departure statement before he leaves.

JUSTICE is giving \$1.5 M to direct compensation, funerals, uncovered medical expenses, counseling, additional personnel and overtime, additional victims counseling personnel, etc. Grantee is that part of the country and victims apply for allotment of the money.

Saturday's Radio Address will mainly focus on this event.

VP Will go out to one of the memorial services-(tentative).

May 2nd, there will be a memorial Service. At the County Coliseum at 2:00 PM.

Colorado educational Association is meeting at the Hyatt in Denver and the Cabinet Members.

JUSTICE:

800 people at the community meeting this morning. She finished the meeting with first responders at 4:45 PM. At 5:00 the AG's press conference will be live on CNN. There is a feeling of healing. There will be 150,000 more copies of the guide printed. The AG and Eric Holder will do morning shows unless the VP goes to Colorado. The Morning shows might be done from the White House Lawn to amplify the President's message. The Attorney General and the Deputy Attorney General should bot try to do Meet tije Press for the Attorney General and face the Nation. Wolf Blitzer for Eric Holder. Secretary Riley is doing a Radio address in South Carolina. Has added a direct website button .. Justice is planning an EDUACTION HHS, NIJ-expert focus group on school safety and crime prevalance and risk factors and school and family community partnerships.

Alexis Herman and the Attorney General are out there.

EDUCATION:

They have been linking up various people from the outside with the school. Outside resources will probably be called up for assistance. Columbine can't close the school down and call it a year without really making an effort for a long-term healing process.

TREASURY:

Beth-ATF continues to trace the weapons that were recovered-CONFIDENTIAL. ATF has to contact every individual who had a part in the gun being supplied to the boys. Some of this has been leaked.

HHS:

Liz- The SAMSA SMHS Website has added disaster information. They are in a wait and see mode.

FEMA:



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Chief of Staff

Washington, D.C. 20201

MEMORANDUM TO CABINET AFFAIRS

From: Liz Summy
Subject: Columbine High School Shooting Update
Date: April 22, 1999

Departmental Developments

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) has resources available to the public on the internet. Center for Mental Health Services' (CMHS) website is mentalhealth.org. Click once on "About CMHS". There is a box to click on for "Emergency Services" which has our publication list, links to FEMA and the Red Cross, etc. This is more for disaster victims and mental health counselors. There is also an icon, "School Violence Prevention." Click on the icon to see what SAMHSA/CMHS is doing as a result of the school shootings from last year. This selection provides information about the new CMHS school violence prevention initiative and is designed more for potential grantees and administrators. Two fact sheets have been added to the website; After a Disaster: A Guide for Parents and Teachers and After a Disaster: What Teens Can Do.

Media Coverage

Today, at 4:30pm EST, (to run again April 27 at 10:00pm) MTV Special airs "Warning Signs," the first major piece of programming in "Fight for Your Rights: Take a Stand Against 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.



Department of Justice

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY.
NOT FOR RELEASE OR DISTRIBUTION

April 22, 1999
WWW.USDOJ.GOV

AG
(202) (202) 616-2777
TDD (202) 514-1888

Attorney General Reno To Visit Littleton, Colorado

WASHINGTON—Attorney General Janet Reno today will visit Littleton, Colorado. She will attend a community meeting at the Light of the World Catholic Church in Littleton and hold private meetings with law enforcement officials, victims service providers, school administrators and members of the Littleton community. Events at the Light of the World Catholic Church will be closed to the media.

Ms. Reno will then hold a private meeting with some of First Responders -- police officers, including SWAT team and bomb squad members, victims advocates and emergency medical personnel -- who participated in the immediate response to the crisis. Following the meeting, Ms. Reno will hold a brief media availability to answer questions from the press about her visit and the resources which the federal government is providing in the wake of the Columbine High School tragedy.

WHAT: Media Availability
WHO: Attorney General Janet Reno
WHERE: Jefferson County District Attorney's Office
500 Jefferson County Parkway
Golden, Colorado
WHEN: Thursday April 22, 1999
2:45 PM

The press availability will be open to all media.

This Information Is Provided For Planning Purpose Only and Is Not for Release or Distribution.

99-148

**ATF's Role in the Columbine High School
Shooting Incident
in Littleton, Colorado**

On April 20, 1999 at approximately 11:30 local time a shooting occurred at the Columbine High School. Numerous improvised explosive devices were also placed inside and outside the building. At the request of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, ATF has provided the following assistance into the investigation of this incident:

- Certified explosives specialists assisted in searching and clearing the building and parking lot. The preliminary clearance was completed at 1:30 a.m. local time.
- Explosives enforcement officers and canine units reentered the scene on Wednesday morning, April 21, 1999 for final clearance prior to turning the scene over to forensic teams.
- Two sawed-off shotguns, one handgun, and one carbine rifle were recovered and are being traced.
- The ATF examiners located the explosive devices and are examining the area, including the cars of the shooters.
- ATF's crime scene mapping system is being used to document the shooting and explosive scene.
- Thirteen investigators are on the scene to assist with the investigation.
- Two canine teams are searching the other high schools in the area that have received threats.
- Explosives licensees in the area are being canvased regarding purchases of explosives.
- A Peer Support Team, including two chaplains, are being sent to the scene to provide counseling to victims, witnesses and law enforcement personnel.



Sean P. O'Shea

04/22/99 09:12:00 AM



Record Type: Record

To: Kris M Balderston/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: FW: Update #2 on Colorado School Shooting-

----- Forwarded by Sean P. O'Shea/WHO/EOP on 04/22/99 09:12 AM -----



"Thornton, Leslie" <Leslie_Thornton@ed.gov>

04/22/99 09:10:35 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Sean P. O'Shea/WHO/EOP

cc: "Tucker, Ben" <Ben_Tucker@ed.gov>

Subject: FW: Update #2 on Colorado School Shooting-

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Modzeleski, Bill

> Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 1999 8:07 PM

> To: Thornton, Leslie; Sullivan, Kevin; Frank, David; Green, Julie;

> Malico, Melinda

> Subject: FW: Update #2 on Colorado School Shooting-

>

> FYI

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Beth Nelson [SMTP:BNelson@samhsa.gov]

> Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 1999 5:20 PM

> To: NChavez@samhsa.gov

> Cc: agnes.mravcak@fema.gov; charlie.robinson@fema.gov;

> denise.brown@fema.gov; AMathews@samhsa.gov; Barons@samhsa.gov;

> BNelson@samhsa.gov; CAustin@samhsa.gov; CBARNES@samhsa.gov;

> CCook@samhsa.gov; DClough@samhsa.gov; ELau@samhsa.gov; JAutry@samhsa.gov;

> MEnglish@samhsa.gov; MWeber@samhsa.gov; PRidley@samhsa.gov;

> SHassett@samhsa.gov; TBornema@samhsa.gov

> Subject: Update #2 on Colorado School Shooting-

>

- > Fred Acosta, State Mental Health Disaster Program Coordinator, was
- > appreciative of your suggestion that we be available for the State's 12
- > noon mtg via conference call. Brian Flynn and I participated; State and
- > local mental health agencies, law enforcement, emergency management,
- > education were represented. The meeting was chaired by the State Dept of
- > Mental Health. The two agenda items were
- > 1) coordination and plans for the immediate crisis response and
- > 2) discussion concerning the longer-term mental health need & response,
- > with concerns for resources and staffing. It is clear that the State and
- > local agencies are communicating and coordinating well with each other.
- > Fred Acosta said that his role included serving as liaison with all
- > Federal agencies with related mental health programs (Education, Justice &
- > SAMHSA) as well as liaison with all local community mental health centers.
- > The immediate mental health response is coordinated and going well - the
- > Light of the World Catholic Church, near the Columbine school, has offered
- > their large facilities for free as long as needed for the local mental
- > health centers to serve as a counseling center for the impacted community
- > residents. State/local mental health are seeking other sites for this
- > same purpose around the Denver area, as children, adults and others in the
- > general population in outlying areas are in need of counseling. Schools
- > around the larger area in many communities remain closed until the sheriff
- > deems that they are safe to be reopened. There are reports of children
- > and teenagers being afraid to return to school, as expected a ripple
- > effect is occurring. The State Mental Health agency will use the same
- > system for credentialing mental health crisis counselors as was
- > implemented for the Oklahoma City Trial, in response to the overwhelming
- > number of offers of assistance from mental health professionals. Crisis
- > counseling services are now being provided by State/local victim
- > assistance advocates, and other existing community mental health staff.
- > Working with the media was discussed and they will be developing
- > additional plans along those lines. Discussion of an 800 toll free
- > hotline is in progress, as youth and adults are beginning to call in to
- > the regular crisis intervention phone lines to discuss the shooting and
- > its traumatic effects. School and mental health officials from Kentucky,
- > Oregon, Oklahoma, Mississippi and Arkansas have offered their assistance
- > and lessons learned from their school shootings over the last year. Their
- > guess on needs assessment indicate preliminary numbers of 8,000 - 10,000
- > in need of direct crisis counseling services, as 2000 children attended
- > Columbine, which will be closed for some time. They expressed concern
- > that the victims assistance advocates and the mental health crisis
- > counseling workers will be soon experiencing fatigue, and they anticipate
- > developing a rotational schedule to avoid/ameliorate compassion fatigue
- > and burnout among the workers. Brian offered guidance and lessons learned
- > from Oklahoma City' Project Heartland. The State asked if I could travel
- > on-site to provide technical assistance and consultation without a FEMA
- > disaster declaration. I told them that was part of our mission, and we
- > had done so with the NY World Trade Center Bombing. The State expressed
- > their appreciation for the support and assistance offered by the many
- > Federal agencies.
- > Bernie, Thom, Brian and I participated in a 3pm conference call with
- > the HHS, FEMA, Education, (Justice not available) and the White House,
- > provided the above information to them, and am responding to a request by
- > HHS to send additional information as requested by them. I will provide
- > another update as events unfold, on a minimum of a daily basis.



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

1620 EYE STREET, NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
TELEPHONE (202) 293-7330
FAX (202) 293-2352



cc: Mone

OFFICE: (202) 293-7330
FAX: (202) 293-2352

TO: Kris Balderson
160

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

DATE: 4-21-99

FAX NO: 456-6220

TO: Micky Ibarra

FROM: Dave Gutter

DEPT: EXT NO:

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER): 13

COMMENTS: National Action Plan and Mayor participated in Turner's forum on Gun Violence in New Jersey.

Continued will be on Fox News, Brit Hume Tonight; interviewed w/ USA Today; National Public Radio; and have already appeared on MSNBC and the Hearst T.V. Stations. Please pass on Action Agenda to your Press Office at White House. Please notify sender if you do not receive complete transmission. (202) 293-7330.

We developed this action plan with the White House and Janet Reno and gave it to the President in the White House!!

**Participants in New Jersey Conference of Mayors
Panel Discussion on Gun Safety**

Mayor Marc Morial, New Orleans

Mayor Sharpe James, Newark

Mayor James Whelan, Atlantic City

Mr. Bryan Miller, Executive Director, Cease Fire NJ

Mr. David Kopel, Research Director of Independent Institute

J. Thomas Cochran, Executive Director, U.S. Conference of Mayors



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

Deedee Corradini, Mayor of Salt Lake City
President

Wellington E. Webb, Mayor of Denver
Vice President

H. Brent Coles, Mayor of Boise
Chair of the Advisory Board

J. Thomas Cochran
Executive Director



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

1620 EYE STREET, NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
TELEPHONE (202) 293-7330
FAX (202) 293-2352
TDD (202) 293-9445
URL: www.usmayors.org/uscm

President:
DEEDEE CORRADINI
Mayor of Salt Lake City

Vice President:
WELLINGTON K. WEBB
Mayor of Denver

Past Presidents:
JERRY E. ABRAMSON
Mayor of Louisville
VICTOR ASHT
Mayor of Knoxville
RICHARD M. DALEY
Mayor of Chicago
PAUL BELMKE
Mayor of Fort Wayne
JOSEPH P. KIPP, JR.
Mayor of Charleston, SC

Trustees:
DENNIS W. ARCHER
Mayor of Detroit
CHARLES E. BOA
Mayor of Rockford
NANCY M. CAMPAN
Mayor of West Palm Beach
SHARPE JAMES
Mayor of Newark, NJ
WINE JOHANNIS
Mayor of Lincoln
PATRICIA J. NORMAN
Mayor of Olympia
THOMAS M. MENINO
Mayor of Boston
MARC H. MORIEL
Mayor of New Orleans
RITA L. MULLINS
Mayor of Palm Beach
MEYER E. OBERNDORF
Mayor of Virginia Beach
JAMES P. PERRON
Mayor of Elkhart
M. STEVEN SATAGE
Mayor of Tulsa
DAVID W. SMITH
Mayor of Newark, CA

Advisory Board:
D. HARRY COLES, Chair
Mayor of Boise
SHARON SATLES BELTON
Mayor of Minneapolis
J. CHRISTIAN BOWEN
Mayor of Elizabeth
SARAH BOST
Mayor of Irvington
WILLIE L. BROWN, JR.
Mayor of San Francisco
SILA M. CALDERON
Mayor of San Juan
VINCENT A. CANTU, JR.
Mayor of Monticello
LEE H. CLANCEY
Mayor of Cedar Rapids
BRIAN DEERSOLE
Mayor of Tacoma
JOSEPH F. CANIM
Mayor of Bridgeport
JAMES A. CARMEL
Mayor of Memphis
JUDAN GOLDING
Mayor of San Diego
JEFF CRIFFIN
Mayor of Reno
MICHAEL A. CHIDO
Mayor of Dearborn
PATRICIA HENRY MAYS
Mayor of North Little Rock
WILLIAM A. JOHNSON, JR.
Mayor of Rochester, NY
JAN LAVERTY JONES
Mayor of Las Vegas
SCOTT L. KING
Mayor of Gary
RONALD KIVA
Mayor of Dallas
JIM MARSHALL
Mayor of Milton
CARL D. McCALLER
Mayor of Adelaide
PATRICK MCCROBT
Mayor of Charlotte
DAVID W. MOORE
Mayor of Beaumont
ARLENE J. MULLER
Mayor of Arlington Heights
DOUGLAS PALMER
Mayor of Trenton
DONALD L. MUSQUELLIC
Mayor of Akron
EDWARD KENDALL
Mayor of Philadelphia
MURT L. SMITH
Mayor of Baltimore
Executive Director:
J. THOMAS COCKMAN



Statement by
Deedee Corradini
Mayor of Salt Lake City
President
The U.S. Conference
of Mayors

On September 24, 1998 the nation's mayors sponsored an historic **National Summit on School Violence and Kids** from 2:00 to 8:00 pm in Salt Lake City. In an emergency response to the recent spree of school shootings, an unparalleled group of concerned leaders came together for the first time to draft a National Action Plan. Participants included almost 60 members of The U.S. Conference of Mayors Leadership, several mayors from communities which have recently experienced devastating school shootings, over 15 police chiefs, elected representatives from the National Education Association, American Federation of Teachers, and the National Parent/Teachers Association, students, top health, parks, recreation and arts officials, representatives from the entertainment industry and news media, and other national experts on youth violence.

Attorney General Janet Reno recognized the importance of this National Summit and came to Salt Lake City to hear from the mayors and other national leaders, and to participate in the drafting of the National Action Plan.

In addition to the recent school shootings, the National Summit highlighted alarming statistics regarding youth violence in America's cities—in our schools, in our neighborhoods and in our families:

- A survey of 16,000 students found that four percent had skipped school in the past 30 days because they were afraid for their own safety.
- An estimated one million children between the grades of 6 and 12 carried guns to school at some point in the last school year.
- The rate of firearm deaths among children under 13 is nearly 12 times higher in the U.S. than in 25 other industrialized nations combined.
- Almost 30 percent of all juvenile offenses are committed on school days, between the hours of 2:00 and 8:00 pm.
- Children watch an average of 28 hours of television each week, roughly twice the time they spend in school.
- Before age 18, the average child will have witnessed over 200,000 violent acts on television, including 16,000 murders.
- More than 60 percent of television programming contains violence.
- 76 percent of children's programming portrays violence in a humorous context.

Prior to the National Summit, a call went out to all mayors requesting best practices on preventing school violence. The response was immediate and overwhelming. After meeting with local police and community leaders, over 125 mayors submitted in excess of 220 best practices. The resulting report, entitled *Preventing School Violence: Best Practices of Mayors in Collaboration with the Police, Schools, and the Community*, was developed with support from the COPS Office at the U.S. Department of Justice and released at the National Summit by the Conference of Mayors Best Practices Center.

During the Salt Lake City meeting, participants worked to develop our *National Action Plan on School Violence and Kids from 2:00 to 8:00 pm* which covers four critical areas: School Violence; Kids from 2:00 to 8:00 pm; Youth Violence and the News Media; and Youth Violence and the Entertainment Industry. The National Action Plan includes a call for:

- 100,000 new school counselors, modeled on the successful COPS program — a suggestion which was strongly supported by Attorney General Reno;
- The formation of joint task forces of mayors with both entertainment industry and news media executives to address the proliferation of violence presented to our children;
- A boycott against products whose commercials fund violent TV programs;
- A comprehensive effort to reduce youth-related gun violence, including "one gun a month" limitations, personalization of guns, and increased gun-owner responsibility;
- School uniforms as an effective means of promoting discipline and safer schools;
- School systems to keep school facilities open before school, after school and on weekends to offer meaningful and safe programs for youth;
- Increased after-school, summer job and school-to-career opportunities for youth;
- Alternative schools for dropouts and others not able to learn in a typical school setting;
- An all-out effort to reduce school truancy and provide a safe environment in schools;
- Greater involvement of arts, music, parks and recreation officials in delivering youth services; and
- Arts, music, physical fitness and sports programs as part of the school curriculum for all students.

On October 15, it was my honor to present this National Action Plan and the Best Practices report to President Clinton, Vice President Gore, Mrs. Clinton and a variety of distinguished participants in the White House Conference on School Safety. The National Action Plan was extremely well received by the President, who commended its comprehensive approach and credited the mayors' call for increased school counselors and the need to put arts, music, physical fitness and sports programs back in schools as a part of the curricula. The President also praised the Best Practices report as an important resource for mayors and others to learn what is already working in cities across the nation.

Following the White House Conference, participants in our National Summit in Salt Lake City were provided with an additional opportunity to refine the document, and it is my pleasure to present our final *National Action Plan on School Violence and Kids from 2:00 to 8:00 pm*.

Our objective now is to actively pursue the implementation of the proposals contained in the document. Many of the action items can be implemented by mayors working within their own cities, but others require a partnership with the states, the federal government, the private sector and non-profit entities. The nation's mayors are committed to the work before us, and look to you for your assistance in moving this critical national agenda forward.

INDEX

School Violence	Page 1
Kids from 2:00 to 8:00 pm	Page 3
Youth Violence and the News Media	Page 5
Youth Violence and the Entertainment Industry	Page 6

SCHOOL VIOLENCE

A nationwide survey found that 7.4 percent of all students reported being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property one or more times during a 12 month period. Another study recently found that one in twenty high school students carried a gun in a one month period. In addition, 59 percent of children surveyed in another study said that they could get a gun if they wanted, and 35 percent said it would take less than one hour to acquire the firearm.

- Key indicators of youth violence must be recognized including: 1) substance abuse; 2) failure in school/truancy; 3) anti-social behavior; 4) negative peer associations; 5) environmental indicators such as access to weapons, concentrated poverty, and lack of safe supervised areas for play; and 6) dysfunctional families.
- 100,000 school counselors are needed, modeled on the successful COPS program.
- School uniforms should be worn by all students to promote discipline and help equalize students from all socio-economic backgrounds, in order to enhance learning and make schools safer.
- Later starting times at schools are needed in light of the latest studies on children's learning patterns, and class days should be extended to help reduce after-school youth crime and violence, promote academic achievement and assure healthy development.
- School campuses should be closed and lunch required on school premises to reduce crime and violence during school hours.
- A comprehensive effort to reduce youth-related gun violence is needed including passage of "one gun a month" legislation, elimination of the federal gun show loophole to cut sales of weapons to youth, support for the personalization of guns, and a requirement that gun owners be held criminally liable for children who gain access to improperly stored guns.
- Weapons/Crisis hotlines should be available for students to report knowledge of other students carrying weapons, as well as students who make threats of violence or talk about suicide.
- Metal detectors help reduce school violence and should be made available to schools that need them.
- Students who bring weapons to school should be held for 72 hours for psychological evaluation. Mental fitness and low self-esteem in youth must be addressed. Troubled kids must receive early assessment, and courts, prosecutors and community groups need to be involved in this effort.
- Police officers in and around schools help reduce violence and provide role models. Police presence in schools should vary - DARE works best in elementary schools; police officers are more often needed in high schools. Police must be allowed to conduct random searches of lockers and backpacks as a preventive effort to reduce violence.
- All violent criminal acts on school property must be reported to the police immediately by school officials.
- Violent juvenile felony offenders should be prosecuted as adults so that they understand and are held accountable for the consequences of their actions.
- Confidentiality must be eliminated for juveniles who commit violent felonies so that their records can be transferred to the adult criminal justice system and made available to school systems.

- Parental involvement is essential for safe schools. Parents must be encouraged to volunteer in schools and employers must create family-friendly workplaces to allow for increased parental involvement. In addition, parenting skills training and other support must be provided where needed. Parents must also be held responsible for students who continually violate school rules. Child support orders must also be enforced.
- Truancy laws must be enforced and used as a mechanism to help identify problems faced by some young people. Parents should be contacted in the morning, not the evening, if a child is absent and be held responsible for truancy. Police and truancy officers should make house calls for kids continually absent from school, and can even wake up kids in the morning to help get them to school.
- Domestic violence must be addressed to interrupt the cycle of violence. Independent living options are needed for some 16 and 17 year-olds to get them out of abusive or dangerous home situations.
- 100,000 new teachers are needed to reduce class size, which will lead to safer learning environments. In addition, school modernization (facilities, technology, recreational alternatives) must be implemented to ensure safe school environments.
- Teachers must be trained to be effective classroom managers, strict disciplinary codes in schools must be fairly enforced, community-based disciplinary oversight committees are needed, and lower level disciplinary problems must have early intervention.
- Conflict resolution and anger management must be taught in schools, utilizing programs that have proven to be effective, and beginning as early as kindergarten. School systems should explore the idea of instituting full-day kindergarten beginning no later than age five, in order to accommodate this expanded curriculum. Every teacher and police officer should have training in conflict resolution.
- Alternative schools must be available for dropouts, students who are suspended or expelled, and others not able to learn in a typical school setting. Community service must be required for kids who are disruptive in school. In addition, in-school facilities must be available for disruptive students.
- Good kids must also be given attention and provided rewards which encourage connectedness to the school and community. Discipline should focus on positive behaviors. Youth and cultural diversity forums should be held to hear from kids and generate new ideas for reducing school violence. Mentoring and positive role modeling programs are needed in the schools.
- Assets models should be utilized to identify the resources kids need to possess in order to grow and make good life decisions, and to help identify at-risk kids and develop strategies for them. At-risk neighborhood programs that allow residents to identify the need for prenatal care and make parents aware of other available services are showing impressive results and should be supported.
- Zero drug and alcohol tolerance must be enforced at every school. Critical substance abuse treatment and other support services should be provided to students found to be in need.

KIDS FROM 2:00 TO 8:00 PM

There are more than 28 million children in urban, suburban and rural areas whose parents work outside the home, primarily due to economic necessity. At least five million of these children are "latchkey kids" who come home to an empty house every day after school. Almost 30 percent of all juvenile offenses are committed on school days, between the hours of 2:00 and 8:00 pm.

- Mayors, city councils and school boards must meet to work on the joint use of public facilities for youth programs before school, after school and on weekends.
- School systems must open school facilities for after-school programs in such areas as continued learning, physical education, arts, music and recreation. Park service personnel, as well as community volunteers, can help run the programs if schools stay open. Solutions must be found to address funding and insurance issues that limit the use of schools.
- Transportation to after-school programs outside of the school system should be provided by school systems.
- Before-school programs are needed for the children of parents who must be at work, especially if school start times are to be made later in the morning.
- Safe weekend and summertime programs are needed, especially for latchkey kids.
- Communities of faith and community-based organizations should be encouraged to provide youth activity centers before school, after school and on weekends.
- Volunteer involvement is critical to the success of before-school, after-school and weekend programs. Cities should create volunteer campaigns that focus on recruiting, training and supporting volunteers who participate in youth programs.
- Hungry children must be fed in before- and after-school programs.
- Youth services hotlines are needed to provide parents and kids one-stop-shopping information on all services provided by agencies and community organizations in a city. Neighboring communities should cooperate, link and standardize services.
- Parks, recreation, physical fitness and sports programs can play a powerful role in helping kids stay out of trouble and must be supported. They help kids deal with self-esteem and anger management issues, and have been proven to reduce at-risk behaviors. Sports and physical fitness programs must be supported as part of the school curriculum for all students. After-school programming should maximize out-of-school learning time for children by offering a range of activities including academic enrichment and preparations, and homework time of at least one-half hour should be required in after-school recreation programs. More local parks are needed and some brownfields should be converted into parks.
- Arts and music programs must be supported because they increase learning skills, help reduce violence and truancy, and give kids a positive outlet for self-expression. More of these programs are needed in our nation's schools as part of the curriculum. Partnerships are also needed between local arts councils, cultural institutions and city agencies.
- Community Schools with in-house health clinics, social services agencies and police involvement can help prevent crime and offer a meaningful alternative to youth, and must be supported.

- Junior ROTC for high school students should be considered as an inexpensive resource which provides the opportunity for collaboration, and offers discipline, structure and recreation.
- Every mayor should have a youth coordinator. In addition, every city should have a youth development strategy and a coordinated system for delivering services to as well as listening to youth.
- Curfews reduce youth violence and crimes committed by youth and should be enforced. Curfew intake centers can be run out of park and community centers, with police involvement, because kids are less threatened by recreation officials. Youth car cruising must be eliminated.
- Police must be involved in prevention, therefore the COPS program must be continued and expanded. Police Athletic Leagues work, especially because younger officers hired through the COPS program want to interact with kids. Prevention needs to be incorporated into all police training. In addition, police officers should work with probation officers to monitor youth offenders.
- Gang prevention and early intervention strategies to prevent young students from becoming involved in gangs must be a top priority. Youth must be provided a safe means to report gang activity.
- After-school, summer jobs and school-to-career programs are needed, and creative employment opportunities must be found for younger kids who want jobs. On-the-job counseling and mentoring must also be provided to help young workers succeed in jobs. Mentors and counselors need training. Life skills such as getting to work on time, getting directions, and opening a bank account must be taught to children. Retired people can be of great assistance in the mentoring effort.
- Technical assistance is needed for many smaller companies and community organizations that want to offer quality after-school programs.
- Hospitals often have "healthy communities" initiatives which should be used to help kids after school. Such after-school programming provides an excellent opportunity to educate adolescents regarding healthy lifestyles/wellness and behaviors that put them at risk. Adolescent nutrition and fitness coordinators and hospital staff, via health community programs, can be integral to after-school programs.

YOUTH VIOLENCE AND THE NEWS MEDIA

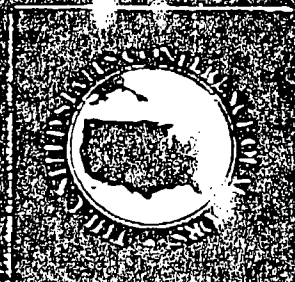
A 1997 study, which analyzed tapes of local evening newscasts from 100 local stations in 35 states aired the same day, found that 30 percent of the news was devoted to violence and crime. Crime is down in America, but the coverage of crime is up. For example, a California study found that over one-half of television news coverage about youth concerned violence, and over two-thirds of violence stories involved youth, even though juveniles were responsible for less than 15 percent of the violent crime in the state during the same period.

- Sensationalist coverage of violence in local and national news must end.
- A joint task force of mayors and news media executives should work to ensure more accurate and balanced news coverage of youth-related issues.
- Commercials and sponsorships promoting products such as video games, toys, music, movies, and other television programs that implicitly or explicitly encourage violence should be rejected by news programs which air in the morning hours before school or the afternoon and early evening hours.
- Mayors, police chiefs and school superintendents should meet annually with local heads of media networks to discuss local news coverage. News editors must be called on unbalanced coverage. The power of viewer complaints cannot be understated, especially when they come from elected officials.
- Mayors should help local news media put together positive youth stories.
- Schools must reach out to the media in order to get more positive messages aired.
- The news media should identify local youth heroes and show them weekly on TV.
- More follow-through coverage of criminal justice cases showing guilty verdicts and punishment is needed.
- Teen pages for kids to write articles about positive youth experiences should be provided by newspapers.
- Gun advertising which suggests that a gun in the home makes a family safer should be rejected by the media.

YOUTH VIOLENCE AND THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY

Studies have shown that eight-year-old boys who viewed the most violent programs were more likely to be rated by peers as very aggressive by the age of 19, and to have engaged in serious criminal behavior by the age of 30. Other studies have found that more than 60 percent of television programs contain violence, and that 76 percent of children's programs portray violence in a humorous context.

- A joint task force of mayors and national entertainment industry executives should work on reducing violence in entertainment industry products.
- Parents must monitor and restrict children's entertainment choices in TV, movies, music, video games and the Internet, and be provided technology which allows them to limit access to inappropriate content. TV should not be used as a babysitter.
- Commercials for violent movies and TV programs should not be aired during youth-watching hours.
- A boycott should be implemented against products whose commercials fund violent TV programs.
- Programs with high levels of violence, including "reality" shows, should be scheduled only during late-night hours.
- Violent Saturday morning cartoons must be eliminated.
- Non-violent programming is needed to discourage violence. When violence does occur, every effort must be made to show its negative consequences. A national clearinghouse on independently-produced positive programming should be established.
- Mayors should utilize government access channels as a resource to help produce and air positive shows.
- Young people need media training to help them understand and evaluate what they are viewing, and programs should be offered in schools.
- A Public Service Announcement (PSA) campaign is needed against violence in the media and entertainment industry and should be aired by local and national television outlets.



The United States Conference of Mayors
1620 Eye Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006
phone: 202.293.7330 • fax: 202.293.2352
<http://www.usmayors.org/uscm>