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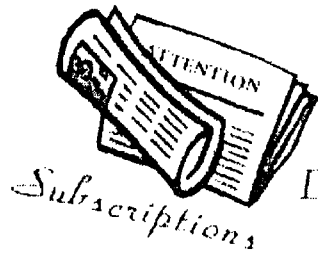
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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 2, 1995

PRESS BRIEFING
BY MIKE MCCURRY ✓

The Briefing Room

2:46 P.M. EST

MR. MCCURRY: Good afternoon, everybody. I'd like to start by calling attention to an announcement that Secretary Cisneros made today. This is something -- the White House will occasionally put a spotlight on something that one of our Cabinet agencies happen to be doing.

Secretary Cisneros announced changes in the underwriting criteria for the Federal **Housing** Administration today. There are a lot of people in this country who need federally-backed mortgages to have homeownership opportunity, and today, they've adjusted some of the criteria for FHA-related lending that will make it easier for a lot of people to qualify for federally-backed **housing** mortgages, which is good news. And there are about 50,000 people as a result, we estimate, that will be able to become eligible for FHA loans who otherwise would not have been eligible. So I am drawing attention to that important announcement by the Secretary of **Housing** and Urban Development today. And that's about all I had to start with. ✓

Oh, let me do two other housekeeping things. One, there is -- we're going to drop a piece of paper later on on the transmittal of our annual list of major illicit drug-producing and drug-transit countries. That was sent to Congress today as required by law. It is not the Narcotics Report listing of countries that we register having either helped or not helped us making improvements in the effort to combat international drug trafficking. This is more of a routine thing in which we report on the status of current efforts related to drug trafficking. That will be coming out a little while later. And I think we may have one other interesting piece of paper before the afternoon,

but prior to the hour of 6:00 p.m. since we're not going to try to do paper after 6:00 p.m. anymore. Anyhow, just to let you know what's going on.

Q On what subject?

Q In what vein?

Q How do you mean?

MR. MCCURRY: You know, telling you to stay on the lookout for that.

Q CIA?

MR. MCCURRY: No, that doesn't relate to personnel. Anyhow, with that, let's go to questions. Anyone have a question?

Q Mike, on this pregnancy thing, number one, with the doctor today, what's the White House say officially to people who do say that he is not very different from Jocelyn Elders in terms of abortion and some of the other issues -- contraceptives, condoms, et cetera?

MR. MCCURRY: Well, there have been discussions with the nominee as well, apprised of the President's and the administration's view on questions related to abortion and reproductive health and the right to choose, and it is fully supportive of the President's position and the position of the administration. And I think, beyond that, the positions that the nominee may or may not have taken is one of the things that the Senate has to address as they look at the nomination and the advise and consent process. So it's really not for us to prejudge questions that might properly be raised by the Senate. And I just don't want to speculate on whether they're going to ask or not. But it's very clear the nominee understands the President's point of view and is supportive of the President's point of view.

Q Mike, did the President meet or talk to the nominee before today? And who brought the nominee to the President's attention?

MR. MCCURRY: Well, the nominee will report, as Surgeon General, will report to the Secretary of HHS. So it comes out of that Cabinet agency to the White House. So, obviously, Secretary Shalala, as she indicated today, was very involved in the nomination. The President had met with the nominee prior to today, and I'm not certain when that meeting occurred, but it was within the last month or so.

Q Mike, as a gynecologist, do you know if Dr. Foster has ever himself personally performed abortions?

MR. MCCURRY: I don't know, but I imagine that question was examined by those who looked at it. And it might, in fact, be a question that would arise during the course of the nominations.

Q Will you take the question?

MR. MCCURRY: I'll take it and see if I can get an answer. That may be, as I say, something -- we very quickly here enter into the confirmation process. And there are some limits into what we can say public --

Q What?

MR. MCCURRY: There is. I mean, the Senate requests --

Q There may be limits for what he can say, but there are

certainly no limits to what, if the White House knows something, it can say.

MR. MCCURRY: We can't prejudge questions that might be raised by the Senate that they consider advise and consent.

Q question about whether he's ever performed abortions, or not.

MR. MCCURRY: We can find -- try to find to the answer to this.

Q Did the First Lady at all have any role in this? Did she meet with him prior to today?

MR. MCCURRY: I don't know the answer to that.

Q Conservative groups want to use this nomination to put the Planned Parenthood on trial. Any reaction to that?

MR. MCCURRY: It would be unfortunate if issues extraneous to the consideration of a nominee to be Surgeon General were raised. But that, again, is the province of the Senate as they exercise their advise and consent function. Nominations frequently present opportunities for other issues to be raised, and it wouldn't be surprising if that happens in this case. But we feel confident that this nominee will be able to address those issues and will be fully supportive of the positions that the President and the administration has taken.

Q Another part of the question. He's not being made available in any way for interviews. Nominees to awfully high posts are always made available to take questions from the press. How is this case different?

MR. MCCURRY: I don't -- I'm not aware how they've handled that type of thing here in the past, but in this case I think the nominee would properly like to prepare for the forthcoming consideration of the nomination by the Senate and address comments about policy matters related to public health in America to members of the Senate who will be considering the nomination. That is the right of the nominee.

Q How does the President's and the administration's position differ from, say, Planned Parenthood?

MR. MCCURRY: Well, I think a lot of what President has said on the question on choice on reproductive health is fully on the record and I think it's available to all of you. I don't want to pretend to understand each and every position that Planned Parenthood has taken and, thus, can't contrast the positions of the administration. But on this issue, the President and the administration could not have been clearer in describing, both in testimony before Congress and public statements, our views on many of the issues that are central to debate about a very sensitive aspect of health care in America.

Q During the Elders' nomination, in fact, complaints from her advocacy groups that she was not allowed to respond to the attacks that were put on her. Isn't it unfair to the nominee for the White House not to let him respond?

MR. MCCURRY: There will be, in due course, ample opportunity for this nominee to address questions that the Senate would like to place before the nominee. And no doubt, some senators will have questions that reflect the public debate about the issues surrounding reproductive health -- they are very familiar to people in this country. So we believe Dr. Foster will have an ample opportunity to address some

of those questions as we go through the confirmation process and, in due course, will be able to express himself eloquently on many of the issues that are being raised by some critics who we hope we'd be able to convert into supporters.

Q Mike, do you see any difference between the nominee's personal views and the President's views?

MR. MCCURRY: Do I see any difference? Not that I'm aware of, no.

Q Mike, on the President's comments in the Oval about the impact of interest rates, can you be a little more specific about the impact that the increase will have on his hopes for deficit reduction?

MR. MCCURRY: No, not beyond what the -- I mean, the President stated what is clearly the case, the rise in interest rates, increases the carrying cost of the federal debt as we plan ahead and look at what the impact will be on the federal budget. And that's what the President was referring to. How you calculate that and how you anticipate the interest on the federal debt that will then be added, in a sense, to the federal budget deficit is something that is part of the calculation of the budget and something that we'll be answering questions about a lot next week.

Q Have you had to go back in and come up with some programmatic cuts to try to offset some of the impact of the increase?

MR. MCCURRY: I don't know whether they've had to adjust any of their baseline calculations based on the action of the Fed yesterday. Now, that is a good question, and I'll have to refer that to those who will be briefing next week.

By the way, on the budget, while we're on that, Monday morning at 10:30 a.m. we'll hold a budget briefing in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building -- Monday. Monday is budget day, and we expect OMB Director Rivlin, Secretary Rubin, Dr. Tyson. They will brief. We will probably have some statements by the President and Vice President as well.

And Cabinet agencies are going to be conducting their own budget briefings in the afternoon at their respective Cabinet departments. We'll have an advisory with sort of a complete listing of those briefings tomorrow. We expect most of those to be held in early afternoon at the various Cabinet agencies.

Q Is the President meeting with Usery today?

MR. MCCURRY: Not that I'm aware of, no. There have been some discussions with former Secretary Usery to get a good sense of how he thinks the dialogue between the players and the owners will shape up. And we expect it to be a long weekend.

Q Mike, Congressman Gephardt told reporters today that he expected the White House to have a proposal on minimum wage in a day or two. Can you clarify what it is he's thinking --

MR. MCCURRY: I can just say that, of course, the Minority Leader is true, correct.

Q Do you have a proposed minimum wage?

MR. MCCURRY: We expect to, yes.

Q A couple of days?

Q A matter of days, again?

MR. MCCURRY: A matter of hours. No, it won't be today, but I suspect before the end of the working week we might be able to --

Q By 10:00 a.m. tomorrow?

MR. MCCURRY: It may be tomorrow, yes. It may be tomorrow.

Q I've got a follow-up on the baseball question. Is the President giving negotiating strategy to Usery, or to what extent is he truly involved in this?

MR. MCCURRY: As the President has indicated, his involvement has been both to be kept apprised of the discussions as they have gone on, as they did yesterday, from those that the federal mediator is in contact with. But we have not put forward any of our own suggestions or ideas. That's something that the President has asked the mediator to do as of Monday if there is no discernible movement and progress towards a settlement.

Q What did your consultations on Capitol Hill produce about the minimum wage? Did you find a bipartisan --

MR. MCCURRY: Let me -- I'll go back for a second. I was maybe a little too cute in answering an earlier question. You recall that the President made it very clear in the State of the Union address that he intended to propose an increase in the minimum wage. We then indicated to you following the speech that we would consult with Congress because we wanted there to be a vehicle that had some strong possibility of passage, so that we, in fact, will achieve our goal which is to increase the minimum wage in a way that raises the value of that wage, rewards those who work, but does that increase in a way that does not result in any macroeconomic effect that results in job loss -- or total net job loss.

Those consultations have been going on for the last several days, they have been very, very successful, and as the Minority Leader indicated today, they are moving very quickly now towards a proposal that the administration will be able to present to Congress with very strong, and we hope, bipartisan support from Congress.

Q Those consultations have been bipartisan?

MR. MCCURRY: Those consultations have been bipartisan. There have been discussions not only with Democrats, but with Republicans in -- and with others outside Congress to shape a proposal that we think will do exactly what the President proposed.

Q This is a proposal that is being presented in concert with any Republicans?

MR. MCCURRY: We will have to see at any point -- at that point at which we can publicly unveil the proposal. We'll see.

Q When you say that you have consultations including Republicans, and you say that you're acting in the hope that you'll have bipartisan support, may we take that to mean that the consultations with the Republicans have yielded interest in supporting this idea, which as you know some Republican leaders --

MR. MCCURRY: Yes. I think, Brit, consultations with Congress have indicated an interest in supporting this. I can't say that there are pledges at this point; we'll see how we do tomorrow.

Q In House and Senate?

MR. MCCURRY: I believe it has been House and Senate, yes.

Q Anybody to the right of Mark Hatfield in these consultations?

MR. MCCURRY: That's not for me to address, it would be for individual members of Congress to express themselves.

Q The leadership of the House and Republicans?

MR. MCCURRY: Well, we've been consulting with a variety of members.

Q The President himself has said that it's no secret he like it to be \$5 an hour. Do you expect it to be at least that?

MR. MCCURRY: I am going to try to preserve for right now some small shred of news that we might be able to commit tomorrow.

Q How will you commit this? I mean, at what point will the President come out and say something about this?

MR. MCCURRY: I don't know that we've -- we have not determined exactly how we will do that tomorrow. Perhaps we will do that with some type of statement.

Q In person?

MR. MCCURRY: We'll see.

Q Mike, I think the President's legal expense trust is set tomorrow, or planning tomorrow, to release its six months report. Has the President been briefed at all on what the status of all that is?

MR. MCCURRY: I do not know the answer to that. I'd have to check with the trustees of the fund, but I understand that they will be available tomorrow to answer questions on the release of the report that they are preparing. It might be a good opportunity to ask them that question.

Q Well, you could ask the President if he's been briefed on how much has been collected.

MR. MCCURRY: That is the business of the legal expense trust fund, and not -- there are people properly designated to answer questions on that.

Q You're probably designated to answer questions --

MR. MCCURRY: They will do that tomorrow.

Q But aren't you the one designated to speak to the President?

MR. MCCURRY: I am indeed, Brit.

Q Well, then the question of whether or not he's been briefed on something or not is a proper for you, isn't it?

MR. MCCURRY: I can -- it is, but what I'm just pointing out as a matter of fact, is that the people who work on that are going to be available tomorrow.

Q On camera?

MR. MCCURRY: I don't have any idea. It is up to them to decide how they want to conduct that.

Q They are going to tell us whether the President has been briefed on this, or are they going to refer it to you?

MR. MCCURRY: You mean are they -- are we going to do one of these ones where we go like this? No, we'll have an answer Brit and Bill, one way or the other on that. I don't believe he has been, but again, I can't -- I'd like to check on that before I -- and I'll check and one way or another we'll have an answer on that.

Thank you.

Q Do you have anything on the meeting this weekend in Washington calling out the conference of Cairo?

MR. MCCURRY: I do -- actually, that is -- for those who are interested in the Middle East peace process, there will be some announcements coming out of the State Department later in the afternoon about a follow-up to the Cairo conference that involves foreign ministers. We do expect, based on everything that we've heard, that there will be a ministerial level follow up meeting here in Washington next week.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

3:02 P.M. EST

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 30, 1995

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN SATELLITE ADDRESS ✓
TO THE NATIONAL HOMEBUILDERS ASSOCIATION

1:02 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you, Tommy, for your introduction, and thank you for all of the hard work you've done as president and the work you've done with us. I also want to send my best wishes to your new president, Jim Irvine. I look forward to working closely with you, Jim, and with your entire association.

Let me begin by doing something I wasn't supposed to do. You know, my staff told me I didn't have time to stay and answer questions, and then the gentleman who preceded me didn't get a chance to answer the question. So I'll answer it the best I can here off the top of my head with regard to the deficit, because it will set up what I want to talk about in a moment.

When you make your income tax check out in April about -- well, over a third of it will go to pay interest on the national debt, and about .28 of it will go to pay interest on the debt accumulated between 1981 and 1993 in January when I took office, in just that 12 years alone.

To give you some idea of the contrast: only about a nickel of your income tax check would be required to pay for welfare and foreign aid put together. So it is a very serious problem. We estimate within a couple of years interest on the debt will be more costly than national defense every year, which is why I've worked so hard on it.

I thought I'd start by answering a question to see if I could get your attention. I was thinking that, as I was being introduced, of a joke I was told by a college president over the Christmas holidays, when she said that she identified with me when

someone said that being a President was a lot like running a cemetery; there are a lot of people under you, but nobody's listening. So I thought I could answer your question, and maybe you would.

Let me thank each and every one of you in the National Association of Homebuilders for the support you've given to our administration's efforts to get this economy going and to bring the deficit down. Working together, we have made a real difference in the lives of the American people, and I want you to know I appreciate all your hard work to make sure we're a stronger nation as we move into the 21st Century, and to preserve the American Dream, including home ownership for all of our people.

I know Secretary Cisneros spoke with you on Saturday, and I'm especially glad you had a chance to hear from him on my behalf. The efforts he's made at the Department of **Housing** and Urban Development have been a crucial part of what we've all done together to build up America. Our work is a prime example of the kind of partnership I've tried to build between the public and the private sectors throughout our country. Together, our job is to build a foundation upon which American families can build up their own futures, share in economic prosperity and keep the American Dream alive for another generation.

Our partnership is part of what I have called the New Covenant. When I ran for President, the New Covenant was at the center of my campaign. It's a call for more opportunity and more responsibility, recognizing that you can't really have one without the other, and that unless we have more of both, we can't hope to stay strong at home and remain the strongest force for peace and freedom throughout the world.

To build that New Covenant, I've focused on three things that are critical to making sure we succeed in the new global economy. First, empowering our own people to make the most of their own lives; second, expanding opportunity and shrinking and redirecting the federal bureaucracy to meet the needs of our people today and tomorrow; and, finally, shifting more authority to the state and local levels and to the private sector over those things that they can do better than the federal government.

The National Association of Homebuilders has been a strong partner in many of these efforts. Throughout the life of our nation, nothing has been more important as a building block of the American Dream than home ownership. And that's been especially true in the second half of this century.

Together, we've worked hard to reinforce that foundation and provide new building blocks, and the results show that our partnership is working. Think about your industry first. America had nearly 1.5 million **housing** starts last year, the best since 1988. Single-family starts totalled nearly 1.2 million -- that's a 13 percent increase over the previous year, the best year of performance since 1979.

Beyond the homebuilding industry, we see strong evidence that our partnership is working as well. In contrast, to the four years before I took office, we've had almost 6 million new jobs in this economy in just two years. Nineteen eighty-four gave us the fastest growth in 10 years and the lowest combined rate of unemployment and inflation in 25 years. And for the first time in nearly a decade, America was rated as having the world's most productive and competitive economy.

We're doing all of this because, first and foremost, we've worked to put our economic house in order. Just two years ago, it was

an open question whether we would find the strength to cut the deficit that had exploded out of control during the previous 12 years, and had driven our interest rates up and our economy down.

Together, thanks to people like you, we were able to change that course. We passed an economic package that's bringing the deficit down by more than \$600 billion. That's about \$10,000 for every family in America. And it's going down three years in a row for the first time since Truman was president.

You were one of our biggest supporters in deficit reduction because you knew it would bring down interest rates and you knew it would get our economy going again, and I'll always be grateful for your help on that.

Getting the deficit under control was only a beginning. We've also cut the size of government and focused its efforts where it can really make a difference in meeting today's and tomorrow's challenges.

We've already cut the bureaucracy by more than 100,000, and we're on our way to cutting 272,000 positions over a five-year period without regard to anything else that happens in this Congress. So the federal government is already going to be at its smallest size in 30 years.

Look at HUD. We closed all the regional offices, eliminating an entire layer of bureaucracy. We cut the Department's work force by 10 percent to make their work -- and we hope your work -- more efficient. And HUD wasn't the only department. We're closing 1,100 Agricultural Department offices, and doing a lot of other things that I think all of you would approve of. But cutting the government is only part of the job. We're also making the government we have work better for our people. We've streamlined many, many programs, and given local communities more flexibility to solve problems at the grass roots, where they can get the job done most effectively.

In the area of welfare reform alone, for example, we have given two dozen states permission to get around cumbersome federal regulations, to try new and exciting ways to move people from welfare to work.

In the **housing** field, under the leadership of Secretary Cisneros, the Federal **Housing** Administration has already lowered costs and changed rules to help home buyers. After the reforms FHA has made, today it takes just three to five days, not four to six weeks as it used to, to get an FHA single-family loan endorsement. That's why FHA insured 1.3 million new loans last year, including 450,000 for first-time buyers. That's the second best year in its 60-year history. ✓

Now we're moving to strengthen our efforts. We propose to consolidate 60 different narrowly focused **housing** programs into three flexible funds. We want to transform the Federal **Housing** Authority into an entrepreneurial, government-owned corporation. And we propose phasing out direct subsidies to **housing** authorities, and to end public **housing** as we know it. ✓

Instead of subsidizing bureaucracies, we want to give money directly to residents so that they have the opportunity to take more responsibility for their own lives. This is progress all of us can be proud of. Our partnership is working. But as much progress as have been made, you and I know it's not enough.

Too many people are working harder for less; they have less

security, less income, less certainty they can even afford a vacation, much less the downpayment on a new home. That's why I proposed a Middle Class Bill of Rights, which could be called, and probably should be called, the Middle Class Bill of Rights and Responsibilities; because for every opportunity it offers, it requires responsibility in return.

The Middle Class Bill of Rights is about ensuring that the American Dream stays alive for everyone willing to take responsibility for their future. It will help with your piece of the American Dream, and with a lot of others as well. To foster more savings and personal responsibility, the Middle Class Bill of Rights will enable people to establish individual retirement accounts, and then withdrawal from them, tax free, for the cost of education, health care, the care of a parent and to buy a first home.

Because of our work in the last two years, we've already seen the home ownership rates for young families actually go up for the first time in more than a decade. The Middle Class Bill of Rights will help even more Americans to buy a home. It says to our young couples in particular, owning a home is not out of your reach; there is a reason to save, and real hope that your hard work and responsibility will pay off for your family.

Education is another critical building block in the strong foundation for our country. And the Middle Class Bill of Rights also includes a deduction for education and training costs after high school. That eases the burdens on families by helping them to educate themselves and their children. Furthermore, the Middle Class Bill of Rights offers a \$500 tax break for families with young children, and collapses nearly 70 different federal job training programs into a grant which will provide for direct vouchers to unemployed workers or low-wage workers who are willing to go back to school and learn more skills so they can earn more money.

Now, all of this will be an important part of keeping the American Dream alive. And I should emphasize that this Middle Class Bill of Rights is fully paid for by spending cuts, and that I will send Congress more than twice as many cuts as are necessary to pay for the Middle Class Bill of Rights, so we can keep driving the deficit down. In the **housing** field, we want to do even more. As you know, I set a national goal of boosting home ownership to an all-time high by the end of the century, to forge a national home ownership strategy.

Secretary Cisneros has been doing a great job to put those goals into action, working with you, with mortgage lenders, with Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, with the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities, and with national civic organizations and advocacy groups.

The strategy will aim to lower regulatory barriers so we can step up construction of starter homes. It will give communities more power to rebuild themselves, and it will give citizens more information so they can take hold of their opportunities.

Secretary Cisneros will submit the strategy to me in March, and I look forward to working with you to act on it and to make the dream a reality for more Americans. The key to our success with this new strategy will be strengthening the same partnership that has served us so well, so far. We've shown how we can succeed for the American people when we work together to bring the deficit down and get the economy going again.

I was eager to talk with you today because I believe that we must recommit ourselves to building a stronger America and to giving our people even more opportunities in the years to come. That's what

the new national home ownership strategy is all about. It's what the Middle Class Bill of Rights is all about. It's what the New Covenant is all about.

We have to keep the recovery going, we have to increase opportunity, we have to support more responsibility from all of our people. These building blocks will build a stronger future for our children. Together, we've built a strong foundation. This country's in better shape than it was two years ago. Now, let's move forward to finish the job for America and for the American people.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

END1:15 P.M. EST

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elderly and disabled to include more options for long-term care.

STATUS: PROPOSED

LATEST POLICY/RESULT: Included in the Health Care Security Act.

***PROMISE: HEALTH CARE - Fully fund the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program

STATUS: SUBSTANTIAL ACCOMPLISHMENT

LATEST POLICY/RESULT: President Clinton and Congress placed WIC on a full-funding path. Funding is projected to increase by \$610 million from 1993 to 1995 -- a 21% gain. As a result, an additional one million people will have the opportunity to get the nutrition and care they need to stay healthy.

***PROMISE: **HOUSING** - Hold a **Housing** and Homelessness Summit with urban leaders to develop poverty and **housing** programs. ✓

STATUS: SUBSTANTIAL ACCOMPLISHMENT

LATEST POLICY/RESULT: HUD Secretary Cisneros held 18 interactive homeless forums in 18 cities and a National **Housing** and Community Development Conference with the Vice President attended by over 2,000 people. These forums led to publication of the Federal Plan to End Homelessness.

***PROMISE: **HOUSING** - Transfer 10 percent of all federal **housing** to churches and other non-profit community groups for the homeless.

STATUS: SUBSTANTIAL ACCOMPLISHMENT

LATEST POLICY/RESULT: Support McKinney program which has continued to provide opportunity to nonprofit homeless organizations to have first bid at all surplus federal property. Proposed legislation to give local nonprofit organization a direct role in determining use of HUD homeless resources.

***PROMISE: **HOUSING** - Use **housing** at closed military bases for the homeless.

STATUS: SUBSTANTIAL ACCOMPLISHMENT

LATEST POLICY/RESULT: Backing new process that will allow for reasonable process for balancing needs for the homeless and community for closed military bases. In place at Lowry AFB, Long Beach, Ca and elsewhere.

***PROMISE: **HOUSING** - Provide federal support to programs that restore old **housing** to sell to low-income homebuyers.

STATUS: SUBSTANTIAL ACCOMPLISHMENT

LATEST POLICY/RESULT: Included in **Housing** and Community Development Act, 1993

***PROMISE: **HOUSING** - Attract investment with a permanent Low Income **Housing** Tax Credit.

STATUS: SUBSTANTIAL ACCOMPLISHMENT

LATEST POLICY/RESULT: Permanent extension of Low Income Tax Credit and Mortgage Revenue Bonds included in the President's Economic Plan of 1993.

***PROMISE: **HOUSING** - Provide increased federal funding for maintenance of existing public **housing**.

STATUS: SUBSTANTIAL ACCOMPLISHMENT

LATEST POLICY/RESULT: Increased budget from \$3.2 billion in FY94 to \$3.7 billion in FY95.

***PROMISE: **HOUSING** - Raise the ceiling on Federal **Housing** Authority mortgage insurance to 95 percent of the price of a home in average metropolitan areas.

STATUS: PENDING

LATEST POLICY/RESULT: Introduced legislation to raise ceiling in 103rd Congress. Passed House but failed in Senate.

***PROMISE: **HOUSING** - Expand local authority to make more low-income rental units available through the HOME Program.

STATUS: SUBSTANTIAL ACCOMPLISHMENT

LATEST POLICY/RESULT: HOME is funded at \$2 billion for FY95. Proposed full funding of HOME in FY 1995 and reduced regulatory impediments to local use.

***PROMISE: IMMIGRATION - Give temporary asylum to political refugees from Haiti until that country's elected government is restored.

STATUS: SUBSTANTIAL ACCOMPLISHMENT

LATEST POLICY/RESULT: Provided temporary asylum at Guantanamo Naval Base for Haitians fleeing the military regime and restored democratic government to Haiti.

***PROMISE: IMMIGRATION - Cut the two-year waiting period for people seeking visas to the United States who are separated from immediate family members and reduce the backlog of extended



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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

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December 29, 1994

PRESIDENT CLINTON ANNOUNCES NEARLY \$300 MILLION TO
TACKLE HOMELESSNESS ACROSS THE COUNTRY ✓

President Clinton today awarded nearly \$300 million in grants to tackle homelessness in communities across America. Winning projects - the majority of which will employ Americorps members - ranged from outreach efforts to homeless on our streets, to a full range of youth and adult services, job training and the construction of permanent **housing**. The funds were competitively awarded through the Department of **Housing** and Urban Development's Supportive **Housing** Program, a flexible program which enables communities to tailor funds for activities designed to meet their distinct homeless needs. They come at an important time as cold weather makes life on the streets more dangerous for the homeless.

"It is imperative that we not turn our backs on the nation's homeless. The number of homeless families and young people suffering from abuse and neglect continues to rise. It is my hope that these grants will help those who need our help the most," President Clinton said.

"I am also pleased that Americorps members will be engaged in the struggle to end homelessness. This is an example of National Service at its best," the President added.

Secretary Cisneros will be in Minnesota today to talk about the grant program and visit two local winning projects.

"These Supportive **Housing** grants encourage cities to move from reactive, emergency homeless assistance to a more competitive 'continuum of care' approach to the

disturbing national problem of homelessness," said **Housing** and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros. "Helping to end homelessness is our number one priority at HUD. For homeless men, women and children living on the street, the awards we are making today will mean a chance for a more stable way of life."

Added HUD Assistant Secretary Andrew Cuomo, the Administration's point person on homelessness: "We can be judged by how we treat the most unfortunate among us. It is important that we not forget that there are real people with real needs for whom these programs are truly a matter of life or death."

Early on, the Clinton Administration made clear its commitment to homelessness by increasing the 1994 Federal Homeless Budget by 40 percent. Today's grants represent the last installment of those funds. A commitment for more funding and more local flexibility will continue with a doubling of HUD's homeless budget in 1995 and an ongoing effort to enhance our homeless programs to move more decision making out of Washington and into communities who know their needs best.

A total of \$298.2 million in grants were awarded for 271 projects in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia.

The Clinton Administration believes government must work together across agency lines in order to tackle the problem of homelessness. This year, HUD joined forces with Americorps, the Administration's National Service initiative by giving special recognition to applicants who crafted ways to involve Americorps volunteers in their programs. As a result, more than half of this year's winners plan to hire Americorps volunteers of all ages to help in the fight to end homelessness.

A complete state-by-state list of grant winners is attached.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

December 19, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT,
AND THE VICE PRESIDENT, ✓
OMB DIRECTOR ALICE RIVLIN,
SECRETARY OF HUD HENRY CISNEROS,
SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERICO PENA,
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF ENERGY BILL WHITE,
GSA DIRECTOR ROGER JOHNSON,
OPM DIRECTOR JIM KING
ON THE MIDDLE CLASS BILL OF RIGHTS

Room 450
Old Executive Office Building

12:13 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Last week I outlined my proposal for a Middle Class Bill of Rights to help the American people restore the American Dream. The G.I. Bill after World War II gave a generation of Americans a chance to build their own lives and their own dreams. Now we can help a new generation of hardworking people get the right education and skills, raise their children, and keep their families strong so that they can get ahead in the new American economy.

I want to take just a moment to remind you of the four features in that Bill of Rights. First, for a family making less than \$120,000, the tuition they pay for post-secondary education, training and retraining would be fully deductible from a taxable income, phased up to \$10,000 a year.

Second, for a family with an income of \$75,000 a year or less, a tax cut phased up to \$500 a year for every child under the age of 13. Third, for families with incomes under \$100,000 a year, the ability to put away \$2,000 tax-free into an IRA, and then withdraw that money tax-free for a cost of education, health care, first-time home, or the care of an elderly parent.

Finally, we will make billions of dollars available that the government normally spends itself through separate job-training programs directly to workers, who can decide on how best to use the money to learn new skills.

There is only one reason we can afford to do this at this time. We have worked very hard to cut government spending and to bring the deficit under control. The government debt increased by four times during the 12 years before I took office. I want to remind you what that burden means; it means that this April when people make out their checks to the government, 28 cents of every dollar of federal income tax will be necessary to pay interest on the debt accumulated between 1981 and the day I was inaugurated. It is our responsibility to turn that around, and we have been working to fulfill it. We have already passed budgets that cut the deficit by \$700 billion, eliminate 100 government programs and cut over 300 others.

A major part of this endeavor has been the Reinventing Government Initiative, led by the Vice President. I have worked hard to reduce and to redirect governments for many years, since my early days as governor of my state, when we were one of the first states in the country to adopt a statewide total quality management program, which resulted in cutting regulation and paperwork, eliminating agencies and departments and programs that were unnecessary. Now we are cutting things that can be cut. We propose to stop doing things that government doesn't do very well and that don't need to be done by government. And we believe that we should increase our efforts where government can make a real positive difference in the lives of ordinary Americans. We have to change yesterday's government and make it work for the America of today and tomorrow.

In the last two years, we have made a good beginning. We have begun to shrink the federal government's bureaucracy to its smallest size in 30 years. The work force of the federal government is already almost 100,000 below where it was on the day we were inaugurated. We are on the way to a reduction of 272,000 positions -- cuts that are freeing up money to invest in our people. For example, every dollar that goes to fund the crime bill, which is a direct transfer of investment to our local communities at the grass-roots level, comes from the cuts we are making.

Later today, at the Justice Department, I will announce new efforts under the crime bill to finish our commitment of putting 100,000 more police officers on the street, and stop the crime that punishes so many American families.

We have to continue to meet our responsibilities to the next generation. We must pay, therefore, for the Middle Class Bill of Rights, with new reductions in government spending, dollar for dollar -- spending cuts to pay for tax cuts, with no new cuts in Medicare and Social Security. I call on Congress to meet that same responsibility in their deliberations.

Our administration has just completed a review in which we have identified \$24 billion in cuts in bureaucracy, red tape, and outmoded programs to help to do this. And we are committed to continuing the freeze on discretionary spending, which will save another \$52 billion in the next five-year budget cycle.

We will do even more to shrink yesterday's government. I have called on the Vice President to review every single government program and department for further possible reductions. He's also going to review the federal regulatory process, and we have spent a

good deal of time on that already, so that we can get better results for the public with less interference in their lives.

Vice President Gore is here to discuss the details of our next round of proposals in reinventing government, along with Director Alice Rivlin and the heads or representatives of five agencies in which we are proposing reductions now, including Secretary Cisneros, Secretary Pena, Deputy Secretary White, General Services Administration Director Roger Johnson, and Office of Personnel Management Director Jim King. I want to thank them and our entire economic team for their hard work in the last few weeks.

I also want to say a special word of thanks to people who often get overlooked in this, and that is the employees of the United States government. The work they have done in the last two years to help us to reduce the size of the federal work force by 100,000 already; to implement plans to take it down to a total of 272,000, and even more, with the announcements we are making today -- that work is truly exemplary. It would be envied by many of our biggest corporations in this country. They have rolled up their sleeves, they have been creative, they have found ways for us to save taxpayer money and redirect that into the Middle Class Bill of Rights and to investing in our future.

This has been -- I want to emphasize -- a very disciplined, well-organized process. We have not let rhetoric and recklessness dominate it. This has been about reality. And, again, as we go into the New Year, that ought to be our motto, as I said the other night: Country first, politics as usual dead last; focus on reality, not rhetoric and not recklessness.

It is not enough to cut government just for the sake of cutting it. Government is not inherently good or bad. In a new time, with a new economy, with new demands on ordinary American families, we need a leaner, but not a meaner, government. We need to put government back on the side of hardworking Americans.

That means I will oppose certain cuts if they undermine our economic recovery, undermine middle-class living standards, undermine our attempts to support poor people who are doing their best to raise their children and want to work their way into the middle class, undermine our attempts to improve education, protect our environment and move us into the future with a high-wage, high-growth economy.

As I said last Thursday night, what we really need is a new American government for this new American economy in the 21st century -- one that is creative and flexible; that's a high-quality, low-cost producer of services that the American people need and that can best be provided at the national level. The best thing we can do in this process is to follow the model that smart companies have done, which is to develop a good plan, put good people in charge and pursue the goal with vigor.

I am confident that I chose the right person to lead the reinventing government effort. I want to thank the Vice President and all of his team. They have done wonderful work. And I'd like now to turn the podium over to Vice President Gore.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Mr. President. Thank you very much for your kind words, and thank you for your kind words about the members of your administration who have really done this detailed work, and your kind words about the federal employees who have really been the source of virtually all of the ideas that we've implemented as part of the Reinventing Initiative.

Thank you most of all, Mr. President, for your proposal for a Middle Class Bill of Rights. It is exactly what this country needs to make a transition to the future. Hardworking Americans have earned a break. And we can and will cover the costs of it by redoubling our campaign to reinvent government. We are sticking to the principles that we used in the first National Performance Review -- principles that underpin America's most innovative and successful private companies. Those principles are: put customers first, cut red tape, delegate authority and cut back to basics.

That is how we will decide what government should stop doing. We'll put customers first in this review by getting them involved at every stage of the process and listening carefully to their opinions and ideas. We will stop producing red tape and start paying more attention to results than we do to processes. And as you have asked, Mr. President, we're going to also see about reinventing the government's approach to regulatory issues and to regulatory process. That's well underway also.

We will stop making so many decisions in Washington that would be better made by state government, local government, or individual citizens. And we will replace Washington interference with local opportunity.

Two weeks ago, I joined with seven Cabinet members to sign The Oregon Option, a pact with the state of Oregon to turn problem solving over to the people closest to the problems; and we need to do a lot more of that. Cutting back to basics means that we should shed the remnants of yesterday's government, because yesterday has gone.

For example, we don't need an agriculture field office within one day's horseback ride of every farm. And so we're closing over 1,200 USDA field offices. We're looking to close a lot more field offices in other agencies, as long as we can continue to improve customer service. Americans know that they don't have to sacrifice good service to get low cost. In fact, reductions in cost and improvements in service often go hand in hand. That's why we've emphasized our effort to create a government that works better and costs less.

Cutting back to basics means stop trying things that are not working. For example, public **housing** projects simply do not achieve the results that we are after. We've tried long enough to fix them; it's time to try something completely different, time to try market solutions instead of administrative solutions.

Cutting back to basics also means stop trying to run businesses by bureaucratic rules. We plan to make air traffic control a corporation, and to do the same thing with mortgage insurance. We'll consider a long list of other government functions that could be incorporated, or that we could simply purchase from the private sector more cheaply and more efficiently.

We're going to make government work better and interfere less. We're going to cut out functions that are not needed. We're going to trade interference for opportunity. We're going to make it possible for middle-class Americans to have the break they've earned to raise a family, educate their children and get ahead in life. These are ideas and initiatives that President Clinton and I wrote about when then-Governor Clinton was the nominee in 1992 in the book that we coauthored, entitled, Putting People First. We've worked very hard on these efforts and we're making tremendous progress, and I'm going to have some more to say about it in just a moment.

I'm going to introduce each of the individuals who are going to be making brief presentations, and then respond to questions.

I now want to invite up my partner in this endeavor, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget Alice Rivlin. And joining us are the leaders who developed the bold changes that have already been decided by President Clinton: Transportation Secretary Pena will tell you how we're going to stop directing traffic from Washington. HUD Secretary Cisneros will describe our plan to raze the 60-room mansion of government grants and clear the lot so communities can decide for themselves what to build. Deputy Energy Secretary Bill White will outline our plan to bring that Cold War and OPEC-era department up to date. Roger Johnson and Jim King will tell you how we are phasing out old-fashioned centralized management of the government, turning commercial functions like training and real estate rental to the private sector where they belong, and giving front-line managers the opportunity to actually manage.

I'm going to ask each of them to make a short statement about the major reforms in their agencies, and they will join me in being available to answer your questions. But before they begin, I know that you are all aware that we gave serious consideration to totally eliminating each of these agencies. In these cases, the President and I were convinced that the reinvention and reform option was preferable. But over the next several months, we will be looking at every other agency and program asking the direct question, do we really need this agency; do we really need this program; is there a better way to do it; is there an opportunity here to give middle-class Americans a break? We have already eliminated over 100 programs. We will eliminate a lot more in the weeks and months ahead.

I'd now like to -- as the President departs, I'd now like to ask Alice Rivlin to lead off the detailed presentation.

Q Can we ask the President a question?

THE PRESIDENT: Let me just -- let me make a brief statement. I want to say just two things about the North Korean situation. First of all, I called the families of the two soldiers involved today to express my concern and, in the case of the gentleman who was killed, my condolences, to the family. And I told them what I can tell you. I've worked on this all weekend; I'm going to keep working on it; and we're working on an early resolution of it. We're doing the very best we can. I don't have any details to tell you now.

As you know I think, Congressman Richardson is in North Korea and he is working with us, and also doing a very fine job. I have nothing else to say at this time, except it's a high priority; we're working on it and we're going to do our best to resolve it.

DIRECTOR RIVLIN: Thank you, Mr. Vice President. I think we're talking about three important aspects of the Clinton administration's plan today. First, we're talking about restructuring -- thank you. Three important messages for today. First, the Clinton administration is paying for the tax cut that we have proposed. And the savings that we will be talking about today are an important part of the way we are paying for that tax cut.

The savings in the agencies that we are discussing today -- the five agencies -- will total \$20 billion over five years -- at least \$20 billion. We have another set of detailed savings that come

to more than \$4 billion. That's \$24 billion from these savings. In addition, we are extending the caps on discretionary spending, which give us another \$52 billion. That all comes to \$76 billion, and we have more than paid for the \$60 billion over five years that the tax cut will cost.

Perhaps more important, we are streamlining the government, reducing its size and intrusiveness. But much more important than that -- and you will hear the details from the five Secretaries -- we are rethinking what it is that the federal government ought to do. Some decisions that the federal government now makes ought not to be made in Washington, they ought to be made closer to the people by states or by local communities. We are consolidating whole groups of programs with complicated rules and saying states or localities will make decisions about that money, it will not be made in Washington. There are some things that would be better done by the private sector. We are spinning those off to be done by the private sector and to compete in the marketplace.

But there are some things that must be federal. We must have highway and air safety that we can all count on. We must pay attention to the revitalization of our cities. We must have a national energy plan. And we must have federal services that work. That's why we didn't eliminate these agencies; we are restructuring them in major ways which the agency heads will tell you about right now.

SECRETARY PENA: Thank you very much, Mr. Vice President. Good morning, everybody. Almost two years ago, this administration came to Washington determined to make this government work better for the people who pay for it, and that is working families. At the Department of Transportation, this is precisely what we've been doing for the past two years.

We have found a way to increase investment in our roads and bridges and infrastructure. We have responded quickly to Americans who have been hit hard by floods and earthquakes and other disasters. We've helped transportation industries like aviation and the ship-building industry revitalize itself and save thousands of high-skilled jobs. And all during this time we have trimmed the Department of Transportation by 4,000 employees, saving \$250 million a year in salaries.

Today I want to outline my vision for the Department of Transportation, which is to position it in a role of leadership as we look to, as the President said, the 21st century economy. That vision would give more authority and flexibility to the governors and to the mayors who best know how to make strategic decisions in their own communities. We will increase total transportation investment by cutting red tape and forming dynamic partnerships with cities and states and with the private sector, leveraging the limited dollars we have at the federal level, and we will reduce the size of the Department of Transportation by eliminating inefficiency and duplication, the way so many American businesses have already done.

I believe this vision reflects what Americans want us to do, and I look forward to working with the Congress to implement that vision.

Today, we're taking the next bold step by announcing a major restructuring designed to focus our resources on our two primary missions: first, investing in critical transportation infrastructure and, secondly, ensuring the safety of the traveling public.

We have developed three key strategies to do this. First is consolidation. We will take the current 10 operating agencies in the Department of Transportation and consolidate them to three. Secondly is downsizing. We will continue to eliminate every redundancy we can find to reduce our work force, to save taxpayer dollars, to make sure that we get the most out of every dollar we invest.

As the President said, we will function more like a corporation. We will take the 40,000 employees in the Federal Aviation Administration assigned to the air traffic control operation and put them into a corporate-like structure.

The third thing we will do is to streamline. Today the Department of Transportation has 30 different loans, grants and subsidy programs, each with their own individual rules and regulations. We're going to combine those 30 programs into three broad programs. The first will be a unified grant program to be provided directly to the states and localities who can best decide how to invest those dollars. I think that will discourage or "disincentivize" mayors and governors from having to come to Washington to ask for very special earmarking of certain projects.

Secondly, we will establish state infrastructure banks, which will be capitalized with federal dollars, which will allow us to leverage federal dollars and state dollars with the private sector to actually have more investment over time.

And third, we will create a federal discretionary fund in Washington to allow us to support those infrastructure projects in states and cities which have regional or national importance, or which need national coordination.

All these steps will produce a leaner, more efficient Department of Transportation. What we are about is building bridges, not bureaucracy; picking priorities, not pork; moving people, not paper; and above all, ensuring traveler safety. It's also about continuing the crusade that the President and the Vice President have led so well -- to make this government work better and to cost less. All told, these and other changes will save tax payers \$6.7 billion over the next five years. And we'll pass those savings on as tax relief to working families.

To the millions of Americans who want better transportation to either get to work, or take their children to school, or to move their goods throughout the transportation system, I say these changes will help us serve you even better. The way in which we move these changes forward in the next several months will determine whether we pass on a superior quality of life to our children and to our grandchildren. We, at the Department of Transportation, are prepared for this challenge.

Thank you.

SECRETARY CISNEROS: The Department of **Housing** and Urban Development is a department that deals with some of the most troubling situations in American life -- people who are very poor who live in our cities, the problems of race and class in America's most troubled neighborhoods. But it does not follow from that challenge that the department must function as it has. Indeed, many aspects of this department are simply indefensible. We cannot maintain public **housing** as we have for the last generations and cannot allow landlords, for example, to keep people in slum conditions because the government provides them a check that enables them to do that. So change is necessary.

We have been working for the better part of the last year, and certainly intensified in the last months, to create that kind of change. The ideas that I want to present now are not pulled from thin air, but have a history. Principally, they are a result of the kind of intensive thinking that was required by the Vice President's National Performance Review -- a host of different analyses and reviews have converged to allow us to come up with the basic ideas that will be presented here and accelerate them from things that we might have considered over the next several years into the time frame that is not involved. Absent this kind of intensity, I doubt that we would be right at this moment with these three concepts.

The first is a dramatic consolidation of the programs by which we assist communities across the country, from 60 different categorical programs that too frequently have led to great inflexibility and micromanagement intervention on the part of the federal government in communities to three. ✓

The chart that you see here outlines 60 programs down the left column to eight that will become effective in Fiscal Year 1996, or October 1st of this year, after appropriate legislation is passed; and then in the final -- in the end game, Fiscal Year 1998, three performance-based grant programs. One of them are family and individual assistance programs, which are so-called Section 8 vouchers or certificates to help families and individuals; the second, an affordable **housing** fund in which our supply side, production, rehabilitation programs focusing on what communities can do with them; and finally, a community opportunity fund, which is our economic development and jobs-related programs.

The thrust here is to give maximum flexibility to local communities, keeping in mind that there are national objectives that are sometimes intentioned with local communities, such as fair **housing** and lending discrimination and mobility for populations that must be maintained. It's a difficult tension that we will have to negotiate. But clearly we come down on the side of flexibility and maximum discretion for local leaders who are closest to the problems and for people who can influence their solution in communities across America.

The second large piece of what we're proposing is a dramatic transformation in public **housing** as we know it in America today. The first step is to decentralize public **housing** authorities so that instead of HUD's direct daily involvement with their management, they can use funds interchangeably and make a difference in the conditions that exist in public **housing**. The long run, the end game, is very bold. It is, in effect, to provide certificates or vouchers to the residents of public **housing** so that they will be able to make the choice as to whether they want to stay in places that are unacceptable or, in effect, vote with their feet and move to another location. ✓

We're, in effect, changing HUD's constituency from the bureaucratic entities of **housing** authorities that we've always worked with directly and have been our focus, to the residents; and the residents will make the choice as to where they can move. This is a very complex change, and it will require some years to get there. Deregulation, blocking of the funds, increasing flexibility in the short run so that the **housing** authorities can get to the point to where they are competitive, a level playing field with market apartments, and then vouchers so that people can make the choice as to whether they have sufficiently improved so that the people can

stay, or that they will go.

If the people choose to go, some will criticize and say, but you have all of that stock, and what about the bureaucracies of the **housing** authorities? The answer is, who are we to say that because the **housing** authorities have failed and a system of **housing** has failed, people ought to have to live in those God-awful conditions. And so we're really putting the power with people to make those kinds of choices.

The third and final piece is the dramatic change in the way the Federal **Housing** Administration has functioned -- FHA, a 60-year-old institution, too frequently characterized by bureaucracy. ✓ And what we are doing is creating a government-owned corporation so that it can use the latest technology and use the kind of personnel that are needed to function in the marketplace as the modern, competitive insurance company that it is.

This is the essence of the three changes that are presented for the department. Obviously, these are very large, but we believe -- I must tell you, I believe strongly, am of strong conviction that if we do these things, and we do them well, we can serve the poor people who have been our constituency far better than this department has served them to date. And we can do it with respect for leaders across America, and we can do it in a way that the American taxpayers gain confidence that money for people who work and want to improve their lives, improve the lives of their children is money well spent.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Deputy Secretary Bill White is representing DOE. I'd like to say, in introducing him, that Secretary Hazel O'Leary has been very deeply involved, obviously, in this process. I just left here in Moscow, where we have meetings and she had a previously-scheduled meeting on nuclear waste storage that was extremely important for her to continue with, and we agreed that the Deputy Secretary would make the presentation here this morning.

DEPUTY SECRETARY WHITE: Thank you. At the Department of Energy, we are going to cut our budget by at least \$10.5 billion -- more than \$10.5 billion, and I think we can do better than that. And these are real cuts. They're not just some cuts from some projected future increase -- that is, cuts relative to the existing level of funding.

We know we can do it because we've been doing it. The budgets that we've submitted in the last couple of years since we've been in office, under the leadership of the President and Vice President, have taken a billion dollars out of the budget of the Department from the one that we inherited.

We've cut our contractor work force by over 15,000, and that contrasts with an increase in the budget of the Department by over \$3 billion, which occurred in the years before we arrived at the Department of Energy.

Earlier this fall, under the leadership of Secretary Hazel O'Leary, we asked all of our employees to come up and reorganize our department so that it was based on five product lines which were identified by our customers. And we're going to finish that process this next spring.

Now, most of the cuts I've talked about -- and these are real cuts -- come from several different sources. One is from eliminating layers of middle management and internal regulations. Another is from getting more for the dollar of services that we buy.

We've already made historic changes in the way that we procure our major services in the Department of Energy based on competition and performance agreements with our contractors.

Finally, we're going to get rid of some programs that are programs that the Vice President referred to as programs of yesterday. Let me give you an example.

Back in World War I, the Navy decided to change the fuel in battleships from coal to oil. But people were worried that we might run out of oil during the war, so the Navy needed its own petroleum reserve, the Naval Petroleum Reserve. And to this day, the government continues to own and operate one of the larger oil fields in the United States.

Well, our battleships don't need that oil anymore. It isn't going to run out. And by turning the management of that field and the ownership over to private enterprise, we're going to save the taxpayers well over \$1 billion. Private firms, our studies have shown, can operate the field more efficiently, as they do every other oil field in the United States and most of the oil fields in the world these American companies participate in because their efficiencies. And these companies can also provide private capital to further develop the field at a better rate than it is being developed today.

I could give you the same story and tell you the same type of situation, even where the government continues to operate some of these programs. Take our environmental remediation program. We did a study comparing what the overhead costs when the government cleans up a dump site compared to what the private enterprise spends when it cleans up a dump site. And because of the red tape and internal rules of the federal government and its contracting practices, the federal government spends twice as much on overhead as the best companies in the private sector do. So we're going to do what they do in order to cut our budget.

All of this will require cooperation from Congress. Our department does some very important things. We deal with the biggest trade problem we have -- that problem of oil imports. We are the custodians of the nuclear weapons and we must retain the essential functions performed by the Department of Energy. But with new legislation and some things we can do internally, we can make big changes and make the government leaner.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Roger Johnson is, of course, Director of the General Services Administration.

MR. JOHNSON: Well, the GSA is not one of the most well-known organizations in this town, but let me tell you, it spends an awful lot of money or controls it. As a matter of fact, this agency has direct or indirect responsibility for about \$60 billion of spending each year.

I wasn't sure how much that was. I've been in private business all my life with large companies, but never \$60 billion. But I discovered in 1993, the total net earnings of America's Fortune 500 companies was \$63 billion. That made \$60 billion pretty big.

We haven't been doing too badly since we came here about 18 months ago. Not only have we reduced the federal buildings fund and buildings projects by about \$1.3 billion over that period, but using the same time-honored review process, we have reviewed about \$18 billion of the country's largest information technology systems, cancelled \$6 billion already, another \$7 billion are under review.

When these programs restart, they're going to start at much lower dollars with much more effective systems.

This work has been going on at the same time we've been accelerating the downsizing of the agency. We'll have, by the end of this year, 3,600 fewer people from the 20,000 we started with. It's really the work of these people, as the President and Vice President said, that have caused this to happen. In the process, we've also been restructuring our organization so that they're much better able to be compared with the private sector, much better able to be benchmarked. And that's going to let us start the next phase of cost improvement and service improvement through this agency.

This afternoon I'll be talking to the management across the country through a television-phone hook-up, and asking them to accelerate the work they've already done in reorganizing, repackaging the organization. That's going to be done so that soon, we'll be able to take pieces of the agency and offer it to our employees for sale. We'll be testing every single thing we do against why can't it be done better in the private sector. One of the best ways to do that is to create some ESOPs. We actually do things in this agency that could be done and run and managed by our own people; they're good people.

For those parts of the agency or those things we do that are too large or too complex or cost too much for our own people to do, we'll be packaging that work in such a way that we'll invite private sector proposals to privatize those pieces where we will take the whole business out, including the people, including facilities where that's appropriate. When we get through with that process, we'll then look to put whatever else is left in the best place in the federal government for it to be done effectively. We'll put work in other agencies where that's effective.

When we get through with this, we're going to have a much smaller GSA, probably 50 percent smaller, or maybe less. It will be concerned with oversight and policies. Whatever it does, however, will have stood the test and it will be determined that it, in fact, is doing things, whatever it does, better than any other alternative.

The federal worker is a good person. The federal worker works hard, is intelligent. I've never had a better work force in private industry. Through the National Performance Review and the things we've been doing, we've been gradually -- and now it will accelerate -- removing all of the rules and regulations and an awful lot of the stifling atmosphere that has heretofore prevented that great federal worker from doing everything he or she knows how. I think with this privatization, it's going to accelerate that process. And not only will we have an agency that does things better and costs less, but I think the great number of our people will end up with the ability to use their creativeness and a situation where their own professional and financial situations might be a lot better off.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Jim King, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

MR. KING: Thanks, Mr. Vice President.

Early in the Vice President's effort to reinvent government, the Office of Personnel Management employees, their unions and its leadership came to a fundamental conclusion that we would redefine success here in Washington. Together we shared decades of inside-the-Beltway conventional wisdom. We decided success no longer means a bigger payroll, more central authority,

more control, more turf. To OPM, success now means a smaller, flatter, customer-driven and service delivery organization.

In the last 18 months, we have transformed OPM from an authoritarian rule-bound, road-blocked-to-progress, to an agency that is already a model of reinvention. Fully one year ahead of schedule, OPM essentially wiped out the 10,000 Federal Personnel Manual, that's known as the FPM. And that happened to be a compilation of all the rules, regulations and guidance governing our personnel system. The infamous FPM was 10 times longer than the Bible and even more open to interpretation. (Laughter.)

At the ceremony held to mark its demise, the FPM arrived in a wheelbarrow and it left in a dump truck to be recycled, of course. And to mark this new year, OPM will free people looking to work for the federal government from the onerous standard 171. As of midnight, December 31st, the public will no longer have to work days on a form that ends up looking like this. And I happened to bring my own, just so you can get an idea.

Here is a 171 when it's fully filled out. Now, I reach about eight feet. That has more information than my mother knows about me. (Laughter.) Do you really need to know this? And the answer is, no; nobody uses this sort of thing. Generally you find it in another location, but -- (laughter). Most people will now be able to use a resume. Many will be happy and able to apply by simply spending several minutes on a touch-tone phone. That's in lieu of what I just showed you. And all of this was achieved while we reduced OPM employment by 22 percent in cutting our supervisory ratio in half. OPM is now poised to complete its redefinition of success and start paying reinvention dividends to the American people.

And I want to thank you, Mr. Vice President, because this is the dividend time now, and it wouldn't come without that leadership.

After closely examining our own core mission, and the services we provide to our customers, OPM will focus on maintaining our nation's 100-year tradition of nonpolitical federal work force, as well as strengthening our leadership role in federal pay, benefits, labor relations policy and hiring. In addition, OPM will continue to administer the federal retirement, insurance and health benefits systems. The bottom line -- OPM's contribution to the reinvention dividend will be to cut its spending in half and its staff by one-third; faster than most of you will believe.

I do thank you, and I thank you, Mr. Vice President, for the opportunity to be here today.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Jim.

We'll be glad to take your questions now, and I'm going to ask Alice and my colleagues here to help me respond.

Q Could you tell us agency by agency, department by department, how many jobs will be cut over the next few years?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: No. There have been -- by next week, there will have been 98,000 positions eliminated. We were previously committed before today's announcements to an additional 175,000, for a total of 273,000. The FTE savings associated with today's announcements will be over and above, or under the limits already announced. But the specifics will flow from the detailed plans in each agency and department.

Q Mr. Vice President, could you spell out the \$52-billion freeze in discretionary spending in 1999 and 2000? Where will those cuts be made specifically? Which departments will be frozen?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: That is closely related to the President's other announcement today, which is that he is directing me to look at every single department and agency and program, and take the same approach that we have been taking to reinvent the entire process, and to eliminate programs and commissions, agencies that are not needed.

The \$52 million that comes from the freeze on domestic spending is, in essence, the bogey that we will have to hit for the remainder of the reinvention process. Now, there are other related efforts at cutting and saving that will also enable us to hit that \$52-million bogey.

Q How did you come up with \$52 billion if you don't know what's going to be frozen and where the spending cuts are going to come from?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, that's the result of extending the caps. That's the process that we have used in the last two years. In order to accomplish the kind of radical reinvention that we began a year and a half ago and that we are accelerating now, you have to have incentives for the agencies and departments to meet the goals. The cap on spending is one such incentive. The FTE numbers have been such an incentive also. The threat of elimination is the third incentive. These are all changes that will very much benefit the American people, and will really and truly create a government that works better and costs less.

But in order to bring about the kind of dramatic changes that are involved here, you have to have the strong incentive to do so. And we have that, and we're going to succeed.

Q How much will you save by putting the air traffic control system into a private corporation, and to whom will that be accountable?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, let me ask Secretary Pena to respond to that. There are 40,000 employees associated with air traffic control, and the function can operate a lot better in the private sector. But let me ask the Secretary.

SECRETARY PENA: Well, let's first understand what problems we're trying to correct in air traffic control before we talk about why we're putting it into a corporate structure. We have three major problems we're trying to address. One is a personnel system that does not allow us to attract and then place people where we need them at our busiest airports.

Secondly, we have a procurement system that doesn't allow us to bring on new technology on a timely basis to install it so we can keep up with a technologically-advanced aviation industry that we govern every second of the day. And, thirdly, we need to access the capital markets in order to finance, long-term, the multibillion dollars in improvements to the air traffic control system we're going to need in the next 21st century.

Those are the three problems we're trying to correct. We have concluded that the best way to do that is to take the approximate 40,000 people currently in the FAA, take them out of the FAA, put them into an independent corporate-like structure so they

don't have to deal with all of those problems. We are very much convinced -- given the fact that for many years the airline industry has been proposing this, many of the labor groups have been proposing this, this is an idea that has been suggested for probably the last 10 years. We're now poised to do it.

Q How much money can you save by doing this? These are supposed to be savings. How much money are you going to save?

SECRETARY PENA: You start -- if I could, Mr. Vice President -- by taking the 40,000 people -- they are no longer going to get any support from the general fund, they will now be wholly financed by the fees that the airline industry pays. So that's a tremendous relief to the general fund. And, secondly, the billions in dollars of waste that we have seen over the last 10 years in an inefficient procurement system I think will be eliminated. And that corporation will be able to use that same kind of procurement that any private company can do and bring them that technology much more cheaply, much more efficiently and off the shelf.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Let me add just one word to that. Those 40,000 -- that's an example of 40,000 FTEs that are not included in the original 273,000.

The second point: The employees involved, have strongly supported this move. The air traffic controllers and their organizations have support it. The airlines that will be footing the bill support it. Most -- the President's commission that was appointed two years ago, that worked in parallel with the NPR -- they reported around the same time we did -- also came to this conclusion. This is something that is really overdue.

Q Would that be a truly private entity, in which employees would have the right to strike, or if it would be somehow a government chartered corporation, in which they would be treated, for those purposes, like government workers in the sense of vital service providers?

SECRETARY PENA: Good question. That is why last year, in our proposal to the Congress, we had recommended that the corporation be a federal corporation, so that the employees would not have a right to strike. Others have suggested that it become a totally private corporation. If so, then you do have the problem of the right to strike.

Q So your current proposal is a --

SECRETARY PENA: -- is a federal corporation. There may be other ideas, but the concept is to get the inefficiencies that we currently have in the FAA out into a corporate structure. As it respects fees, we would take --

Q Sir, does this mean that the air fare will be increased?

SECRETARY PENA: No. The way in which we currently finance the system is through a 10-cent ticket tax, that all of us pay for when we fly all over the country. We would propose taking 8.25 percent of that 10-cent ticket tax and move it and transfer it with the corporation so that the corporation will have that funding stream in order to operate. And we think that the airlines support that strongly. And over time, in fact, from the beginning, it would be self-sufficient.

Q Secretary Pena, I'd like to address the changes in

the grants and subsidies. How will that affect specifically the airport improvement program and the funding for it? That will be returned to states, or will --

SECRETARY PENA: The general process here is to take decisions out of Washington and give them to the states and the localities. As respects the aviation trust fund, which is currently a distinct fund, it will remain a separate fund. The same is true with the highway trust fund -- it will remain a separate fund. But we will find a way to devolve, or to send back those dollars so that each state and locality can decide how best to use those funds in their own states.

Q Can they take those funds and put them into another mode, for example?

SECRETARY PENA: No, the aid -- right now the way we have proposed it is a trust fund in aviation will be used for aviation purposes. The federal -- the highway trust fund, which currently is supporting transit, highways and other things, will continue to do that. But there will be a separation between both funds.

Q I have a question for Director Rivlin. Director, what is the economic rationale for a tax cut right now? And isn't paying for it with unspecified spending cuts five or six years down the road the kind of gimmick that President Clinton promised he wouldn't use to pay for it?

DIRECTOR RIVLIN: The economic rationale is we have had an excellent economic recovery that shows up in all kinds of statistics. But average working people have not benefitted from that. It is sharing the benefits of the recovery with the middle class.

We are not paying for anything by unspecified cuts; this is not a budget briefing. We will have budget briefings when our budget comes out in February, and you will see all the detail. Extending the caps is something that we have done before; that's how we have held down spending over the last two years. We have stayed under those caps specified in the law. And we will do that not only for the next three years where they are specified in the law, but we are saying we will get under those caps in specific ways for the last two years as well.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Let me add to that response. These are very real. And I think that this team has compiled some credibility in cutting spending and in reducing the deficit. After the previous period where the national debt quadrupled and where deficits climbed out of control, we're having the first -- we're having three years in a row of deficit reduction for the first time since President Truman's administration, and the cuts are real.

Now, on the first part of your question, Director Rivlin made the point that middle income Americans have not sufficiently participated in the benefits of the recovery, but added to that, we have seen the emergence of this gap between those who have the education and training that equip them to compete for tomorrow's jobs, and those who do not. And by focusing a major portion of the middle-class tax cuts on education and training, we are building a bridge to the future that will enable all Americans to participate in the benefits of this sustained economic recovery that we're now experiencing.

Q Isn't that a social goal -- both these things --

sharing the benefits of the recovery, enabling people to get education -- those are social goals, are they not, not economic goals?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: No, not at all. They're related. They're related, because if those who get the education and training can participate in the jobs of the future, then that's desirable for them not just for social reasons, but also for economic reasons. They're better off, and the economy of the nation as a whole is better off.

Q Is there any purely economic rationale for these tax cuts -- any at all?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Absolutely. Because there has been an uneven quality to the benefit of the recovery, and that, in itself, threatens the sustainability of the recovery. We cannot be satisfied with a recovery that doesn't persist into the future, and it will not persist unless and until middle-income American families are able to participate in it, and until their children and they themselves are fully able to take advantage of the opportunities to get the skill and the training and the education needed to hold down these jobs.

We've now got an economy where the average working person changes jobs several times in a lifetime in order to make sure that they are not only able to get those new jobs, but to compete successfully with their counterparts in other countries and continue building our economy in the future, we've got to focus the benefits on them.

Q Hasn't the very purpose of reinventing government now been reinvented?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: No, not at all. In the first phase, we use the benefits not only to reduce the budget deficit, but also for a specific purpose. And that is to finance the crime bill, the punishment programs and the prevention programs. In this case, we're doing the same thing. We're using it not only to reduce the budget deficit, but also for a specific purpose. That is to finance the President's Middle Class Bill of Rights.

Q Thank you, Mr. Vice President. On the Department of Energy, what type of legislative changes were you saying that were -- might be necessary, and are you also looking at export of Alaskan crude as --

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I'm going to ask the Deputy Secretary to respond.

DEPUTY SECRETARY WHITE: Some of the big changes would allow us to sell Elk Hills, that I've just described, and to exempt certain programs from some of the, you know, red tape under procurement and civil service laws that has increased the cost doing business. And none of it depends on the export of Alaska crude.

Q So the legislation would just simply -- on the Elk Hills, and then -- I mean, can you be specific? What do you need from Congress, the authority to do this?

DEPUTY SECRETARY WHITE: Most everything will require either an appropriation or an authorization, and much of it will require changes in authorization laws.

Q I'd like to ask you a quick question, while you're

up there, about the Bonneville power administration. It had been rumored to be on the auction block; it apparently is not --

THE VICE PRESIDENT: It is not.

Q Why isn't it?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: There's a big distinction between Bonneville and the other power marketing administrations -- South East, South West, Western -- all have between six and eight percent of the customer base in the territory as part of their customers. With Bonneville, it's like 65 percent. It is completely different. You'll get a more detailed briefing on exactly what is involved, but that is not involved.

Helen.

Q Aren't you being stampeded by the Republicans? It sounds -- much of this sounds very Reaganesque. And aren't you really putting the peoples safety and health -- if government is so bad, how come you didn't eliminate the whole thing?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: (Laughter.) Well, the answer to both --

Q How about the savings and loan debacle, and all of these things that led to deregulation, where you have no supervision and now you coming --

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, the answer to both questions is no. (Laughter.) That won't surprise you, I'm sure. (Laughter.) But let me give a detailed reason why the answer to both questions is no.

In no case will health or safety be compromised one wit. They will be enhanced. There is not a single example in any of the reinvention plans or proposals that we have made that in any way reduces the commitment to effective protection of health and safety.

Now, to the first part of your question --is this a reaction instead of a proactive move? No, it is not. And as I mentioned in my opening comments, the proposal to reinvent government; to move some decision-making authority to the state and local level; privatize some functions of the federal government that can be much better performed in the private sector to change the way the government operates so that the centralized management and control functions are handled much more efficiently and intelligently -- these are all proposals that President Clinton and I ran on in 1992. These are all proposals that we talked about extensively; that we wrote about in the campaign book, Putting People First; and that we pledged to do when reinventing government was begun, almost -- well, a little over a year and a half ago. We have accelerated it; we have speeded it up; and we will continue to do that.

Q Mr. Vice President, will you oppose -- or rather, will President Clinton oppose with a veto the elimination of any of these agencies? And what is your position on the elimination of the Commerce Department, as suggested by Senator Domenici?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, we're not in favor of that. With respect to these agencies that are represented here, in each case, we took a very hard, intense look at the question -- are they needed at all? And the answer in each case was, yes, but a lot of what they're doing now is not -- some of what they're doing now is not needed, a lot of what they're doing now can be done in a lot

better way for less money.

And in most cases, I think really in every case here, the leaders of these agencies and departments had long since begun to take a visionary approach to what they would like to see their departments or agencies evolve into in an ideal world if they could really make changes that people might have considered radical a year or two years ago, and we gave them permission to come in with the boldest and most radical approaches that they thought are really justified, then we'll really improve the service delivered to the American people while we're reducing the cost.

I'm going to just take one more, and then we'll have to cut it off.

Q Will the tax cut go fully into effect in '96, or will it be phased in over a period of years? And, also, where are you getting the \$4.5 billion in savings that are listed under "other," other than the five agencies that were here today?

DIRECTOR RIVLIN: Yes, the tax cut will be phased in over a period of several years; and when we get the legislation, that will be clear. The other \$4.5 billion --

Q Can you tell us by how much you're starting with them in '96?

DIRECTOR RIVLIN: Not exactly. I mean, there are three parts to the tax cut, and we are working out exactly the phasing to match the phasing with the spending, because we have to pay for it not only in the aggregate, but year by year. So we can't phase it in faster than we can make the cuts.

That will all be evident in the budget, as will the additional \$4 billion. We're not doing a budget briefing today, we're just giving you the highlights and focusing on these five agencies.

Q Will the \$4 billion come from these five agencies, or from other agencies -- others?

DIRECTOR RIVLIN: No, others.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Others. And let me say, in closing, that each of these individuals and their teams will be giving extensive background sessions the rest of today. You'll be able to get a lot more of these details from them, and we'll be telling you more in the days ahead.

Thank you very much.

END1:15 P.M. EST

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Office of the Press Secretary
(Anaheim, California)

For Immediate Release

November 5, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS CONFERENCE ✓

Anaheim Convention Center
Anaheim, California

9:40 A.M. PST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Bob Elrod, for those kind remarks. Gil Woods, Secretary Cisneros, I'm delighted to have you with me here today and I thank you for your outstanding work in the area of **housing**, for all the things you are doing to make our country a better place.

I'd also like to thank the United States Marine Corps Band from El Toro who played before I came. I thank them.
(Applause.)

I am delighted to be here with all of you, including, I understand, hundreds of you from 36 nations, including some newly-emerging economies, who have traveled here for this convention.

I was kind of looking forward to coming here today. You know, Saturday is traditionally moving day in America, and families think about moving toward new homes. For me, it was just another opportunity to move out of Washington and come see you. (Laughter.)

This has been an interesting two years for me. There have been some great times, and some not-so-great times. Some that were exhilarating, and some that were nearly bizarre. Some days I feel like the boy who told his mother that he really didn't feel like going to school. And his mother said, "But, son, you have to go to school. I raised you to do the right thing." He said, "But it's not fun for me at school anymore, Mother." (Laughter.) "I mean, the

students don't like me." (Laughter.) "The teachers don't like me. The coaches groan when I walk by. Even the custodial workers don't like me."

She said, "Son, you have got to go to school. You're intelligent, you're healthy. You don't have a good excuse. Besides, you're 45 years old and you're the principal." (Laughter and applause.) So I try to show up, regardless. And I'm glad to show up here today.

Today I want to talk with you about the dream of homeownership, and the larger American Dream of which it is a part; and what we can do together to keep the economic renewal that began 21 months ago going. I ran for President of this great land of ours because of felt that for too long our national government had neglected issues that are fundamental to our national strength, our security and our future -- good jobs, strong families, better schools, safe streets, and a world more full of security, trade, freedom and peace.

In this country, when I took office, we had already been grappling for 30 years with profound social problems that have disturbed every person in this great hall today, affecting the breakdown of our families, our communities, the rise of crime and drugs and gangs and guns.

We have lived, and certainly you have lived, with about 20 years of economic stagnation for many ordinary Americans who are the bulk, the heart and soul of the home-buying public -- people who work year in and year out for wages that have barely kept up and often have not kept up with inflation. And we have had -- we had had 12 years of a policy which became loosely known as trickle-down economics, with which I deeply disagreed. And with which you as an association at least disagreed with specific parts of, as I heard in my introduction, the things that we reversed from the '86 tax act.

When I became President, we put together an economic strategy that was comprehensive in approach, long-term in vision, but quite basic: reduce the deficit; change the way government works the way government works; make it smaller with less regulation, more efficiency; a greater emphasis on partnership; and increase the impact of the things that you should do; ease the credit crunch; help small business; invest more in the security of our families and the skills of our people; invest in new technologies and defense conversions; increase trade.

We have pursued this strategy with discipline and persistence and success. The deficit includes a spending cut of \$255 billion. This year alone, it is \$100 billion less than it was projected to be when I took office. (Applause.) We are looking at three years of deficit reduction in a row for the first time since Harry Truman was the President of the United States. (Applause.)

In changing the way government works in this country, we have adopted now two budgets covering six years, which will reduce the size of the federal government by 272,000 to its smallest size since John Kennedy was the President of the United States. (Applause.) Already there are 75,000 fewer workers working for the federal government than there were on the day I was inaugurated President. (Applause.)

We have deregulated banking, deregulated trucking. We have gone a long way to deregulate federal rules and regulations on states, giving 20 states permission to try their own ideas to move people from welfare to work; giving nine states permission to try

their own ideas to find ways to increase the number of working people who have health insurance in this country.

We are working hard to change the way our federal government relates to our schools with very strong national standards of excellence in education, but deregulating the way the schools meet those standards; instead emphasizing local reforms, grass-roots initiatives, all kinds of changes initiated by people at the local level to help achieve the kind of learning that we simply have to have if our people are going to compete and win in the 21st century. (Applause.)

And, inasmuch as I am here in Orange County, I have to say a special word of thanks to a member of my administration who happens to be an Orange County Republican. Roger Johnson, who runs the General Services Administration, has helped to spearhead our reinventing government initiative to make sure that we not only downsize the government, that we also make the government work better. If you ask the people in California, for example, we rebuilt all the highways out here that were damaged by the earthquake in about half the time that people said we could do it if we worked flat out. (Applause.)

We did it not by government mandate, but by simply saying we would pay you more if you finished quicker. (Laughter.) A novel idea -- long -- just started by the government, revised for the California earthquake rebuilding effort.

We finally adopted a bill to change the way the government buys \$200 billion worth of goods and services with your tax money every year. And in so doing, by stripping away rules and regulations, we are saving \$50 on every single federal government purchase under \$2,500 a year. No more \$500 hammers. No more \$50 ashtrays. We have opened the markets to the kind of competitive pressures all of you observed. (Applause.)

This year, even though we reduced defense and domestic discretionary spending for the first time in 25 years, we are investing more in Head Start, in more affordable loans for middle class students, in national service to allow young people to earn money for their college education by serving their communities at the grass-roots level, in apprenticeship programs for people who don't go to college but do want good training and good jobs for the future.

And we are taking all the money that we are saving by reducing the federal bureaucracy by 272,000 and putting it into financing the crime bill, giving the money right back to grass-roots communities to hire police officers, to institute the prevention and the punishment programs that I believe can lower crime and violence in this country if people at the community level will spend the money in the proper way. We took the money from the Washington bureaucracy and gave it to every community represented by every person in real estate in this entire hall. I think it was a good switch. It will make our country safer. (Applause.)

We have also increased our investment in new technologies and defense conversions to help communities that have been hurt, by base closings or by their big industries losing defense contracts. And we have dramatically expanded trade with NAFTA, with the GATT world trade agreement. As soon as the election is over, literally a couple of days after that, I have to go all the way to Indonesia for the second annual meeting of the leaders of the Asian Pacific economic group. It's a leadership organization that I really got to meet for the first time as leaders in Seattle last year. Why am I doing this? Not because I want to take another trip two days

after the election, but because Asia is the fastest growing part of the world economy and the United States needs to be in those markets. It's high-wage jobs for us. We have to continue to push that approach. (Applause.)

Let me say that just this year, our exports to Mexico since we adopted NAFTA are up by 18 or 19 percent -- three times the overall growth in our trade. Auto exports to Mexico are up 500 percent. I just came back from Michigan, where the biggest complaint is the amount of overtime the autoworkers are having to work. That, folks, is a high-class problem. (Applause.)

Now, this is the strategy, of which you were a part when your organization supported our efforts last year. What I want you to know is it is working. Just yesterday we learned that unemployment in the United States had dropped to 5.8 percent -- a four-year low -- and that unemployment in California had dropped to a three-year low at 7.7 percent.

For those of you who aren't from here, let me tell you what happened to California. They not only went through the national recession, but California, with 12 percent of the population, had 21 percent of defense expenditures and suffered the impact of 40 percent of the base closings. So they're lagging a little behind the national recovery, but they are coming, too. They had a substantial drop in unemployment last month; now they're at three-year low.

Overall, the economy of our country has produced more than five million new jobs in the last 21 months -- 91 percent of them in the private sector. In this year, the best news may be that about half the new jobs are high-wage jobs; that more high-wage jobs have come into the American economy in 1994 than in the previous five years combined. That's good news for homeownership. It's good news for the American middle class. It may mean that after a very long period of time we are turning around average wage levels by changing the job mix in America. (Applause.)

I mention the auto industry to you; there are more people working in the auto industry now than in any year since 1979, even though they are much more productive and it takes far fewer workers to produce a car than it did in 1979. For the first time since 1979, automakers in the United States have produced worldwide, and sold more cars worldwide than their Japanese competitors -- for the first time in 15 years. (Applause.)

And in the annual vote that occurs every year of international economists, for the first time in nine years the United States was voted the most productive economy in the world. We are moving in the right direction. (Applause.)

I have to say, as has already been noted, that we have focused intensely on the real estate industry as a part of all of this -- because you are one-fifth of our gross domestic product, because we need a healthy real estate sector. And in the economic program last year, when you asked for passive losses to be restored for real estate professionals, when you asked for FHA limits that moved with the markets, when you asked for mortgage revenue bonds to be extended permanently, when you asked for a secondary market for commercial real estate loans, you got those things in our economic program because they were good for the United States and for our economy. (Applause.)

Housing starts are up 30 percent since January of '93. And after declining by 664,000 the previous four years, construction jobs have increased by 436,000 since those changes were made and

since we have begun to move this economy forward in the last 21 months. And I thank you for your contribution to the economic progress of the United States. (Applause.)

I want to talk now about where we go. But I have to say, just for a moment, if you will indulge me, since I know I have a good bipartisan crowd here, there may be more, indeed, Republicans than Democrats in this audience. (Applause.) This is a rather curious election season. I mean, after all, if I were a Republican president who said to you, look, we've reduced the deficit, reduced the size of government, gotten the economy going again, adopted the toughest crime bill in history, promoted peace and reduced the nuclear threat and increased trade all around the world, the Republicans would say it would be unpatriotic to campaign against the people who voted for those policies in their races for Congress. (Applause.) I think that's right.

And yet, we are living in a time of such cynicism that a lot of these races all around the country are being dominated by people who say, vote for me because I know that the government is inherently bad; that everything they do is wrong; that anything they do will make the problem worse; that if anything good happens in this country while Mr. Clinton is in office, it's either in spite of him or unrelated to the fact that like the principal, he shows up for work every day. (Laughter and applause.)

Now, imagine this -- suppose your office worked that way. (Laughter.) And some guy comes in and he says, hire me to work in your real estate office because the real estate industry is inherently sick, and you couldn't do anything right if you wanted to; and if you hire me, I'll sit in the office all day and I won't try to sell a house. (Laughter.) If half the people who came to work in your place every day said, I'm showing up for work, but really we're going in the wrong direction and we can't make anything good happen, and that glass is half empty, you would all be broke.

And we are seriously entertaining giving our votes to people who tell us these things. Folks, the government is neither inherently good or bad. It is our tool. It is the instrument that reflects us. It is what we make of it. It can do wrong; it can do right. (Applause.) It can be good; it can be bad. (Applause.)

My view has been that we have tended to see government in too much black or white terms, as we'd looked to government as a savior when we're in trouble, and the rest of the time we say that we ought to junk it. It's either our savior, or we want it on the sidelines. The truth is, in my opinion, as we move toward the 21st century, government should be seen as an instrument that it seeks to create opportunity in the private sector. It seeks to empower people, and then challenges people to assume both individual and community responsibility, because that's where most of the action is in America today.

The government cannot do as many things directly -- and should not try -- but without a sensible, aggressive, focused government, working in partnership and challenging people to assume responsibility for their own lives, this country cannot live up to its potential. Many of the things that we do actually matter. The Family and Medical Leave Law made a difference in the lives of millions of Americans who wanted to be successful parents and workers; who wanted to be able to take a little time off when they had a baby born or a sick parent without losing their jobs. (Applause.)

Our expansion of Head Start made a difference. That

program works. A lot of kids are going to wind up being good students and good citizens now who might have taken a different path in life. Those things make a difference.

The changes we made in the real estate laws, reversing the mistakes that were made in 1986, made a difference to you. It makes a difference whether we do the right thing or the wrong thing. (Applause.)

So the only thing I ask you to do without regard to your party or your philosophy is to remember what we did here has made a difference. As they say back in Arkansas, where I come from, if you find a turtle on a fence post, chances are it didn't get there by accident. (Laughter and applause.) And I think you ought to think about that. (Applause.)

And what we need in this country so much is to get away from this whole kind of negative-dominated way of talking, where we scream at each other instead of visit with each other. Believe me, I don't have all the answers. And if you try to do as many things as I've tried to do, you'll make a mistake or two; and I acknowledge that. But what we need in this country is people in public life who do what you expect when you're trying to get to sell real estate -- you've got to show up every day with a positive attitude and a willingness to look at the facts and a willingness to learn and a determination to make progress. That's what we need. We need to discuss these things with one another.

These social problems we've got in this country, I say again, have been developing for 30 years, but they are of profound importance. We can fix the economy and if we lose millions of our kids -- like those kids that dropped that five-year-old out of that high rise in Chicago -- well, it's going to be hard for America to be what it ought to be. And these economic problems are of profound complexity. When people work harder and they get more productive and they make the economy grow with no inflation, then the first thing they're told is, the economy is growing with no inflation; but we might have inflation, so we're going to raise interest rates so you won't get an increase in your income. (Applause.) These are frustrating, complex problems.

On the other hand, we don't want inflation. You look at these countries that are gripped with inflation -- it will kill your economy. These are complicated problems. But what we need in America today is a country that should be full of optimism and hope and a conviction that we can all make a difference.

When I came back from the Middle East, I was so impressed by that. I looked at the faces of our young men and women in uniform in the Persian Gulf who moved so quickly against Saddam Hussein's aggression. I looked at the people who were there at the peace signing between Jordan and Israel, and how grateful they were for the role of the United States in that peace. And I thought to myself, around the world, nobody is cynical about the United States; they know this is a very great country. All I ask you to do is to bring your differences into the framework that this is a very great country, moving in the right direction, leading the world, and we can solve our problems; but only if we speak with one another and listen to one another and stop just throwing these verbal bombs across the fences that divide us and turn us into cynical and negative people. We're not going to get anywhere doing that. (Applause.) Thank you.

I'd like to take the remainder of my time to talk a little about what you came here to discuss; and that is homeownership and whether, as partners, we can do anything to increase it. If you

think about it, the idea of having your own home is the ultimate expression of optimism. Homes are for families. They make for a more secure environment for our children. They create pride and self-esteem. They are the extension of our personality, our hopes, our dreams. For most of us, they're the main harbor of all of our collected memories. They are the most important investment in financial security that most Americans every make. And most people who own homes care more about their own communities and have a bigger stake in solving the kind of problems that we've been here talking about today.

You know, I was thinking this morning as a I flew over here, I have very vivid memories of every home I ever lived in, even when I was just three or four years old. And I bet all of you do, too. I can hardly remember anything about my very early childhood, but I remember the feel, the look, the atmosphere of the first home I ever lived in. I think we all agree that more Americans should own their own homes, for reasons that are economic and tangible, and reasons that are emotional and intangible, but go to the heart of what it means to harbor, to nourish, to expand the American Dream.

A national survey recently found that most people won't start saving for a home until they believe that they can actually buy a home. And I want to say to the American people, and especially to young families, if that's what you think, you ought to start saving now, because I am determined to see that you have the opportunity and together we can make that opportunity for the young families of our country. (Applause.)

I am committed to a new and unprecedented partnership between industry leaders and community leaders and government, to recommit our nation to the idea of homeownership, and to create more homeowners than ever before. I heard the kind introduction -- well, of course the home mortgage deduction helps millions of ordinary citizens to achieve the dream of homeownership. Of course, it does. But I believe we can do even more.

As the economy recovers, we know that we're going to make progress anyway. There are 1.5 million more homeowners in America today than there were 22 months ago. **Housing** starts are up and sales and profits are up. Here in California, where, as I said, the economy has been in difficulty, the pace of home sales for the first nine months of this year is the highest in five years.

But still we face serious problems. Troubling changes occurred in the **housing** sector after 1980. After 46 years of steady growth, homeownership expansion began to head downward. Inflation, recession, stagnant incomes, the failure to enforce laws prohibiting discrimination in **housing** and lending, high costs and a reduced role for FHA perhaps all played a role. But by 1992, the national rate of homeownership had slipped dramatically. Homeownership for young families fell from 44.5 percent in 1980 to 37.6 percent by 1992. In 1980 more than 70 percent of our children lived in homes owned by families. In 1991, that had fallen to less than 63 percent. By 1990, two million young American families who would have become homeowners if the upward trend had continued, did not have the chance to own their own home. We have got to turn this around. We have to move this measure of our national prosperity forward, as well. And I am convinced that we can do it.

Therefore, today, I am directing HUD Secretary Cisneros to develop, in cooperation with the most significant members of the **housing** industry and government at all levels, a plan to boost homeownership to an all-time high in the United States before the

century is out. (Applause.)

This initiative will draw heavily on the expertise of those of you in real estate, financing and building. Representatives of state and local governments and nonprofit community-based groups will join in. Participants from our administration will include the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy, the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. I want them to write and send me, within six months, a detailed strategy that recommits America to homeownership; that will add millions of new homeowners by the end of this century.

I can assure you -- just don't forget, the end of this century is just a couple of years away -- I can assure you that this is not a report that will sit on a shelf. It is one that will be implemented. And let me be clear, this is not a government program. I have asked for the involvement of realtors, homebuilders, mortgage bankers, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, insurers, the Habitat for Humanity, bankers groups, nonprofits, 40 other groups already on board to do their part. This is an initiative based on cooperation, not a government program.

We can achieve the results we seek for America's homeowners if we take seriously the lessons I mentioned earlier about the way we reinvent and change the role of government; not what government can provide, but what government can help make it possible for you to provide. Specifically, I've asked the Secretary to focus, in the beginning, on at least three areas. First, I directed this group to find ways to cut the costs and the regulations involved in buying a home. I want it to be simpler, less costly. (Applause.)

Second, I want to target new markets, underserved populations, tear down the barriers of discrimination wherever they are found. Let me just make this point -- (applause.) Thank you. Look at our trade policy. What are we trying to do? We tore down barriers to trade with Mexico because we knew they'd buy more of our products. We would buy more of theirs; they would buy more of ours. It would change the job mix in America for more high-wage jobs.

The biggest untapped market in America for many of us are the millions and millions and millions of people that the economy of the 1980s left behind -- people who live in our cities, people who live in our isolated rural areas; people with productive capacities who, if they can become consumers, can explode the American economic growth rate well into the next century. That is what this is all about; and we should all focus on it. (Applause.)

Third, I want to develop new strategies for educating those who haven't considered becoming homeowners because they don't have an adequate comfort level, or enough information to act. And believe it or not, at least our research indicates it's a much bigger problem than I would have thought when we began to look into it. Let me go through these issues briefly one at a time.

A modest starter home today costs about \$94,000 in many parts of the country, even more here in California. With only a 5 percent down payment and closing costs, that's about \$9,000 up front. Half the young families in this country make about \$25,000 a year. Well, it's hard to save \$9,000 when you're raising children on less than \$25,000 a year. Many families are paying more in rent than it would cost them to own a home and to build equity, but they can't come up with the front-end money. We have to do better.

Secretary Cisneros has taught me the term, "lifer". As

an old attorney general, I thought that had to do with the criminal justice system. But today more and more, it refers to people who are renters for life -- middle-class Americans who have no hope of becoming homeowners. We can do better than that; and we will. (Applause.)

We have to do a better job of reaching the underserved; of eradicating discriminatory practices that prevent minority from finding, financing or buying the home of their choice. It's wrong for anybody with a solid work history to be denied a home. (Applause.)

And as so often is the case in the United States, if we do the right thing, it will be good business. It will be more money for all Americans and a greater rate of economic growth. (Applause.)

The third and final element of the plan will involve improving our efforts at education and outreach. According to one national survey, fewer than half of all American adults know what they need to know to navigate the real estate market successfully. Surely with all the communications technology available today, we can do better than that in America. Every day you counsel, you educate, you elevate the comfort levels of potential homeowners. We need your help in learning how to do this better for people throughout the United States.

If we do these three things -- and perhaps this group, which will include representatives of your industry, will come up with others -- we can widen the circle of home ownership beyond anything we have ever seen. And in so doing, we can slowly begin to restore the confidence of battered middle-class American families who fear that even in times of economic recovery, their own family security will not be enhanced. That is the key to restoring the American Dream -- having working people believe that they can live in the turbulent, fast-changing times of the 21st century and still come out winners if they work hard, become lifetime learners, play and still come out winners if they work hard, become lifetime learners, play by the rules and raise their kids well. And finding a way for these people to own their own homes is a critical part of restoring that sense of American security and the reality of the American Dream. I want you to help me do that. (Applause.)

My fellow Americans, through presidents and administrations of both parties, the American people have been committed across party lines to the idea of homeownership. We have shown through things like the FHA and the G.I. Bill that we can work in partnership to empower people who will take responsibility for their own lives. I am trying to do that now in many, many other areas of our national life. We are trying, all of us, to face problems we have ignored too long. We are trying to deal with the challenges and seize the opportunities that await us.

I just want to say this last thing in closing: I am convinced that the best days of this country are ahead of us, if we will only seize these challenges, seize these opportunities, and maintain the attitude that all of you inculcate into everybody who works with you every day. I am telling you this is still the strongest country in the world; the greatest peacemaker in the world; the most powerful economy in the world. The only thing that can get in our way is our failure to believe in ourselves, and our unwillingness to work together to face the challenges before us. If we can get rid of that, there is no limit to America's future.

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

END10:10 A.M. PST

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 20, 1994

PRESIDENT CLINTON DIRECTS HUD TO MAKE FINAL PUSH FOR NEW FEDERAL HOMELESS STRATEGY ✓

The President on September 16 issued the attached directive to the Department of **Housing** and Urban Development (HUD) to make a final push for the Administration's new federal homeless strategy. In response to the President's Directive, HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros and HUD Assistant Secretary Andrew Cuomo will begin a nationwide campaign to build and solidify public support for the Federal Plan to Break the Cycle of Homelessness.

In his directive, the President emphasized that "our citizens must understand the principles of the Federal Plan. They must be convinced of the importance of our proposed legislation to reorganize HUD's homeless programs, and they must be persuaded of the critical importance of doubling HUD's homeless budget. Most of all, the President's Directive concluded, "they must understand our eagerness to work in partnership with local governments, not-for-profit providers, advocates, and others to create a comprehensive continuum of care in all our cities and towns."

Secretary Cisneros and Assistant Secretary Cuomo will travel to major cities across the nation to meet with local officials, community leaders and homeless Americans. They will visit homeless facilities in Baltimore, New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Cleveland, Detroit, Seattle, Atlanta, Knoxville and other cities.

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Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 4, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Civil Rights Working Group

not
included

I am writing to you about our responsibility to promote equal opportunity for all Americans. We have accomplished much in our pursuit of a society in which all our people can achieve their God-given potential. But we still have a long way to go.

Americans believe that in spite of our differences, there is in all of us a common core of humanity that obliges us to respect one another and to live in harmony and peace. We must build on this belief and give real meaning to civil rights by tearing down all remaining barriers to equal opportunity -- in education, employment, **housing**, and every area of American life.

Throughout the Nation, each of us must bring new energy to our efforts to promote an open and inclusive society. Those of us who are public servants have a special obligation. At the Federal level, we will do this by re-evaluating the civil rights missions, policies, and resources of every agency, so that they carry out their missions in a manner consistent with the Administration's commitment to equal opportunity. In reviewing our activities, we must seek not only to eliminate barriers to equal access and opportunity, but also to identify opportunities for innovation. No Federal office should be exempt from the obligation to further the struggle for civil rights. And every State and local government should be encouraged to do the same.

On January 17, 1994, I issued an Executive order establishing a President's Fair **Housing** Council to be chaired by the Secretary of **Housing** and Urban Development. Working across agencies and programs, this Council will bring new focus and leadership to

the administration of the Federal Government's fair **housing** programs. On February 11, 1994, I issued an Executive order directing agencies to develop strategies to identify, analyze, and address environmental inequities that are the result of Federal policies. That order will increase public participation in the environmental decision-making process.

In addition to these efforts, I believe more can be done to exercise leadership for civil rights enforcement. That is why I hereby establish a Civil Rights Working Group, under the auspices of the Domestic Policy Council, to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of Federal civil rights enforcement missions and policies. The Civil Rights Working Group will identify barriers to equal access, impediments to effective enforcement of the law, and effective strategies to promote tolerance and understanding in our communities and workplaces. Most important, I expect the Working Group to develop new approaches to address these issues.

The principal focus of the Working Group will be our civil rights enforcement efforts. We must recognize, however, that public and private enforcement resources will never be fully adequate to the task, and all of the remaining obstacles to opportunity cannot be removed through litigation alone. Therefore, I direct the Working Group to identify innovative strategies that can leverage our limited resources to provide new avenues for equal opportunity and equal rights. Among those potential strategies are new measures relying on civic education and voluntary efforts to engage citizens in overcoming the effects of past discrimination. These new strategies should be designed to complement our improved and reinvigorated enforcement efforts.

The Attorney General and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget will co-chair the Working Group. The following Administration officials will serve as members: the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of **Housing** and Urban Development, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy, the Assistant to the President and Director of Public Liaison. I also have invited the Chairperson of the Commission on Civil Rights to participate in this crucial endeavor on an informal basis, respecting the independent and critical voice we expect of that Commission. Finally, this membership list is not exclusive. I invite and encourage all Cabinet officers and agency heads to participate in the Working Group.

The Working Group will advise appropriate Administration officials and me on how we might modify Federal laws and policies to strengthen protection under the laws and on how to improve coordination of the vast array of Federal programs that directly or indirectly affect civil rights. I direct the Working Group to provide the Cabinet and me with a brief progress report no less than every 6 months, and specifically to:

- (a) examine each Federal agency with a significant civil rights mission and provide me with an

evaluation of how well that mission is being implemented. These analyses should examine whether each agency uses the experience gained from enforcement activities of other agencies and other levels of government. Counterproductive and inconsistent practices should be identified and proposals for change recommended;

- (b) examine cross-cutting civil rights law enforcement challenges such as voting rights and equal access to government benefit programs and identify innovative means of coordinating and leveraging resources;
- (c) develop better measures of performance for Federal civil rights enforcement programs, taking into account the real impact of programs on the daily lives of all Americans; and
- (d) support and advise all agencies as we reinvent our strategies for the promotion of an open and inclusive society.

With this interagency effort, I underscore the commitment of this Administration to bring new energy and imagination to the opportunity agenda. In departments and agencies throughout the Federal Government, this work is already well underway. The Working Group will provide a mechanism to expand and accelerate that vital work. Its work will be among our greatest contributions to the people we serve.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 5, 1994 ✓

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT ✓

Home ownership is one of the foundation stones of the American dream. Renewing and expanding this dream is one of my Administration's highest priorities and deepest commitments.

Our economic plan, which did so much to lower interest rates, has helped make homes affordable for more people. As more Americans realize that home ownership is within their reach, many of them turn to the Department of **Housing** and Urban Development (HUD) and the Government National Mortgage Association (Ginnie Mae) for Government assistance. These programs, some of which operate at a profit to the Federal Government, have enabled millions of Americans to enjoy the pride and sense of accomplishment that come with owning your own home.

As new home purchases and refinancings continue at a rapid rate, single-family home purchasers will soon be unable to do business with the Federal **Housing** Administration (FHA) and Ginnie Mae -- absent corrective action -- because the increased demand for loans has exhausted their loan authority. That is why the Congress, acting responsibly and in a fiscally prudent manner, adopted a supplemental appropriation to replenish these funds. Today I am signing into law H.R. 4568, which provides a supplemental appropriation for HUD and Ginnie Mae so that these agencies can continue their good work in helping low- and middle-income Americans build their piece of the American dream.

Specifically, the Act provides: (1) increased loan commitment authority of \$35 billion for the FHA Mutual Mortgage Insurance program; (2) increased Ginnie Mae loan guarantee commitment authority of \$55 billion; (3) an increase of

\$3 billion in loan volume for condominium and other **housing** insurance programs; and (4) an additional \$18 million in budget authority to subsidize mortgages for the purchase or construction of rental **housing**. Equally important, this legislation will not add a penny to the Federal deficit. So, as we continue putting our fiscal house in order, this legislation will ensure that home ownership becomes the order of the day for more and more Americans.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

THE WHITE HOUSE,
July 5, 1994.

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June 20, 1994

PRESS BRIEFING

BY

ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ELI SEGAL,

ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO,

INTERIOR SECRETARY BRUCE BABBITT,

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SECRETARY DONNA SHALALA,

HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY HENRY CISNEROS,

AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ADMINISTRATOR CAROL BROWNER

The Briefing Room

1:39 P.M. EDT

MS. MYERS: The following is a briefing to announce the winners of the first-ever AmeriCorps grants. Eli Segal will open it up, make remarks. Then, the order of speakers will be as follows: the Attorney General Reno, Secretary Babbitt, Secretary Shalala, Secretary Cisneros, Administrator Browner. Then, Mr. Segal will open it up to questions, take any questions you all have. When this ends, I'll come back and talk about any other topics of interest.

So without further ado, Eli Segal.

MR. SEGAL: Good afternoon, everyone. Today we're here to make some news, and maybe a little history as well. Today, we take the first step since last fall's passage of the national service legislation creating AmeriCorps, in transforming President Clinton's vision of national service, repeated so regularly and so frequently in the campaign, into reality.

In September, the first of 20,000 young AmeriCorps members will begin serving their country. Today we're here to announce the identity of the first 57 organizations with which they

will serve. These first programs in the AmeriCorps National Service Network, will be joined by approximately 150 additional local organizations which will be selected later this summer.

These 200 organizations will choose the 20,000 AmeriCorps who will begin serving in September. In return for a substantial commitment to getting things done in their communities, AmeriCorps members will receive a minimum wage stipend, and after a full year of service an education award worth nearly \$5,000 for each year, up to two, that they may be serving.

There's going to be intense competition for these AmeriCorps positions. We've already received 60,000 inquiries already, many months before the program begins, just as there has been intense competition among the organizations to run AmeriCorps programs.

The phase we announced today challenged national nonprofits, programs operating in more than one state, the Cabinet and the entire federal government itself to use the energy and the idealism of the young to help them achieve their objectives in a fresh new way.

The intensive nationwide competition began with an unprecedented outreach effort in which our corporation contacted more than 10,000 organizations and individuals. Proposals were evaluated -- first, by dozens of peer review panels composed of outside experts, those knowledgeable in youth development, academicians and community leaders -- and then the applications were vigorously reviewed by our staff.

Out of hundreds and hundreds of programs which applied, these 57 that we're going to be introducing today stand out as AmeriCorps' best of the best. We've provided summaries for you of all of them, but let me give you some sense of their breadth and why we are so excited today as we move the vision of National Service to reality.

To help make America safer, AmeriCorps' Department of Justice project will put members of the Los Angeles Police Department's substations to help with community policing and in neighborhoods to set up block watches. While in Kansas City, the AmeriCorps National Council of Churches partnership will team up AmeriCorps members with ministers and former gang members to move kids out of gangs and into classrooms and into jobs.

And in North Carolina, AmeriCorps members of Johnson C. Smith College will train middle school kids to settle disputes among their classmates without resort to violence. To help make America smarter, AmeriCorps and the Public Education Fund Network will team retired IBM executives with younger AmeriCorps members to open the world of computers for schoolchildren and their teachers in dozens of inner-city schools all over the country.

College students and teen parents will partner with the I Have Dream Foundation in ten cities to adopt entire classes of elementary school students, mentoring and tutoring them and doing community service projects together. To help make America healthier, returned Peace Corps volunteers will join AmeriCorps, working through four schools of public health all over the United States to bring basic health services to the working poor in a number of cities.

Meanwhile, AmeriCorps members, with the National Community AIDS Partnership, will team up with the United Way and Boys and Girls Clubs to use theatre and other methods to teach AIDS

prevention to young people in five cities.

To help homeless Americans get back on their feet, AmeriCorps will hook up with Habitat for Humanity to build houses in hurricane-ravaged Homestead, Florida, while military veterans will sign up for AmeriCorps in a partnership of the VA and the National Coalition for Homeless Vets, renovating **housing** and providing recovery services to vets in Houston.

To make America's environment cleaner, the Navy will sail a seaborne conservation corps of at-risk youth to reclaim the shoreline of Galveston Bay in Texas while the Department of Interior will send a corps of environmental science students to help save the Everglades. And the Navajo Nation will keep its young tribe members at home to use the latest scientific methods and traditional tribal techniques to save Southwestern watersheds.

In all, the first group of AmeriCorps programs will operate in 47 states and the District of Columbia. We're going to be providing more than \$31 million to national nonprofits and \$16 million more to programs sponsored by the Cabinet and other federal agencies. We supply the statistics today to show you the level of buy-in for President Clinton's historic initiative. But it can't begin to convey the level of excitement that thousands of our people feel as we partner the government with an engaged citizenry in a fresh new way.

We don't kid ourselves; AmeriCorps is not going to solve the massive problems we confront in America. But it is going to make a difference. AmeriCorps is a delivery system for change. One year from today, with 20,000 AmeriCorps out there, communities around the United States will know it, see it, and feel it.

Now I'd like to congratulate those Cabinet members, five of whom are with us today, representing all of the federal AmeriCorps programs. They're going to include the Departments of Justice, Interior, HHS, HUD, Agriculture, Transportation, Veterans Affairs, Labor, Energy, and Defense, the EPA, plus the Legal Services Corporation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, and the National Institute for Literacy. Truly a remarkable competition. Hundreds and hundreds wanted to participate in the launch of AmeriCorps; their proposals were excellent, but not quite good enough.

We've asked some Cabinet members who have been particularly engaged in national service to join us today and tell us a little bit about what their departments are going to do. I take great pride in beginning this by introducing, first, Attorney General Reno.

Let me say one quick word about the Department of Justice and their involvement. Not only is the Department of Justice actively engaged as we're about to launch national service in September, but this particular summer we will be launching, are launching -- in fact, this week the President will be in St. Louis on Friday to do it formally -- we're launching our Summer of Safety, which will partner this summer for eight and a half weeks, young people and people young in spirit all over the United States, combining national service and public safety in a wide variety of programs.

The Justice Department has been particularly helpful to us in getting our Summer of Safety to a point we'll be able to report after the summer to the American people about the number of block associations created, about the number of senior escort services

created, about all the kinds of things in the cities of America which shows what you can do when you can match together our government with an engaged citizenry.

But for now, I think the Attorney General is going to talk to you about her involvement and her department's involvement in AmeriCorps. My great pleasure in inviting the Attorney General to come to the microphone.

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Thank you, Eli. And thank you for your leadership in this remarkable effort. The Justice Department-sponsored national service program will send 210 AmeriCorps participants to weed-and-seed sites, to seven weed-and-seed sites across the nation. From Los Angeles to Philadelphia, San Antonio to Seattle, AmeriCorps participants will be engaged in trying to prevent crime, improve police protection and public safety programs, assist crime victims and improve police and community relations.

Our participants will work with uniformed community policing officers to assist them in solving the crime-related problems in their community. We have already watched beginnings of this effort as young people have joined with community police officers who are their mentors as well. And giving these young people the opportunity for service has given them the sense that they can make a difference, that they are somebody, and that they can be involved.

They will work with the schools to help teach our young people conflict resolution and peer mediation techniques, and they will engage in a variety of after-school activities designed to constructively channel the energy of our young, provide increased security in areas experiencing a high incidence of crimes, such as bus stops and playgrounds, and by providing safe corridors for schoolchildren returning home.

When I ask young people who have been in trouble what they would want to do to have prevented the trouble in the first place, they tell me again and again, something to do in the afternoon and in the evening. I look at so many young people who want to contribute, want to make a difference. This is an opportunity to bring these two great needs and urgings together so that we can really reinvent communities and give young people a chance to grow.

Thank you so much for your leadership.

MR. SEGAL: A former VISTA supervisor, someone who was prepared to actually testify for me last year as we moved our legislation through the House from the Senate, Secretary Bruce Babbitt has been there from the beginning, understands national service in a way few others do.

Our partnership at the Department of Interior will be truly historic. The Department of the Interior has, for a long time, understood the underlying principles of national service. Our award today will allow Interior to take this to a new level.

It's my pleasure to introduce Secretary Babbitt.

SECRETARY BABBITT: Eli, thank you. The participation of the Interior Department marks the revival of an old tradition that goes clear back to the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s, in which some of the most magnificent and productive work in the national park system of all time was done. A timberline lodge on Mt. Hood in Oregon, trails in the Grand Canyon, an enormous amount of

work on Blue Ridge and the Great Smoky Mountain National Park.

The Interior Department has put together five projects which will draw people into a revival of that tradition out on public lands, building trails, improvements, environmental monitoring, the reconstruction of needed projects, a participation with the United States Geological Survey.

A majority of these projects will be focused around the large-scale ecosystem restoration projects that we have begun work on in the last year -- the Everglades in South Florida, a large project taking place among many partners on an international basis in the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. We'll have a group out at Fort Ord in California, a military establishment which is now going to be returned to the Bureau of Land Management as public space much in need of reconstruction of a 100-mile trail system, a variety of other amenities there, another group with the United States Geological Survey.

A fifth group will go to the Los Angeles area to work with the water agencies in public education and in water conversation programs as we move out into urban areas to inform citizens and work with them on water conversation projects.

In the 1960s, Donna Shalala returned from spending two years in the Peace Corps, and she tells us all how it changed her life. She came to Washington, and our partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services already has led to some remarkable achievements and remarkable immunization undertaken in the summer in the state of Texas is just one small indication of how AmeriCorps can work closely with the department in making this a better and safer place and a healthier place for our youngsters.

I'm happy to introduce to you Donna Shalala whose whole life has been about national service.

SECRETARY SHALALA: Thanks very much, Eli. Actually, it was 30 years ago to this month that I finished my Peace Corps tours of duty, and I'm delighted to be joining with my colleagues to celebrate the first grants under AmeriCorps. And Eli has just done a great job.

Actually, the Department has been involved in national service for a very long time through its National Health Service Corps which was established in 1972 and 18,000 health professionals have already gone through that program. We build on that tradition with three new service programs which will allow volunteers, AmeriCorps volunteers to roll up their sleeves and have a direct impact in the AmeriCorps priority areas of education and human needs.

In something called the Ad Corps, which will be run by our Administration on Developmental Disabilities, volunteers will help people with severe disabilities to find jobs and the **housing** necessary so that they can live independently. The Ad Corps will actually include volunteers who are themselves disabled as well as some who are not.

In the model Health Service Corps, the second grant that we've gotten, it's a project of our health resources and services administration, and volunteers there will bring the gift of good health to young families. In homes and in community centers, the new volunteers will teach parenting skills, offer counseling and even provide some clinical services. Thousands of children will be immunized, building on the summer program, thousands of children will be immunized and many families will receive regular primary care for

the first time.

In the third program, our family serve volunteers will serve in the Department's Indian and Migrant Head Start programs. Working closely with Head Start staff, the volunteers will teach literacy to parents and help children obtain basic health and dental care. They'll extend the power of our Head Start programs. Building on the President's expanded commitment to Head Start, the AmeriCorps program will serve over 1100 families around the country.

And I should point out the Assistant Secretary who initiated that program, Mary Jo Bane, is another returned Peace Corps volunteer who is in this administration.

For us, this is an exciting partnership. It's really what the department's all about. All of the programs that we're announcing today combine the organizing skills and the expertise of government with the leadership and energy and the new ideas of young Americans. All of them build on a long tradition of promoting volunteerism and services in the Department of HHS.

The communities obviously will benefit. Young people, those that are disabled, old people will benefit. And, of course, the volunteers will benefit. And as a former volunteer myself, I don't think there's anything more important than finding out, through service, that you are, in fact, not only a citizen of the world, as it was in the case of the Peace Corps volunteers, but very much what it means to be a citizen in the United States. Thank you.

MR. SEGAL: Since he arrived in Washington a year and a half ago, Henry Cisneros has undertaken many new and exciting initiatives. Perhaps none is as important from our perspective as what he's been doing in public **housing**, particularly really distressed urban **housing** all over the United States.

We've already begun an exciting partnership with the Department of **Housing** and Urban Development to help in that. While the bricks and mortar are going to be supplied, we know that it takes community service to turn around some of the public **housing** projects of the United States. We are looking forward to a very, very close marriage with the department, not only in the depressed urban **housing**, but in many, many other initiatives together.

It's my delight to introduce to you our Secretary of **Housing** and Urban Development, Henry Cisneros.

SECRETARY CISNEROS: Thank you very much, Eli. One of HUD's highest priorities is to turn around the worst conditions in public **housing** in our country. And as we focus on public **housing**, one of the most exciting tools we have is something called "Hope 6 Grants." They have allowed us, over the course of the last year, to make allocations of over \$1 billion to some 34 cities to turn around a single **housing** development in each place. That allows a large sum of money -- in some cases as much as \$50 million -- to turn around a development like Cabrini Green in Chicago.

Eli and his staff, in their wisdom, have selected these kinds of turn-around sites as the places where AmeriCorps students will work. These sites are important because they will not only be places in which we test how one reduces density and does physical improvements, changes the architecture and physical configuration of the places, but as he said, very importantly, we put in place Human Services programs.

One can envision the AmeriCorps students involved in working with the residents in planning what they want those developments to be, and actually sitting down with officials and charting a new physical arrangement, new human services, a menu of programs for those sites, beginning the staffing relationships with schools and training institutions and child care and local libraries and local police officials, to make these new places.

This is a dramatic new start for public **housing**. It is a program that will ripple far beyond those sites. To have 100 AmeriCorps positions identified by Eli's staff is an immense human resource boon to these efforts. We're excited about this; it adds talent and energy and youthful vitality to this effort. Young people who can meet and match with the residents. We will begin in Los Angeles, Denver, Washington and other communities, will be extended as time goes along, and I want to thank Eli for selecting us for this effort, and really express my respect and appreciation for all the excellent work he is doing.

This is one of the President's highest-priority initiatives, AmeriCorps. And we are all fortunate that Eli Segal has been on the job to move it as fast and as aggressively as he has.

Thank you very much.

MR. SEGAL: Well, I thank you for those kind words, Henry. I couldn't help thinking as we were doing this -- I couldn't help thinking back to the campaign and the jolt of electricity whenever then-candidate Bill Clinton talked about national service and talked about his AmeriCorps.

Working with Administrator Browner and the EPA has been, more than anything else, has really kind of reminded me of what this is all about. I would say there were more staff hours placed in her department to make sure this was done well than any other department clearly in the federal government. There was a real passion to get this right, just like the passion we saw whenever the President talked about national service throughout the campaign. And I'm so happy that Administrator Browner's organization, the EPA, is going to be a participant in AmeriCorps as we launch it in September.

SECRETARY SHALALA: That's because she's younger than the rest of us. (Laughter.)

ADMINISTRATOR BROWNER: I've had my share of public service. (Laughter.)

I want to begin by thanking Eli for his leadership and commitment; without him, this would have never occurred. And it is incredibly exciting. We are very, very honored to have had so many of our projects chosen by your program, and we look forward to having the students join us later this year across the country.

Our responsibility at the Environmental Protection Agency is to protect the health of the people of this country to protect the health of the resources we all share -- the air, the land and the water. And our projects build on that commitment.

They will also help us fulfill our commitment as an administration to launching a new generation of environmental protection, one that involves people where they live in protecting their resources, in protecting their health. Our projects include a clean-up of the Anacostia River here in Washington, D.C., activities in Alaskan native villages where we have American citizens who live without safe tap water, without waste water treatment facilities,

work along the U.S.-Mexico border to address the polluted drinking wells, the drinking wells that become tap water for the people of the border. We're going to be doing work in Oregon to help the schools install energy-efficient lighting. And, finally, we will be working in several inner cities -- Boston, Providence, Newark, San Francisco, Atlanta -- and in Washington state on issues of particular concern to those communities -- radon and lead abatement.

We know that one out of six children in this country are at risk of elevated lead exposures. And so we are very, very excited that these projects have been selected.

One thing I would like to say about the EPA projects is that we have structured all of them in a way that they can continue. This is not just a one-time commitment. This is a permanent commitment, and we will be working in the communities in a way that these activities will go on for quite some time as we seek to address these very pressing problems. Thank you.

MR. SEGAL: I view this first AmeriCorps competition as a resounding success. His Cabinet has responded to the President's challenge. Hundreds of nonprofits have as well. In fact, I only regret that we have the resources to invest in only one out of every five proposals we received.

But that itself is an encouraging statistic for those of us who believe that an intense competition among extraordinarily committed and talented organizations will produce a national service movement in which the American people will delight. And it'll all begin this September as AmeriCorps starts changing communities near you.

Now we'll be happy to field any questions you might have. If you have questions specifically directed at one Cabinet Secretary, he or she will be happy to take that on.

Q Mr. Segal, these 20,000 AmeriCorps volunteers, will they have any say or input in where they go or what field they want to enter? Or will it just be assigned to a project?

MR. SEGAL: We should understand for 20,000 AmeriCorps are, themselves, going to be selected by the programs -- not by the government, not by my office of the Corporation of National Service. They will presumably be applying for those kind of programs in which they are interested. Those who are interested in literacy campaigns will apply for those. Those who are interested in environmental clean up will apply for those.

We expect there will be a good deal of flexibility in what they in fact will be doing. But they will essentially be assigning, signing up to do a specific project based on which organization they are going to be working for.

SECRETARY SHALALA: A lot more rational than the beginning at the Peace Corps.

Ms. Shalala said a lot more rational than the beginning of the Peace Corps. Hopefully, we have learned a lot of lessons from the past. We're going to be able to put together the poetry of national service with the pros and that we're going to come back a year from today and be really excited with what we've in fact achieved.

Other questions, concerns.

Q With so many different programs with people doing so many different things, could there be a problem in the end when you're trying to show the impact of national service?

MR. SEGAL: Well, I view it as a challenge. There's no question, this is a movement which is decentralized and focused. We believe very much that Washington must not be a new federal bureaucracy here, that what we really are doing is matching resources with what is going on in local communities.

We believe there'll be many, many different ways in which we'll be able to show that this is in fact one national movement that has its manifestations locally. Common launch, names, uniforms -- there'll be a whole host of mechanisms by which we'll be able to show young people who are in fact working that they're not only working on their own project, but they're part of something larger than themselves in that project.

Q You mentioned the campaign where President Clinton spoke of this as an, obviously, a much larger program that would allow anybody who wanted to go to college to get the money to pay for college. To what extent do you think the success of these first projects is going to help you and others who want to do that to let this thing eventually grow to the point where the President wanted it to be?

MR. SEGAL: We will not quibble with what the campaign said and it did not say on this point. But I do want to remark that when we have 20,000 people out there this year, that will represent more young people serving than served in any one year in the Peace Corps which never had more than 15,500 people in it, and now has about 7,000 people.

We believe that 20,000 will be a sufficient size to show impact in a comparatively short period of time. We believe the American people will respond accordingly and that the program will grow very quickly from 20,000 to the President's wish is that by the end of 1996, there'll be at least 100,000 young people who will have served in AmeriCorps.

We believe we're going to be able to show impact in communities. We believe it's something the American people will love.

Q What percent of the money or the positions are going to these federal agencies, and why are so much of those going to those agencies? Is this a back-door way of shoring up your budgets?

MR. SEGAL: No. In fact, I should begin by saying that if anyone looks at this as one government department giving this to another government department, they've missed the thrust of what we're talking about.

The Cabinet of Bill Clinton is involved in more than just its own business. It's more than just involved in reinventing government. It's involved in maximizing the use of resources that are available. And that's what national service is. That's what we're going to prove with AmeriCorps.

This is not a lot of money for the Cabinet. To me, it is stunning that five Cabinet Secretaries took time out of their busy days to come here when the sum total of money that's going to the Cabinet in the first year is less than \$15 million.

SECRETARY SHALALA: About one-ninth --

MR. SEGAL: It will be a very, very small -- yes, it's about one-ninth, maybe one-tenth of all the funds that are in fact going to be given out this time.

What we like to think about -- this is a new kind of partnership in which we can stimulate the Cabinet to take on new initiatives and that they can leverage these funds to build even more as we go forward.

Q How many Cabinet departments' applications were rejected?

MR. SEGAL: Several were rejected. I believe that there was a total in the federal agencies of well more than 50 that applied, of which 15 were accepted. So, you see, even in the, among the Cabinet, many didn't make it; and a lot of federal agencies, in fact, did not make it as well.

SECRETARY SHALALA: But we also -- some of us submitted more applications than were accepted, too. Most of us did. So we didn't get funded everything we asked for.

MR. SEGAL: Extraordinarily competitive. If we have no other questions, Ginny, I think we'll close at an end.

Q What is the basic motivation of people who want to become a member of AmeriCorps?

MR. SEGAL: I'm sorry?

Q What is the motivation for people who would like to try out --

MR. SEGAL: You're asking the -- why they will join AmeriCorps?

Well, I think they're going to do it for several different reasons. If you'll remember in the course of the campaign, the President talked about this as opportunity and responsibility.

Young people will be given an opportunity to pay for a good part of their college education in exchange for serving their communities. A young person will receive again, in addition to a minimum wage stipend, will receive an educational award in the form of a scholarship or loan forgiveness just short of \$5,000 for each year up to two in which he or she might serve.

The average young person graduates with about \$6,500 worth of debt. If he or she graduates from a four-year public institution, this should go a good deal of the way towards retiring the debt. We think for the most part, however, the young people who will be participating in this are not doing it for that reason, are certainly not doing it for that reason alone.

We think that there is a new time in America. We do believe the service ethic which began in the early middle of the 1980s is exploding. We report that better than two-thirds of all young people entering college today, more than two-thirds of them are volunteering three hours a week already. We hope to build on that and to create a new service movement in our country.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END2:10 P.M. EDT

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Chicago, Illinois)

For Immediate Release

June 17, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO RESIDENTS OF THE ROBERT TAYLOR HOMES *not included*

Robert Taylor Homes
Chicago, Illinois

10:20 A.M. CDT

THE PRESIDENT: Just give her another hand. She did a good job, didn't she? (Applause.)

Ladies and gentlemen and boys and girls, I am glad to be here today -- glad to be back here today. Glad to be here with Tiffany, who represents our best hope for the future and our obligation to do the right thing here in Robert Taylor Homes and throughout the United States.

I'm glad to be here with Secretary Cisneros. You can tell by listening to him talk that he really cares about you and what happens to you. And I hope you can tell that he didn't just appear when he became the Secretary of the Department of **Housing** and Urban Development. He was a mayor for many years in San Antonio, Texas. And I believe he'll go down in history as perhaps the most gifted Secretary of the Department of **Housing** and Urban Development we ever had for trying to deal with problems like this. (Applause.)

I want to thank Senator Simon, Senator Moseley-Braun, Congressman Rush, Congresswoman Collins, Vince Lane; the Mayor, who's not here, but I saw him earlier this morning; your State Senator; your members -- your aldermen; your United States Attorney who's here; and my good friend, Bishop Ford, thank you, sir, for being here. (Applause.) God bless you. (Applause.)

Hillary and I are delighted to be here. Vince Lane brought me here three years ago before I even started running for President, because I had heard that there was an effort here by citizens to engage in tenant patrols, to give our young people something to say yes to, to try to make these **housing** units safer. And I asked if I could come and see it.

When I first came here, I was just the governor of another state, an interested American, a person who couldn't tolerate the thought that young people would be raised in the kind of danger and deprived of the kind of hope that I was seeing not just here, but throughout the United States. And I will never forget as long as I live the first impression I had, going into the units where there had been a real effort to clean them up and make them safe, going into others where people still plainly felt at risk, and then -- most important of all to me three years ago -- talking to the young people about their lives and what they wanted for the future.

And I come back here today, I want you to know that I am very honored as President to have the chance to work with you to prove that we can make life better here, that we can have more opportunity for our children, more safety for our streets, more responsibility from all of our people; that we can, in short, do what we ought to do to give everybody a better future, thanks to you and our partnership.

You know, I have to say this just for a moment. I was a little late coming to Illinois yesterday because I spent most of the day working on our differences with North Korea over their nuclear program. A major part of my job is dealing with the security of this country, the national security. But it's also important to recognize that this nation's security also depends upon whether the children who live here in Robert Taylor Homes can go to sleep at night safe and get up and go to school in the morning safe. That is a big part of our national security as well. (Applause.)

And everything we have tried to do in the last 18 months, from creating more jobs to training our people to take them, to trying to provide health care for all Americans, to working on empowering our communities through welfare reform and the crime bill and the family leave bill -- everything is designed to achieve some pretty simple objectives: to give every American without regard to race or gender or region or income a chance to live up to the fullest of his or her God-given capacities; to challenge every American to assume the responsibilities of good citizenship and good conduct; and to rebuild the strength of our national community at the grass-roots level where the people live -- and to do it by having our government work for ordinary people again, not just for the most powerful and the most organized.

Well, that involves people like you. There are plenty of people, I think, who just want to live in peace and have a chance. I look out here and see these kids and I heard Tiffany's classmates cheering for her when she got up, and I thought to myself, this would happen in any town in America. In any little small town in America if the President showed up, well, if a student introduced him the classmates would cheer. There's no real difference here -- except that you have been asked to live in circumstances where there is too much violence, too many drugs, and not enough things for our young people to say yes to. You just can't tell people to say no all the time; they have to have something to say yes to as well. (Applause.)

That's why I want to thank these men and the others who are here with the Midnight Basketball program. I love that program. And it's going to make a difference. (Applause.) I want to thank the young people there with their "Peer Power" tee-shirts on. I want to thank the people who are in the City Year Project here -- I've got one of their tee-shirts -- in community service. I want to thank the people here who work in the tenant patrols. I want to thank people, in other words, who are doing something to seize your own destiny.

You know, I like to think and I believe with all my heart that as President I can make a positive difference for America, that I can make this a better country. But you know and I know that if what we're really trying to do is to change the lives of the American people for the better, all I can ever do is to be your partner. You still have to do your part. And the power that I see in the hearts and the eyes of the people with these Midnight Basketball shirts on, or the people with the Peer Power shirts on, or the people who engage in the tenant patrol, or who are involved in the drug-free program here that I see -- this Phillips Academy shirt. The power there is the most important power in the United States of America. When the people of this country make up their mind to do something, there is no stopping them. (Applause.)

I do want to say this -- Secretary Cisneros mentioned it -- after the dispute in the courts involving the sweeps policy here, I asked the Secretary to come here, along with the Attorney General, and come up with a plan that would enable us to continue to try to work with you to make these communities safer. And we did put some more money, as he said, into law enforcement here.

But I want you to know that when we go back to work in Washington next week -- Senator Simon, Senator Moseley-Braun, Congressman Rush, and Congresswoman Collins and I -- we're going to be facing the responsibility of resolving the most important anticrime measure that has ever come before the United States Congress. And in that bill are 100,000 more police officers for our streets and our cities. In that bill is a ban on semiautomatic assault weapons. And I just saw hundreds of them here in the police station. (Applause.)

It's interesting, when I was there, one of the reporters asked me about the policy here of the sweeps and about the assault weapons, and he said, Mr. President, are we going to have to be willing to give up some of our personal freedom to live in safety? And I said that I thought the most important freedom we have in this country is the freedom from fear. And if people aren't free from fear, they are not free. (Applause.)

This bill has harsher punishments for people who are serious criminals, but it also has more opportunities for young people to stay out of crime in the first place; more money for programs like the midnight basketball; more money for after school programs; more money for summer jobs; more money for drug treatment; more money to give our people something to say yes to as well as to say no to.

This is a big deal, folks. It will make a difference here in Chicago and throughout the United States of America. And it is imperative that we pass that crime bill and pass it now, so we can go about the work of making you even safer and helping you to take responsibility for your future. And I

hope you will support that. (Applause.)

I want to thank Tiffany because she testified for the crime bill, didn't you? And she made an impression on the members of the Congress. This is not a Republican issue or a Democrat issue. It's not an African American, Hispanic or a white issue. It's about our children and our future and what kind of people we are and whether we're going to behave like civilized human beings, or whether we're just going to take every little quick advantage we can get, even if we have to kill people to do it. We cannot survive as a people if our children cannot grow up safe and free from fear in good schools; on safe streets; doing wholesome, constructive things. (Applause.)

I will say again, that's why we worked so hard to try to find a way to continue the sweeps policy that Vince Lane developed -- not because we want to take anybody's freedom away from them, but because we want our children to be free from fear.

Let me just say one last thing. We talk a lot in this country about our rights. And our rights as Americans are the most important things to us. We have rights written into our Constitution that other people all around the world still give their lives for -- the right to free speech, say what's on our mind; the right to worship God as we choose; the right to assemble with people who agree with us and say whatever we want in groups, even if it offends everybody else; the right to be free from arbitrary conduct by our government; the right to a trial by jury. We have a lot of rights in this country. But the thing that makes our rights work is the right of the community to exist and the responsibilities of citizens to help them exist.

And the thing I take away from this today, the thing I took away from my last visit to Robert Taylor Homes, is that deep inside the spirit of you, all of you who live here, is the overwhelming desire not only to exercise your rights, but to see this community be full of responsible citizens, to make the community work again. And I will take that back to Washington when we fight for the crime bill; when we fight to reform the welfare system; when we fight for the empowerment zones to get investment and jobs into these communities; when we fight to give you a chance, because I know that here in this place there are people like you and there are thousands more like you all across America who really believe, who really believe that we can solve these problems, that we can live together as brothers and sisters, that we can exercise the responsibility required of any great nation. And I will always remember that.

And I want you to believe -- every time you put on one of these Midnight Basketball shirts, every time you participate in a tenant patrol, every time a student joins a drug-free program, every time one of these kids goes into a community service program like City Year -- every time you do that, you are saying, I not only claim my rights as an American, I recognize I have responsibilities as an American. I'm going to do my part to give this country back to the kids and take it away from the drug dealers and the gun-toters. That's what we've got to do together. And I know we can do it. (Applause.)

God bless you, and thank you very much.
(Applause.)

END10:33 A.M. CDT

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Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 18, 1994

PRESIDENT CLINTON PROPOSES INCREASED FUNDING TO CITIES FOR THE HOMELESS ✓

The President today proposed substantial increases in federal funding for homeless programs in individual cities across the country. Under the President's direction, Secretary Henry Cisneros and the Department of **Housing** and Urban Development have identified cities that would be eligible to receive the funds under the new assistance program.

The program announced today takes steps towards achieving several of the goals outlined by Priority: Home! The Federal Plan to Break the Cycle of Homelessness, a report issued yesterday by the Federal Interagency Council on the Homeless. The Report recommends a significant increase in resources including a doubling of the HUD homeless assistant programs and an increase in the 1995 Budget.

The assistance program announced today will be directed by Assistant Secretary of HUD for Community Planning and Development Andrew Cuomo and will provide more than \$1 billion in flexible funding plus \$514 million in rental assistance vouchers that will aid local communities in providing services as well as completing the continuum of care with permanent **housing**.

Attached is a state by state breakdown of dollar amounts cities would be eligible to receive under the Federal Plan proposal. Also indicated are the total dollar amounts that the localities have received since the initiation of the McKinney Act homeless programs in 1987 through 1993, and the average funding received by each state per year.

[Attachment has not been received;
it will be sent separately upon receipt]

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PRESS BRIEFING

BY

SECRETARY OF **HOUSING** AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT HENRY CISNEROS
AND ACTING ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY GENERAL BILL BRYSON

The Briefing Room

10:38 A.M. EDT

MS. MYERS: A huge crowd today, the Saturday gang.
(Laughter.) You're all so quiet.

Secretary of **Housing** and Urban Development Henry Cisneros, and the Acting Associate Attorney General Bill Bryson are going to brief you on their report to the President on fighting violent crime in the public **housing** projects. So, without further ado, Secretary Cisneros.

SECRETARY CISNEROS: Thank you, Dee Dee.

The last weeks have seen an eruption of violence in Chicago's public **housing**, of which has been unprecedented. Last weekend alone, some 15 shootings and five deaths in the public **housing** developments along the State Street Court, or principally at Robert Taylor Homes and Stateway Homes.

It prompted the President to direct the attentions of the Attorney General and the Department of **Housing** and Urban Development to several elements of this crisis. First, to devise a policy on the sweeps, and secondly, to look at the other elements of security and community development that need to occur to stop the violence.

Unfortunately, the violence we see in Chicago is not limited to Chicago public **housing**. While it may not be on as intense a scale in other places at this time, it exists in many communities across the country, and Washington, D.C. as well, as many of us know.

The President directed the Attorney General and the Secretary of **Housing** and Urban Development to devise a policy that could be used nationally so that other **housing** authorities across the country would be able to act upon it; a policy that would look at the nature of sweeps that might be necessary and do it within constitutional limits.

As you know, a judge, Judge Anderson in Chicago last week ruled that the sweeps as they were being conducted exceeded constitutional limits. And so work has been done over the course of the last week to devise a national policy. That policy has essentially five elements. You heard the President describe it in general terms in his radio address. I'd like to be a little more specific on the elements of the policy.

First, the policy assumes that it is essential to get control of the lobbies of buildings. So substantial effort is placed, and resources, to focus on access, entryways, metal detectors, guards, and control of lobbies.

The precise policy on sweeps includes the following four elements. Sweeps can occur in the common areas of buildings. This is important, because of what we have seen in recent weeks in Chicago includes the use of post boxes, mail boxes, as hiding places for guns, as well as stairwells, air vents and electrical outlets used as hiding places for weapons as well as drugs. So it is not insignificant to be able to sweep the common areas. That was allowed before and it continues to be.

Secondly, obviously, sweeps can occur in vacant units. I was along with a sweep team last Sunday evening in Chicago that netted something on the order of 25 weapons just Sunday night -- heavy weapons, rifles, 30-06 weapons with scopes, automatic weapons and revolvers -- just on Sunday night. The stock room at the police substation of the Chicago **Housing** Authority is full; literally 1,000 weapons that have been secured principally in vacant units.

And I'll say more about the issue of vacancies in a moment. But sweeps through vacant units can be very productive because the gangs tend to put the weapons -- locate these caches of weapons in vacant units.

Fourthly, sweeps can occur where consent has been given. That consent can take several forms. It may be consent that is given in advance as an element of a lease where people in the agreement to sign a lease for a building sign a consent that would allow searches for weapons just as they allow consent for searches -- for maintenance problems, inspections that are now a standard part of a lease. And we expect that this will be decided on a local basis, sometimes as local as the residence voting themselves in a building whether or not they want that as a precondition on the lease. We believe that would be important in a court test on this subject, that the residents voted that kind of element in a lease in advance.

But another approach to consent is what I witnessed myself on Sunday, and that is leases that are signed on the spot as a police team arrives at a unit. What you find -- you say, well, that's surprising that a resident would allow a search if they know there is contraband in their apartment. Frequently, they don't know that there's contraband there. It may be a mother who has small children, but a relative, a boyfriend, an older member of the family who has hidden guns there that the family doesn't know. What I witnessed on Sunday was the discovery of heroin in bags hidden in a mother's chest of drawers -- bureau -- by a son who was in the room

and when it was discovered, readily admitted it was his. The mother did not know that it was there. She had consented to the search. So it is not insignificant to search when consent has been given. And that, obviously, meets the test of the law.

Finally, the fourth element of searches are warrantless searches in exigent circumstances. The key word there, of course, is exigent. It has to do with what has occurred -- whether or not there has been shooting, for example, from the upper stories of the building, and how massive it might be, how frequent it might be, and how timely the response is. All of those are subjective judgments, but the judge's order indicated that under circumstances of exigency, these sweeps can occur.

So those are the elements, then, of clarification on the sweeps policy. The bottom line is they allow for the continuation, the use of that particular vehicle, sweeps, within certain circumstances. And they are an instrument available not only to the city of Chicago, but to other **housing** authorities that want to use that instrument.

Acting Associate Attorney General Bill Bryson is here in the event you have some questions. But I'd like to follow up on the second aspect of this beyond sweeps to what is essentially a strategy of providing a down payment on the crime bill.

Yesterday in Chicago, the mayor and Vince Lane, the chairman of the **Housing** Authority, and myself announced a series of initiatives that represent cooperation between the federal government and the city of Chicago.

You have in front of you a handout that I'd like to call to your attention because it speaks to the other elements of what have to occur. The first page is called enforcement measures. The second is called prevention measures. Roughly speaking, they group into those two categories. The first one are measures associated with security and safety and taking control of buildings and their surrounding areas. And the second revolve around recreation, youth programs, antigang strategies, drug control and other elements that are preventative in character.

Let me just quickly give you the highlights of this, because I think it underscores what the President has said all along in his fight against crime and, particularly, in his pressing for the crime bill that while we focus on security measures, we must also focus on the balancing of some preventative measures.

On the security side, HUD is putting in new funds as well as advancing some CHA unobligated funds, totaling \$10 million for the creation of 10 additional BITE teams which will augment two BITE teams -- that stands for Building Interdiction Team Effort -- already in existence.

Now, let me just say quickly what those are. They're 18-member teams: eight members of the Chicago Police Department with a sergeant or nine Chicago police; eight members of the Chicago **Housing** Authority Police and a sergeant or nine CHA police team up together and literally arrive at a building, take control of the lower floors of the building, and then proceed on searches within the limits of what has been described.

I went with one of those teams on a raid on Sunday night. This was one where consent was required, but the emphasis was on controlling the common spaces and vacant spaces, and, as I say, 25 weapons were secured by BITE teams that evening.

This is a very substantial commitment of 180 additional police personnel, 18 times 10, for a year with a capacity to extend it beyond a year with additional HUD funds, as well as with funds that are in the crime bill. So this is a substantial addition of police capability that can be on the scene immediately. It does not require hiring of police personnel. These are off-duty personnel who, through overtime, can be in place as quickly as the funds are available. We're talking about the next week to 10 days on this. It's a very effective mechanism. They arrive en masse, without notice where buildings are in particular difficulty, and it's made a great deal of difference.

You see also under the next item, the third one down, \$5-million advance to fund replacements of private security guards so that sworn police officers can be in charge of the lobby and entrance areas. Today, there are so-called rent-a-cops, private security guards at the entrances, generally regarded to be ineffective. They're not trained, they're underpaid; the gangs intimidate them, go around them, even when they have a metal detector and it goes off. The rent-a-cops stay in there plastic, glassed-in cages for fear of stepping out and confronting the gangs. We think the gang members will have a good deal more of a problem confronting a peace officer, a police officer, a trained policeman with back-up capability in the same way. So this is an effort to replace the security personnel with sworn officers.

You see a program that is part of -- the next one -- an element of our Operation Safe Home initiative which will bring FBI and Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms resources together in order that we can trace weapons and prosecute appropriately, based on interstate movement of weapons, moving weapons through the mails and other possible things such as that.

The next one, I promised I'd say a word about vacancies. There's a \$10-million advance to rehabilitate vacant apartments. This is literally an around-the-clock effort. Conditions are so bad in the **housing** authority that I saw, the **housing** developments that I saw, that when you make an effort at vacancy rehabilitation, if the workmen leave at 6:00 p.m. in the evening, by the time they return the next morning, the work they did the previous day's been vandalized and undone.

So in a mixture of fixing the buildings on a practical, round-the-clock basis, using the model that was used in the California earthquake to get the freeway built in a fourth of the time that was originally projected, as well as to have a physical presence in the buildings with workers and spotlights and guards moving equipment through the building 24 hours, that will be an element of getting control of some of these buildings and dealing with the vacancies.

You see, finally, on this page funding for tenant patrols -- very important American heroes who wake up in the middle of the night to patrol their own buildings, no matter the weather. And they need some support in the form of radio equipment and so forth.

Let me quickly go through the second page because it's important to balance the security steps against the prevention measures. You see there funds to rehabilitate playground facilities. Presently the ball fields around Robert Taylor Homes are covered with glass shards and fragments and drug paraphernalia; clearly, unavailable to the children who want to play there.

In addition, \$200,000 to support recreational programs, particularly one called Midnight Basketball that takes and allows gangs members to be engaged in something other than gang activity by participating in basketball late into the night. Well orchestrated, coached, supervised basketball.

A very successful drug program at the Harold Ickes Homes called CADRE will be extended to the rest of the developments in the Chicago **Housing** Authority with the funds advanced from the Bureau of Justice Assistance. And then, very importantly, you see a \$2 million new investment of family -- in what we call Family Investment Center funds to provide recreational programs, youth counseling, cultural activities, after-school programs, and do that on the ground floor of the buildings, which then take some units out of circulation and replaces them with adults to add to the control of the bottom floor of the lobbies.

In addition, what we find is that many of those ground floor units are being used for drug transactions because people can avoid coming to the building and just use the windows for drug transactions at the ground levels. If we would transform those into active places where adults are providing youth services and counseling and so forth, they're unavailable for those purposes.

And finally, \$150,000 to establish a Boys and Girls Club.

Let me just say two things in closing. The first is that this represents a down payment on the concepts the President has pushed in the crime bill; the same balancing of, on the one hand, prevention measures with those matters related to enforcement. And though this is particularly targeted to Chicago, because of the emergency circumstances of the moment -- the level of violence and gang war that is at its highest intensity -- this same approach will be available to other communities in the crime bill and through other programs that exist between the various federal departments. And we will work with other communities in the same way.

Finally, everything that we have proposed here is in consultation with the residents. Keep in mind, it is the residents who have requested that the policy of sweeps continue, and support them. And I can tell you this from firsthand, spending Sunday afternoon and Monday and yesterday with the residents. I didn't take one step in recommending to the President, consulting with the Attorney General, or allocating our resources -- HUD resources -- without consultation with the residents. It is an absolute imperative that we do that, and I can tell you from those discussions that they are nearly desperate with the conditions that they're forced to raise their children in today.

I could tell you anecdotal stories; I won't dwell on it now, but perhaps the most plaintive voice that I heard on Sunday was a lady who just said, "Please make it stop." Beyond ideology, beyond partisanship, beyond fine legal distinctions, she was just begging that the violence, the shooting, her children having to watch their classmates be taken to the hospital stop. And they're convinced that the sweeps have played an important role in slowing down the flow of weapons.

Without the sweeps, the weapons have come back into the buildings on a large scale. As a matter of fact, one lady told me yesterday -- she said, they're bringing the weapons back in in bagfuls. So some mechanism like the sweeps needs to be available to those who would try to provide safety and security. We've tried to provide those within constitutional limits.

The rest of the things we've talked about here -- the BITE teams, the vacancies, the drug programs, the recreational programs -- all -- I can show you my notes -- are specifically requested by the residents, because they know their circumstances better than anyone else.

I'll be happy to stop on that note and take questions. And Mr. Bryson may want to speak to some of the legal issues.

Q Is this problem only with the public **housing**? I mean, why particularly with public **housing**?

SECRETARY CISNEROS: Well, I'll tell you why particularly with public **housing**. Because the configuration of the public **housing** is a big part of the problem. First of all, we have created a legacy of concentration in Chicago -- not only in Chicago, but in Chicago, 67 high-rise buildings along State Street for four miles, literally -- no exaggeration -- you can check it on the odometer of your car -- four miles, 67 high-rise buildings without a break. A concentration of something like a third of the 144,000 people who are public **housing** residents in Chicago in this State Street corridor.

Point number one, concentration. Secondly, the federal government has been part of the problem in recent years in allowing income levels to drop so dramatically in public **housing** that the residents of public **housing** share all of the same problems. The median income in Chicago public **housing** is \$5,400, as against something in excess of \$40,000 in the metropolitan area as a whole. So an eighth or so, and no income mix. In many buildings, 85 percent single heads of households; no one working in regular jobs; no role models for the children at all.

Now, that's the base condition. Then it is exaggerated by -- rather it is complicated by the war for turf, and particularly for control of drug producing properties. There is a gang war in Chicago right now -- and particularly, I speak now of Robert Taylor Homes and Stateway -- by two gangs; one called the Gangster Disciples, the other called the Black Disciples. They literally control entire high-rise buildings, and frequently these buildings are adjacent to each other. I am told by the Chicago police that the drug take from those high-rise buildings is as high as \$30,000 a week, or \$1.5 million a year. Therefore, in the minds of 15- and 16-year-old gang members, it is worth fighting for, even dying for, control of the buildings.

What you end up with, then, is high-rise buildings adjacent to each other with young men spotting from the upper stories to see whether their rival gang members are moving around in the common space between the buildings, and shooting from building to building with heavy weapons. I mean, a 30-06 deer rifle with a scope is the kind of weapon that's in use and the kind of weapon that was confiscated the other night.

So, unfortunately, you find circumstances where, because children live there and families live there, they get caught in the cross-fire. Women will show you apartments with bullet holes over their children's beds; bullets that have finally ended up in the hallway in their homes not because they were the targets, but because anyone in the opposite building ends up being a target in the cross-fire.

Q Where are the Chicago police in all this?

SECRETARY CISNEROS: Chicago police are patrolling, and they have allocated a unit of 125 officers in addition to what the Chicago **Housing** Authority has. But it's not enough to patrol, when what is required is to actually take control of buildings and take them back from the gang members; and that's the circumstance. That's why Chicago, at this moment -- and that's why public **housing**.

Q What are you hearing from the civil liberties groups on this? What are your preliminary estimates of court tests? Are people telling you this will or will not pass constitutional muster?

SECRETARY CISNEROS: We believe that this will pass constitutional muster, and a lot of work went into drafting a policy that would pass a court test. The consent forms, the consents in the leases, the conditions under which warrantless searches can occur -- all of those were drafted with that in mind.

Now, if you were, this afternoon, to call a member of the ACLU and ask them a specific question, I can't tell you what their answer might be. My guess is that there are some who might continue to want to test these questions; and that's what the courts are for. But we believe that we have devised a policy here that can meet the test.

And let me, in the final analysis, say that the conditions in public **housing** in Chicago -- as well as other places right now -- are so severe that any abstract analysis of people's rights of the type that the ACLU might do is swamped in real life by people's rights being denied. Clearly, people ought to have a right to live safely, in peace, take their children to school, walk the sidewalks of their buildings, to be able to walk through the hallways of a building without all the lights having been knocked out and the elevators pitch dark because the gang members want to reduce the silhouette that they'll make to gunners in the next buildings -- those are rights that people have, as well; and those rights are being abridged by the present circumstances.

Q In announcing the program --

SECRETARY CISNEROS: I'll come back -- just let me take this lady and I'll come back.

Q What is the status of the overall issue of gun control in public **housing**?

SECRETARY CISNEROS: We are, internally now, assessing the proper course that we want to follow. Clearly we want to discourage -- obviously, illegal weapons are banned in public **housing**. The question has arisen of whether or not we ought to ban all guns in public **housing** by lease. Some public **housing** residents -- and there are some places in the country where people would feel this would be a substantial infringement on their rights, so we have not crossed that bridge at this point.

There is some legislation that suggests that developments may want to vote on whether all weapons can be banned in a building. And we think that has some plausibility and is worth looking at. But we've not issued regulations or taken a stand yet on the question of banning all weapons in public **housing**. It's an open question; it's now being discussed in the department and elsewhere.

Q In announcing this program, it sounds like **housing**

authorities are admitting a failure on a rather extreme level -- that people are indeed living in circumstances where their children have bullet holes over their bed, or where they're always making --

SECRETARY CISNEROS: I'm not afraid to acknowledge that public **housing**, in the worst configurations, has failed. And therefore, we must go beyond security measures and even the kinds of community building measures, salvaging measures that I've described here today to profound and dramatic change in public **housing**.

We'll be introducing legislation this next week which will allow us to do things, for example, like change the rules and internal dynamics of public **housing** so that people can work, and families that have incomes and work can be included in the mix of families in public **housing**. That goes to one of the questions that I answered earlier about the income mix.

We want to go farther than that, and make it possible to capitalize future streams of public **housing** assistance to **housing** authorities so that large sums of money can be made available now -- not down the road, not just rehabilitate, modernize and put Band-Aids, but replace the worst of the high-rise public **housing** with more appropriately scaled, scattered, safer configurations across the metropolitan area. These are the kinds of dramatic, profound changes I think we need to make in public **housing**.

Let me just say, anytime that you're in Chicago -- and I know most of you are White House press so it may be restricted to a time when you're traveling there with the President -- but it is worth seeing this line up of 67 high-rise buildings and recognizing what was done there.

Q Can that be torn down?

SECRETARY CISNEROS: Much of it ought to be replaced because, as I said, the present configuration is a failed effort at **housing** people.

Q But, Mr. Secretary, may I ask you just a question about the allocation of resources understanding that you are going to accomplish nothing without a zone of safety.

SECRETARY CISNEROS: Right.

Q I still note that some \$30-odd million are devoted to enforcement, and of the \$2,950,000 that have been slated for prevention, my count is no more than \$950,000 that might go for such things as counseling, drug prevention, violence prevention. What can you really hope to accomplish if you lay in a heavy dose of law enforcement short-term and you don't do anything to counsel kids who are seeing this violence, to help their parents find jobs who only have a median income, that you so eloquently put it, at \$5,000 a year. I mean, what about the so-called soft services that really are going to be the building blocks of changing this thing? You've got to change the people.

SECRETARY CISNEROS: Good question, and I'd like to answer it in two ways. The first is that what you see here is an immediate infusion of federal resources to deal with the present circumstances. In part, it's law enforcement. It's also some of these community efforts.

Yesterday morning, I met with the mayor, with the head of the Parks District in Chicago, which controls the park system as

well as recreational programs; met with foundation leaders from the Chicago area and began discussions with the business community of Chicago. There's one important element missing that was not present at the table, but the mayor committed to bring them to the table is the Board of Education. And what we're asking is that this down payment be matched by these other institutions in their areas of capability. And we received some tentative commitments yesterday, which the mayor will outline in the weeks ahead.

This is a partnership in which the federal government has started and we expect fully that we will see resources for summer recreation programs from the Parks District, for some educational initiatives from the Board of Education, some commitments from the foundation and business community to cultural programs, antidrug initiatives, and, very importantly, the city of Chicago with its own discretionary resources. So what you see here is a small percentage of what will be brought to bear on this circumstance.

Additionally, and the second part of the answer, we have many ongoing programs that are not represented in this -- our own HUD as well as the other federal departments. And I might also say that in instances where we concentrate effort, such as you know the decision this week to join in a partnership with the District of Columbia government to deal with the very troubled District of Columbia **Housing** Authority, it gives us the opportunity, gives HUD the opportunity to work on the **housing** component, but also to bring to bear the efforts of other federal resources.

So I fully expect you'll see the Department of Education and Labor and Justice and Health and Human Services joining us, using public **housing**, the base as the focal point for effort.

Q Considering the magnitude of the money you're discussing here for these two projects, doesn't that really limit the likelihood of this truly being a nationwide approach?

SECRETARY CISNEROS: Let me make clear, the announcement yesterday in Chicago was not solely for these two projects. If you look at many of these things, for example, the BITE teams, which is \$10 million of this \$29 million package; the vacancy reduction, which is another \$10 million of the \$29 million -- so now we're up to \$20 million of the \$29 million -- are intended to be used throughout the CHA. So we're talking about one of the largest **housing** authorities in the country that has new resources to work with.

Now, as to the question of inadequacy of resources -- yes, we're always working with tight resources, always. It's the sort of going in assumption that we're going to be very, very tight. That's why it's important to leverage beyond what the federal government can do and get others to the table. That was the first thing I did on arrival yesterday morning in Chicago, is to meet with the group that I described. And I think we can create partnerships that leverage money dramatically.

We're looking now at some changes in rules that would allow us to bring private sector partners that can bring resources, like our pension fund relationship where we put \$100 million of **housing** vouchers, and with pension money, extend that to \$1.2 billion worth of **housing** product. We'll have to do a good deal more of that. And I think that's going to be one of the watchwords, one of the hallmarks of our efforts the next few years.

Q Mr. Secretary, are these search consent clauses now going to be a part of everybody's lease in the Chicago **Housing**

Authority?

SECRETARY CISNEROS: The preconsent given in leases will be a local decision. That is to say, we believe it is an element of policy that will enhance the ability of **housing** authorities to conduct searches. The decision will have to be made as local as each **housing** authority, and potentially, each development where residents may want to vote. That would further enhance the constitutionality of these preconsent devices.

Q Are sweeps being used in other **housing** authorities?

SECRETARY CISNEROS: Yes, they are. Yes, they are, but in different configurations. For example, in Baltimore, they give 48 hours notice that a sweep is going to occur and have not been tested with that approach.

Bruce, do you know other cities that are using sweeps now?

MR. KATZ: I think Philadelphia and Puerto Rico are using sweeps similar to the ones they use in Baltimore.

SECRETARY CISNEROS: In Baltimore -- with advance notice.

Q Is that successful?

SECRETARY CISNEROS: You'd be surprised at how successful they are because, as I said earlier, frequently residents don't know what another family member has put in the unit. So it's more successful than you might imagine, but clearly, not as successful as a surprise sweep might be.

Q But there are dangers, too. I mean, recently, in Boston, a 71-year-old man who also happened to be a preacher had a heart attack and --

SECRETARY CISNEROS: I don't think that was a sweep, though. That was a -- my recollection is it wasn't public **housing**, it was a private apartment and -- it may have been assisted **housing**, but it was a private apartment and it was a police action. That was not a sweep, but it was an anticrime raid. It was a different circumstance. They arrived in force, rammed down the door, were looking for fugitives and had the wrong person. It's exceedingly unfortunate. The mayor and the police chief apologized; obviously, apologies aren't enough in such a circumstance, but that was the circumstances of that case.

Q Could you just clarify -- when you were talking about the warrantless searches in exigent circumstances, does that mean that -- let's say, there's a shooting, a shoot-out, and the police come into the building, that they are able without a warrant to go into an entire floor, searching?

SECRETARY CISNEROS: It does. It does --

Q kind of leave open the possibility that whenever there might be any type of incident whatsoever, the police could use that in order to --

SECRETARY CISNEROS: No, and let me tell you some practical reasons why it doesn't. First of all, the sweeps involved a lot of police personnel. You can't just assemble large numbers of

people anytime there's an incident. The sweeps, as they were being run in Chicago, involved over 100 personnel. So the likelihood that you could say, oh, there's been some shooting; we need the excuse; let's put 100 people together and go -- it doesn't work that way as a practical matter.

Legally, what we interpret the -- and Bill may want to expand on this -- what we interpret the exigent condition to be an appropriate response in a timely fashion. It can't be three days later. It's got to be in some rough approximation to when the incident occurred and targeted to the circumstances of the incident.

Bill?

ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY GENERAL BRYSON: With respect to exigent circumstances, there's a lot of case law on this, and the theme of what we're saying here is that we think we can have an effective crime prevention and apprehension program without departing from standard Fourth Amendment law. We're not trying to create new law here. What we're really trying to do is to avoid having everything tested in court, avoid having long delays while programs get precleared, in effect, by federal and state courts. We think there is the capacity through existing Fourth Amendment law to take care of the problem.

Now, with respect to exigent circumstances, the standard formula -- and of course, it's very fact specific; you just can't say in any more than the most general terms how exigent circumstances will apply in a particular case until you know the facts -- but by and large, the way the courts would articulate it is to say that you need some kind of emergency situation where the need to act without a warrant is pressing. And the police, under those circumstances, can engage in an appropriate response.

If a gang is running into a building and the police are following, they can run into the building. They can pursue the gang. That doesn't mean that they can go through the entire building, to the top floor, and look through everybody's chest of drawers in their apartments. That would be well beyond what the courts would characterize as exigency. But it really is a fact-specific kind of inquiry that has to be done and yet, it gives flexibility to police to deal with emergency situations.

Q How throughout the chain of command would a determination need to be made in order to declare a circumstance exigent? Are we talking about a sergeant, a captain? What are we talking about?

ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY GENERAL BRYSON: Well, typically, when -- real exigency is typically something that has to be decided on the spot, because if it has to go up to the captain, by that time, your need for immediate action very often has ended. Not necessarily, but very often. So this is the kind of thing -- if there is a medical emergency; somebody has been shot, somebody is shooting from the windows of an apartment, you can identify the apartment. You go in and you try to apprehend them then. You don't need, under those circumstances, to get a warrant because you have no capacity to get a warrant. You don't have the time. And you also, of course, don't have the time to call the chief of police.

That's the way exigent circumstances typically works. Now, there may be circumstances in particular cases in which you do have to go up the chain. But the normal exigent circumstances case will not involve the opportunity for that.

Q So it could be a cop on the beat?

ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY GENERAL BRYSON: It typically has been. In exigent circumstances law, it's the cop on the beat who is trained to understand what the limits are of exigent circumstances, but it's the cop on the beat that has to make that decision in many exigent circumstances cases.

Q On another part of this, you say that it will be helpful for a tenant to show their support for searches in advance. Is this basically a majority rule can overrule the Fourth Amendment?

ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY GENERAL BRYSON: No. What we think is very important here, and the theme of that element and really a lot of this is, one, local circumstances really control what is reasonable in a particular case. The whole Fourth Amendment is premised on the concept of reasonableness. And reasonableness is a balancing of need against the intrusion.

Now, in particular cases, the need may be very great. And that's true of these two units. We need desperately to get control of these units -- to get control from the gangs. Therefore, the need element is extremely high. The intrusion of searches into one's home obviously is high, too. But what's important, I think, about allowing the voice of the tenants to be heard through tenant organizations or otherwise is that you have evidence in the clearest form that you can have of what the people who are affected by both the emergency need and also by the intrusions that are involved --how they feel about it.

Now, this is not to say that the Fourth Amendment is somehow subject to majority rule; of course, it's not. It is, however, to say that in assessing a particular case what the level of need versus intrusion is, that it's very important to consider how the people who are there view it. And for that reason, I think a lot about this policy is really local specific. This is not to say that the same policy were to be applied in say a senior citizens' public **housing** home in Sarasota which hasn't had a serious crime problem in years -- of course not. This is a policy which, in its various applications, has to be made specific to, as the Secretary said, a particular **housing** authority and even perhaps a particular building.

Q Are you suggesting that the consent to be searched be a condition of the lease? And what circumstances would that consent be able to be withdrawn?

ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY GENERAL BRYSON: Well, again, that's going to have to depend on how these particular authorities work that out. I think that there certainly are circumstances in which it is legitimate to have in the lease a provision similar to the maintenance and emergency clause provision which would allow for administrative inspections for firearms, let's say. In fact, there is already a provision in the consent decree in the Chicago case that allows inspections of that character.

Now, this is in the leases. It is a provision that everybody who is in the unit is bound by. Whether there would be, in a particular case, provisions that would allow somebody to opt out at particular time; or whether somebody could say, no -- just at the outset -- I don't want to sign that; and whether that person would then be able to do that would depend very much on the local conditions. And that's the gist of, I think, the whole constitutional analysis here, is that it really is not something on which you can make any across-the-board pronouncements that X policy applies regardless of where and regardless of the circumstances.

I point out that when you have a clause like this in a lease, what it really gives you is flexibility. That means you don't, then, necessarily have to conduct any of these procedures. You can say, we've got this capacity and, therefore, when the time comes, if we need to use it, we can invoke it. That gives you the flexibility that the current typical lease clauses do not. They do contain emergency entry provisions. But they typically -- the word emergency in that sense usually means the place is on fire, or there is water flowing out from the place and down into the lower units.

We think that, in effect, that in some of these units there is a fire -- there is a problem that ought to be addressed in the same sort of a way; this is a form of emergency. Now, obviously, it's different from the emergency or maintenance inspections. But it is of the same general nature, and can be dealt with in the same kind of way. It is something that has to be explored, I think, by, again, the local agencies.

And one of the things in our discussion with the people at HUD -- which has been very profitable on this, and I expect to continue -- will be to try to provide guidance to local **housing** authorities to the extent that they seek it as to what kinds of innovative mechanisms can be used to try to address the problem without infringing Fourth Amendment rights.

Q Do you think in some circumstances it ought to be a condition of the lease?

ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY GENERAL BRYSON: I think in some circumstances it can be a condition of the lease, that's right. Now, the basic theme of consent law in the Fourth Amendment is that you can't coerce somebody to consent to something. So if the conclusion is that, under those circumstances, you would be effectively coercing consent because the person has no other choice, then you would have to reassess that. If the person had other choices -- if there were a provision, let's say, in a particular development that conditions were so bad that you felt you had to go to some mandatory lease provision, then if the person had choices -- was offered public **housing** under the circumstances, it might well take the coercive element away. But in any even, that's the basic theme.

What we're saying is, we can square this with the Fourth Amendment. We are not engaged in an effort to try to undermine the principles of the Fourth Amendment; and we would welcome, as a matter of fact, the constructive suggestions of any civil liberties groups as to how we can go about doing this while minimizing the intrusiveness of these procedures. But I think they, as we, recognize that what we're dealing with here is an emergency situation in which some kind of innovative action is required. And we're prepared to embark on it without, in any way, trampling on the rights of people under the Fourth Amendment. And we think it can be done. We think there is enough room under the doctrines that the courts have devised to do that.

Q I have one more question for Secretary Cisneros. You had said that people in public **housing** had supported these measures and you had worked in consultation with them.

SECRETARY CISNEROS: Correct.

Q But some of the other tenants that I've talked to have said that **housing** officials have, in effect, set up a second-class citizenship, forcing people to endure things like metal

detectors and frisking and home searches -- the kinds of things that would be viewed as indignities if they were applied to more middle-class neighborhoods.

SECRETARY CISNEROS: Interesting question -- let me take it in two parts. The first piece is, I've talked with the public **housing** residents, talked with their elected leaders -- the people that I meet with when I go to Chicago are the leaders of the buildings, the people who are duly elected. They are quite clear that they want security measures. Unequivocal, strongly worded -- in fact, if anything, our package didn't go far enough for them when I described it yesterday. They wanted more money, more resources, more programs and want to make sure that we carry out on these, which we will; but, very clear speaking the voice of their members.

As a matter of fact, we had a meeting at a church on Monday morning in Chicago with residents and other persons in the community, and several discordant voices were raised on these points; and the residents literally took back the meeting and said, "You don't live in public **housing**; you don't know what you're talking about. We live here, and we want these protections."

Q Excuse me, this is to say that older women, elderly women and elderly men are saying that they don't mind going through metal detectors?

SECRETARY CISNEROS: Well, that was the second part that I wanted to answer. If you -- many developments in America today have protections. The most elite developments in America today have a guard at the door; a security person that you walk by at a desk; closed-circuit television from the downstairs desk to the upstairs hallways, from the parking garage. Frequently they are fenced in, in some way.

And article in last Saturday's Washington Post talked about the number of people who live in some 20 enclosed communities throughout the Washington area. Now, I'm not proposing that that's the preferable way to live, but it is not correct to say that people are stigmatized somehow by living with security when the most elite communities in America have it. Indeed, what we're doing is offering some of the same protections to the poorest of our population that those who can pay hundreds of thousands of dollars for shelter pay.

One of the interesting things, for example, is the issue of fencing of public **housing**. For years, I had a kind of personal sense that fencing might be regarded as fencing people in, instead of keeping trouble out. And so I resisted it until I talked to residents who said that when fencing had been put in place and it had restricted people driving through their developments without going through some kind of a entry way, sometimes even a guard shack with a guard there, but that when it was done, drive-by shootings stopped, drug trafficking stopped, people wandering across the development from outside to come and do drug purchases had stopped. In Houston, 44 percent reduction in crime the first year after fences -- simple step -- fences around a development.

Again, if we go up Connecticut Avenue, Massachusetts Avenue in Washington, D.C., we'll find the most elite condominiums have those same basic security measures. So I don't think it's a fair attack on the concept of providing security.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END11:25 A.M. EDT

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Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 16, 1994

RADIO ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE NATION ✓

The Roosevelt Room

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. This week we joined in sorrow for those who lost their lives in the downing of two of our helicopters over Iraq. I want to begin by expressing, again, my condolences to the loved ones of those who died. They gave their lives in a high cause -- providing comfort to Kurdish victims of Sadaam Hussein's brutal regime -- and we honor the sacrifice of those brave individuals.

Today I want to talk about one of the greatest threats we face right here at home -- the threat of crime in our communities. In 1991, I visited the Rockwell Gardens in the ABLA **Housing** Projects in Chicago where I saw firsthand what happens to our children who live too long in the shadow of fear. Dozens of children rushed out to greet me, eager to have someone to tell their stories to. They talked of gunshots and drug dealers, of late-night knocks at their doors and hallways where they dared not stray. Many of their stories had a common theme -- their childhoods were being stolen from them.

Vince Lane, the head of the Chicago **Housing** Authority, is a genuine hero to these children. He's trying to show the children that someone cares. To help, he put into effect a search and sweep policy to clean out Chicago's public **housing** communities, to find weapons, to get people out of those **housing** projects who didn't belong, to find drugs. But just over a week ago a federal district judge declared Vince Lane's search and sweep policy unconstitutional.

Every law-abiding American, rich or poor, has the right to raise children without the fear of criminals terrorizing where

they live. That's why, as soon as I heard about the court's decision, I instructed Secretary of **Housing** and Urban Development Henry Cisneros and Attorney General Janet Reno to devise a constitutional effective way to protect the residents of America's public **housing** communities. Secretary Cisneros and Attorney General Reno moved quickly. Today I am announcing a new policy to help public **housing** residents take back their homes.

First, at my direction, Secretary Cisneros is in Chicago to provide emergency funds for enforcement and prevention in gang-infested public **housing**. We'll put more police in public **housing**, crack down on illegal gun trafficking, and fill vacant apartments where criminals hide out. And we'll provide more programs like midnight basketball leagues to help our young people say no to gangs and guns and drugs.

Second, we will empower residents to build safe neighborhoods, and we'll help to organize tenant patrols to ride the elevators and look after the public spaces in these high-rise public **housing** units.

Finally, we're going to work with residents in high-crime areas to permit the full range of searches that the Constitution does allow -- in common areas, in vacant apartments and in circumstances where residents are in immediate danger. We'll encourage more weapons frisks of suspicious persons, and we'll ask tenant associations to put clauses in their leases allowing searches when crime conditions make it necessary.

This new policy honors the principles of personal and community responsibility at the very heart of this administration's efforts. It also shows all Americans that their government can move swiftly and effectively on their behalf.

Now we must move swiftly on the crime bill before Congress. The bill provides the right balance of protection, punishment and prevention. It will put 100,000 more police officers on the streets for community policing efforts that work. It will make three strikes and you're out the law of the land and provide money for new prisons. And it will pay for a wide variety of prevention programs to give our young people a future they can say yes to.

This is a crucial moment in the crime bill debate. It's time to tell Congress you've waited long enough for comprehensive national crime legislation; that you don't want political posturing or frivolous amendments, and instead, you need help to take back your communities.

This crime bill is for all our people, but nobody needs it more than the people like the mother of three who lives right here in Washington. A week ago, this 33-year-old mother came home after celebrating her ten-year-old daughter's birthday to find a gang of gunmen ransacking her apartment. The mother had one plea for the intruders: "If you believe in God, please don't shoot my children. Shoot me." The reply was cold and terrifying. "I don't believe in God," said one of the gunmen. Then he shot her daughter dead. Before the gunfire ceased, another child and the mother were both shot, and her three-year-old son witnessed the whole thing.

The sad fact is, the police now believe the shootings were carried out by youths who hang out in the very apartment complex where that mother was trying to raise her children.

There are many rights that our laws and our Constitution guarantee to every citizen, but that mother and her children have certain rights we are letting slip away. They include the right to go out to the playground, and the right to sit by an open window; the right to walk to the corner without fear of gunfire; the right to go to school safely in the morning; and the right to celebrate your tenth birthday without coming home to bloodshed and terror. The crime bill will help us take back those rights for all of our people. So will our new policy to protect public **housing** residents.

We must decide we will not tolerate more tragedies like that mother's. When we do that, together, we can replace our children's fear with hope.

Thanks for listening.

END

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Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 11, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT ✓
IN TELEPHONE CALL TO A TOWN MEETING WITH SECRETARY CISNEROS

The Oval Office

10:27 A.M. EDT

SECRETARY CISNEROS: Mr. President, this is Henry Cisneros in Chicago.

THE PRESIDENT: Hello, Henry, how are you?

SECRETARY CISNEROS: Good, sir. I'm here with Senator Carol Moseley-Braun and Congressman Bobby Rush and Vince Lane of the **Housing** Authority, who's a good friend of yours, and about 200 folks at Progressive Community Church. And we are gathered together to talk about how to deal with the violence that's plagued the Chicago **Housing** Authority, Robert Taylor, Stateway and other developments over the last couple of days.

We're sitting at a table with about 20 guns that were picked up last night in police actions; a very violent weekend that resulted in about 15 shootings and five deaths -- one 16-year old was killed last night at Washington Park Homes, here in the area.

We're looking at about 20 or so rifles, pistols, automatic weapons that were picked up in police action last night. So this is a very serious circumstance, and the group is very appreciative for your call, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I'm very concerned that all the efforts that have been made there over the last several years -- and I'm glad Senator Moseley-Braun's there; I'm glad Bobby Rush is there -- I know you're in his district. And I know Vince Lane remembers the trip that we took into Robert Taylor Homes back in 1991, before I even started running for President. And I'm so worried that all the progress that's been made will be undermined by the court decision.

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I wonder if some of this violence has not been almost aggravated by the decision. And I'm hoping that you'll be able to find a constitutional solution to this working with the Attorney General.

I know that this bike team effort last night did net a significant amount of guns and other things; and I'm encouraged by what you say. I want to encourage all the citizens who are there that we're going to do everything we can to support them and enable them to have control over their lives and not allow criminals to find shelter in the very public **housing** communities that they're terrorizing.

I think it's very important. I just want to say -- you tell me what you think we have to do, and I'll do it. I've seen what can be done there when people can take control of their own destinies. And I think we owe it to them to do everything we can to give them their homes back.

SECRETARY CISNEROS: Mr. President, we're looking at a strategy that is essentially four elements. And I'll prepare a report for you with the Attorney General and have something on your desk, hopefully by tomorrow or the next day. But obviously the first

piece is to focus on the sweeps and the legality of what can be done to get the sweeps constitutional.

Secondly, to focus on other security measures, other measures we can take, such as Operation Safe Home and other things we can do. Thirdly, to focus on such things as recreational programs this summer, recreational activity, midnight basketball, ballparks, anti-gang things, youth mentorship -- critically important, and the community recognizes that so.

And then finally to focus on the long-term vision remake of public **housing** in Chicago. And we've got some ideas about that. And I'll get it all to you in writing. But I just wanted to give you kind of the strategy.

I'm going to ask Senator Moseley-Braun to say a word, if I may, Mr. President.

SENATOR MOSELEY-BRAUN: Good morning, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning, Senator.

SENATOR MOSELEY-BRAUN: Mr. President, I am first delighted that you've called this morning. I know the community appreciates your concern and your attention to this critical issue. And of course, the Secretary coming out and staying last night was just unprecedented. And we are just very grateful for the commitment and the concern that's being expressed by your administration.

I mentioned to the Secretary that the real bottom line in all of this is getting some money to create some jobs and to put in some security here at DHA. I mean, that's the bottom line. We can -- we've done sweeps before. They work for a while and then you have to go back to the problem.

And the problem here, I think, Mr. President, is only going to be solved if we can put some investment in behalf of securing the buildings, providing security forces and giving people some jobs and some opportunity and some hope back. That really is bottom line here, and I think we're up to do it. And I think we can do it without breaking the bank.

And I would very much appreciate -- Ivan's going to work with the Secretary and with Vince Lane and with the delegation. And your support, sir, will be absolutely critical in making sure that we can free up some money to do this.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. You know, there's some money in the -- some significant money, especially in the House version of the crime bill that would provide for some jobs for young people in high crime areas.

SENATOR MOSELEY-BRAUN: Right.

THE PRESIDENT: And that's one of the things that we tried to do in rewriting it over on the House side, was to get some money in there so that we could determine the impact on the crime rate of providing jobs for people. I think -- of course, I know you agree with me, what we're going to find is if we can go into some of these neighborhoods and put people to work, the crime rate will go way down.

SENATOR MOSELEY-BRAUN: I think that's right. That's right. Well, as you know, I'm going to support that legislation. And, again, if we can come up with some other initiatives -- Mr. Lane was talking about some things this morning. I want to work very closely with you, sir, and with this administration and the Secretary in behalf of putting together the money and putting together the

initiatives we need to begin to turn around a history of neglect here.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

SENATOR MOSELEY-BRAUN: Thank you again, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you so much.

REPRESENTATIVE RUSH: Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

REPRESENTATIVE RUSH: Bobby Rush, how are you doing?

THE PRESIDENT: Hi, Bobby, nice to hear your voice, Congressman.

REPRESENTATIVE RUSH: Yes. Mr. President, I certainly appreciate your calling to the public **housing** community of the city of Chicago this morning. It's the first time that any Chief Executive Officer of this nation has taken a part of their day to discuss vital issues that all the residents here are concerned about and have been concerned about over the years. There are a lot of resources that I think that we can bring to bear on this. You and I have talked about this, particularly during the campaign. There are a lot of resources, I think, will be brought to bear if, in fact, we have the commitment and the vision to do that.

I think gathered around this table, and in this room, we have really an advanced team of people who can come up with the solutions. And we certainly, in the Congress, can try to help assist you in terms of helping to find those resources and use creative efforts and creative endeavors to try to bring some resources into public **housing**; because the people who live here, they're the true

victims. They didn't create public **housing**; they didn't locate it where it's located. Circumstances have forced them to live in these conditions, but they should not be exiled to living in public **housing** camps in the way they're living in them right now. We have to make these developments livable.

Mr. President, I have a community leader here who's going to ask for 30 seconds to discuss -- to say something to you for about 30 seconds, if in fact that would be appropriate.

THE PRESIDENT: Sure.

MR. SISTRUNK(?): Mr. President, Mr. Clinton ?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. SISTRUNK(?): First of all, I want to say my name is -- Sistrunk(?). And I want to encourage you to continue to support Mr. Lane and the Congressman and the Senator and Mr. Cisneros.

Mr. President, last week, a couple of days ago, I spent a day in the hospital with a Terrence Graham, who was shot in the developments. I've lost kin people in the developments. Mr. President, I want to say sincerely to you, if you would in your next year or so, or whenever you're available, to come and witness the terror, the hurt and the pain, because it's serious, and it hurts, Mr. President. And we need you here in Chicago, but more important we need you to continue to support Mr. Lane and community activists and people who are concerned about death and dying and the residents. And I encourage you to take a stand, Mr. President.

Thank you. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you for what you said.

SECRETARY CISNEROS: Mr. President, thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT: I want to thank the gentleman for his remarks. As I said, I once came to Chicago and visited the projects with Vince Lane shortly before I declared for President. And I would like to come again. And I do care a lot about what's going on there. And I'm encouraged by this meeting. And I want to thank Secretary Cisneros for so promptly responding to my request and going over there and spending the night and getting in closer touch with the situation. I feel better about it. And I hope we can do some things to help. I believe we can.

SECRETARY CISNEROS: Mr. President, thank you for calling. I'm going to sign off with Vince Lane saying a couple of words to you, and we'll close out. We appreciate your time very much. We know there's things swirling in the world and you've got a busy schedule, so we deeply appreciate your call.

THE PRESIDENT: Thanks.

MR. LANE: Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Hi, Vince.

MR. LANE: How are you?

THE PRESIDENT: Great.

MR. LANE: Mr. President, I want to say that this is a historic day in Chicago. We have a symbol here -- are people from all perspectives of this community. As you know, some of the things that we've had to do in order to try to protect life have been controversial; but in the end what I know, as you heard from Mr. Sistrunk(?) and from the Senator and the Congressman -- there we all have the same bottom line -- we've got to make this a safe place for poor black children in this city and in this country so that they can have the same opportunities as everyone else. And I know that with your leadership, under your leadership, and Secretary Cisneros and the leadership that you will bring and the champion of the efforts to redress the problems in Chicago with the Congress will yield us real longlasting permanent change in this country.

And so I just want to thank you for exercising the leadership that you have undertaken here with sending Secretary Cisneros and involving Janet Reno with addressing the problems here in public **housing** in Chicago.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, thank you Vince, and thanks for blazing away for us and making people believe that we could actually do something to improve life in public **housing**. You showed me that it could be done years ago, and I'm convinced that maybe we can use this court decision as a spur to even do a better job, a more comprehensive job. We're going to do everything we possibly can.

MR. LANE: God bless you.

THE PRESIDENT: Thanks -- it's nice to hear your voice.

Goodbye, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you. (Applause.)

END10:37 A.M. EDT

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Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 29, 1994

PRESS BRIEFING
BY

ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO,
SECRETARY OF HUD HENRY CISNEROS,
DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY LEE BROWN,
AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF TREASURY RON NOBLE

The Briefing Room

10:00 A.M. EST

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Our National Violent Crime Initiative is underway with a federal prosecutor now designated to coordinate our efforts in every one of the 94 districts in the country, with joint local, federal strategies for attacking violent crime already underway in many of the districts. I have had an opportunity to visit districts, to talk with state and local law enforcement, to talk with federal officials who are working with them. And I'm advised that we have not seen such cooperation in many years.

We have further to go, however. Our Weed and Seed program is reaching more communities now, up to 20 sites from 10 last year, apprehending more criminals, and developing more prevention programs that have proven to be successful. Our PAC program is working with local officials to bring new direction and energy to community crime prevention efforts.

As I travel across the country I hear real enthusiasm for these combined state and federal efforts that bring a focus on law enforcement, on the violent criminals, on what the federal government can do to assist local government in terms of law enforcement. I also see us coming together with cities and communities across this nation in crime prevention efforts, using the Office of Justice Programs, the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Weed

and Seed to work with them as true partners in providing monies that are truly needed.

But I'm not here to be a Pollyanna or to pretend that the crime problem is being solved. We've made some headway, but we've got more to do. The crime bill is now pending in the House and it has many helpful provisions. One of the refrains I hear as I travel across this nation is the need for more support for state prison systems to make sure that they are able to house the violent criminals for the length of time the judges are sentencing them. The bill will provide \$3 billion in grant money to state and local governments to operate prisons and to make sure that we have truth in sentencing for violent offenders.

Programs to deal with youthful and drug offenders are in the crime bill, and they are critically important. Community after community have had the chance to visit our local drug court in Miami and want to replicate it but don't have the resources. Those resources would be provided in the crime bill.

And prevention programs that give kids something to say yes to. Our youth employment skills program, keeping schools open later are all in the crime bill and I think are critical provisions. We have announced a plan to restore funding for burn grant* multijurisdictional task forces, which so many sheriffs have pointed out is so critical to their efforts.

But the one aspect of our crime bill that I think is so critically important is the provision for the \$100,000 police officers for community policing. In every community I have been to police departments either want to start it or have started it on a very small scale and want to expand it. Right now at the Department of Justice we are halfway through our police hiring grants program, a program designed to make a down payment on the 100,000 police officers. Four months ago we gave out our first grant; to date we have passed out \$75 million for over 100 cities and towns to hire 1,000 new police officers. And those that got the first grants tell me they're making a difference. By the end of April when the program is complete we will have put 2,000 police officers on the streets in about 200 communities.

But for each jurisdiction we will have been able to help under this program, 15 more have applied. Three thousand cities, towns, counties and states have applied for this program. Some came in late and are not eligible, which brings the total to more. And we will only be able to assist approximately 200.

Everywhere I travel local officials say they need this help. The crime bill presents an unprecedented effort to tackle this problem. Its 100,000-use street-level police officers -- a 40-percent increase in the current national force of 250,000 street-level law enforcement officers -- is a vital effort.

We have much to do. I think the American people want us all to work together in a nonpartisan, thoughtful way to get this crime bill passed, that focuses on punishment that's fair and that fits the crime and that provides prevention alternatives that can make a difference.

I'd now like to introduce Secretary Henry Cisneros of HUD to talk about the work -- the really excellent work that's being done in Safe Home.

SECRETARY CISNEROS: Thank you very much, General. I was pleased to be here a month ago with the Attorney General, with

Secretary Bentsen, and with Dr. Brown to discuss the initiation of an administrative initiative announced by the Vice President entitled Operation Safe Home. The thrust is to bring together the resources of multiple federal agencies and focus on those environments where people live with federal assistance; that is to say, public **housing** environments -- which, unfortunately, are seed beds for much crime in our central cities -- and assisted **housing**.

There was some skepticism raised at that time as to whether this was just an announcement or whether we intended to really put muscle behind it. I'm pleased to be here today to give you a sense of what the first month's results are on Operation Safe Home.

Our interagency approach to Operation Safe Home has led to 24 arrests and 14 indictments and the recovery of more than 25 weapons and \$300,000 in drugs and cash. The white collar portion of Operation Safe Home, which deals with equity skimming and diversion of funds destined for **housing** repairs or other **housing** needs, has yielded six indictments and a guilty plea. The multifamily skimming effort has led to four civil settlements, with \$9.9 million in repayments to multifamily projects, and \$2.1 million to HUD, a double damages judgment of \$1.6 million. ✓

Let me give you an example of how Operation Safe Home works on the ground. On March 16th, as part of a task force effort in the city of New Haven, Connecticut, a team of 60 federal agents and police officers, DEA, FBI, HUD Office of Inspector General, and state and local law enforcement agencies arrested 12 individuals and seized drugs and firearms at and near public **housing** developments. The individuals were charged with selling and distributing drugs, firearms and risking injury to children.

Today HUD is announcing the availability of \$232 million under a program known as Drug Elimination grants, the public **housing** drug elimination program, which will be available to local **housing** authorities to control and prevent drug use, drug trafficking and drug-related crime in these communities. Since 1989, when this program began, over 1,700 grants, totaling over \$500 million, have been awarded to **housing** authorities. So you can see if we've awarded over \$500 million from 1989 to the present, and this year, today, we're making available \$232 million, almost half of the total, we have increased the amount of money available for this program. It goes directly to **housing** authorities for their use in attempting to get a handle on these problems. ✓

HUD has also made available \$75 million for what are called family assistance centers. These are family living environments in public **housing** where young people can have access to educational opportunities, recreational opportunities, and employment opportunities. And we tie those carefully into our anticrime strategies. ✓

All of this will tie into the President's \$6 billion anticrime initiative. One step in which HUD is involved is the encouragement of police residency in public **housing** and in central city settings, and I'm very pleased to say we're having tremendous success in persuading **housing** authorities to give up units so that police officers can come in at discounted or no rents and live in public **housing** development. It does seem to make a substantial difference.

So my message today is, in summary, threefold: First, when we work together this way we can produce results. And the last

month has proven results already in public **housing** and **housing** settings. Secondly, a key is that the federal agencies work together in unprecedented ways. I want to thank the Attorney General because of the Justice Department entities involved in this effort -- DEA and the FBI, the U.S. Attorneys -- and the Treasury because of the role of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; and the Secret Service, which gets involved in money laundering investigations --all of which have collaborated to produce these successes and many more that we believe will be coming. It is reinventing government at its best when agencies can cross territorial lines, jurisdictional lines, and work together for results.

Finally, I pledge to join the Attorney General in her efforts over the next month -- over the next several weeks, I should say -- to do everything we can to pass the crime bill. That means going around the country talking to citizens who, in turn, can express their opinions to their legislators, and working as part of the White House team to pass this important measure which will build upon the successes as additional funds are available for both prevention and enforcement and punishment phases.

It's my pleasure now to introduce my esteemed colleague, Dr. Lee Brown, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

DR. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

I also appreciate the opportunity to be here this morning to participate in the update on the administration's efforts to combat crime and violence and drug abuse.

The Office of National Drug Control Policy supports this nation's criminal justice efforts by coordinating and overseeing both the international and domestic antidrug abuse programs for all executive branch agencies. Additionally, the office serves to ensure that federal antidrug efforts support those of state and local governments through collaborative initiatives.

While the results of these initiatives may overlap with those of my colleagues here with me today, it is a coordination and a funding role played by ONDCP which is so very vital to success. The office has made some major inroads toward advancing President Clinton's goal to institute a sustained, organized, disciplined approach to combat crime, drugs, and violence. I want to briefly describe some of the initiatives that highlight the ONDCP's efforts toward achieving that goal.

ONDCP fosters collaborative federal, state and local antidrug efforts through its high-intensity drug trafficking area, or a program we call the HIDA program. During the past year, ONDCP provided funding to five HIDA regions around the country. This funding supports over 150 federal, state and local initiatives which include multiagency task force operations, intelligence-sharing networks, and investigative support centers. These HIDA programs target what we call gateway areas for drugs entering this country by working toward dismantling significant drug trafficking or money laundering organizations in Los Angeles, New York, Miami, Houston, and along the southwest border.

Last year, these major task force operations seized more than 17 tons of cocaine and over \$241 million in drug-related assets. While these statistics may reflect the outstanding efforts of several law enforcement agencies, it's significant to stress that it was through the HIDA program that federal, state and local agencies came together to conduct these joint operations.

I have been involved in law enforcement over 30 years at the local level, and during that time I've seen the conflict and the lack of cooperation between state and -- particularly state and local and the federal agencies. That is not the case today. Never in the history of my career have I seen a better working relationship between federal, state and local agencies than is the case now.

This year this administration has taken another important step in combatting drug abuse by integrating treatment services into the HIDA program. Last month I designated the Washington-Baltimore region a high-intensity drug trafficking area. The primary focus of this HIDA, which is expected to be a prototype for future initiatives, will be to reduce hardcore drug use through the region by coordinating treatment services with law enforcement programs.

I think we all know that jails around the country are filled with nonviolent criminals who commit minor crimes so they can buy their daily doses of crack or heroin. This HIDA will not only work to reduce the amount of drugs available to those chronic hardcore drug users, but it will also work to minimize the impact of the heroin addict who steals the carton of cigarettes from the 7-11 by treating the cause or the problem of his addiction. The logic is quite clear. We have to not only deal with the problem itself, that is the crime; but also try to stop the problem by dealing with the addiction. And that's consistent with the strategy the President released, the national drug control strategy the President released a few weeks ago.

This will, in turn, free up jail space and other law enforcement resources which can be used to investigate and also incarcerate violent offenders. To be successful, this program will require the coordination of not only federal, state and local law enforcement, but also the treatment community and the courts. I've allocated \$3 million in initial funding for this year toward the development and implementation of specific programs which will facilitate this coordination.

Through its role as a policy development and coordination office, ONDCP serves to integrate the many functions of the more than 50 federal agencies involved in the nation's antidrug efforts with those of state and local governments. We feel very strongly that this coordination, this working together, will be the process by which we can take back the streets of our cities block by block. And that's the objective; to make sure that this country is a safer country.

I also join the Attorney General and Secretary Cisneros in saying that the passage of the crime bill is extremely important. I'm particularly interested in seeing the 100,000 more police officers be made available to the police departments throughout this country, primarily to implement the concept of community policing. I know community policing works. It worked when I served as police chief in Houston, Texas. It worked when I was the police commissioner of New York City. In fact, in New York City, after only one year we saw crime go down in every major index category, and that had not occurred in the 36-year history of that department.

So it's important that we get about the business of passing the crime bill, working together as partners with state and local and federal agencies and the American public in order to make a difference.

Now I'm pleased to introduce the Assistant Secretary of

Treasury Ron Noble.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: Good morning. This Thursday, March 31st, is the 13th anniversary of the attempted assassination of President Reagan and the wounding of former White House Press Secretary James Brady, someone who many of you knew. And therefore, in our view, it is fitting to discuss the impact of the Brady Law.

We all recall the challenges and the complaints many people had about how ineffective Brady would be. But if we look at this chart, we see the impact it's already had. In Houston, there were 2,183 forms processed and 199 denials. In Dallas, we see 48 denials. In Ohio, we see 41 denials and 8 were for fugitives. So we see the impact Brady is having. We're making it more costly, more expensive for people to purchase firearms. Convicted felons are trying to do it; fugitives are trying to do it; it's having a very real impact. And but for the work of the Attorney General and my colleagues up here and the President, Brady probably -- would not have been passed.

Also in the area of federal firearms licensing reform, prior to this year, there were only 240 inspectors at ATF processing federal firearms license applications. And the process was so rubber-stampish, if you will, that even dogs were receiving federal firearms licenses. And early this last year the New York City Police Department, in conjunction with ATF, embarked on a pilot project that, during last year, resulted in a 94-percent reduction of those people who received federal firearms licenses.

Now, why is that important? It's important because with 284,000 federal firearms license holders, which we currently have, it's impossible to regulate; it's impossible to do the sort of tracing that you need to go. Again, this will cost money, and the Secretary and the President are supporting an increase in licensing cost to cover the cost of doing the background inspections that you and I would want before giving someone the privilege of selling firearms.

Also, in conjunction with the Department of Justice, we continue to pursue what Treasury calls Achilles Project, where we target armed career criminals -- people who have had three serious violent felony convictions or drug trafficking convictions -- where if they're convicted of being in possession of a firearm after having these three violent felony convictions on their record or drug trafficking convictions, they go away for a minimum of 15 years -- in another important initiative that we're working in conjunction with the Department of Justice as well as the initiatives with HUD and with ONDCP.

So while I agree with the Attorney General and everyone else who says it's difficult to highlight in a very brief period what differences we've made, we are making differences. The cooperation which has been referred to is more difficult to quantify, but it's a spirit that makes all the difference in successful investigations versus unsuccessful turf battles.

One other area that I'd like to highlight is the Treasury Department has the ability to reclassify certain weapons as destructive devices if they don't satisfy any legitimate sporting purpose. The Secretary did that on February 28th; he reclassified an item called the Street Sweeper, which looks like the old tommy gun, but discharges shotgun shells instead of bullets, and discharges 12 shotgun shells within three seconds. The same weapon was found fully loaded and operational at the residence of one of the people who is

suspected to have been involved in the shooting of the Hasidic Jews on the Brooklyn Bridge this year.

So in conjunction with the Department of Justice, HUD and with ONDCP, we at Treasury are committed to a coordinated effort to try to make a difference in the crime problem confronting this country. Thank you.

Q Is there any hang-up in passage of the crime bill? Are you running into a problem?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I don't see any hang-up in the passage of it. I think it's just important that we focus on it as soon as Congress returns and that we all work together to fashion a balanced bill that punishes the dangerous and that does -- develops prevention programs with our communities that can keep kids from crime.

Q General Reno, you might say that this briefing may have been called because the administration wants to present this united front. You may have seen this report, report out of U.S. News and World Report in particular, which says that the working group report on crime which is not being released by the White House suggests that that report is, in a sense, too soft compared with what the public mood might be right now. Could you respond to that?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I don't know -- I didn't see the article so I can't respond to the article.

Q It says that the --

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: One of the things I learned never to do is to respond to articles that I haven't read. But I'll be happy to read it and have Carl give you a response.

Q Well, have you seen the working group report?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: No, I haven't.

Q It's like an 89-page report.

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: No, I haven't.

Q Are you advocating the truth in sentencing as part of the prison grants?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I think what we've got to do is to work with states to get dollars to them in ways that count so that they can begin to achieve truth in sentencing. I think it's important that we have -- work with them to set standards that they can meet and that end up ultimately making sure that these dangerous offenders get the sentence they deserve, and then actually serve it. Nothing is so frustrating for the American people than to see somebody out in 20 to 30 percent of the sentence when they were dangerous offenders.

Q You were using the figure, 100,000 new cops. In New York, Mayor Giuliani says that doesn't meet the truth in packaging provisions and that actually it's funding of 20,000 cops for five years and only 75 percent funding. So it's really only 15,000 cops. Is that accurate or is that unfair?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I haven't heard his comment. What we have tried to do is to work with mayors throughout the country to make sure that what is provided for is something that is

actually delivered. As a prosecutor on the streets of Miami, I used to get frustrated when I would hear federal promises that didn't materialize. And we want to make sure that there's funding in the crime bill to provide support for 100,000 police officers. We've always talked about developing a match. For those communities that can't provide the match there would be waiver programs. But we're dead-set and determined to make sure that when we promise something we deliver it.

Q But is it 20,000 times five years, or is it 100,000 for a period?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: It's 100,000 cops developed within the next five years.

Q So it is 20,000 -- funding for 20,000 each year?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: We would hire 100,000 over the next five years. Whether it was 20,000 for five years -- I'm not sure where he's coming from. But I'll be happy to contact his office and --

Q What I'm trying to understand is whether -- is it 100,000 different people or 20,000 people --

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: It would be 100,000 different people is the aim.

Q I understand you said that you put the money out for the first 1,000 --

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Yes.

Q and you've had good results. What were the good results?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I am told -- I visited in Orlando, for example, and I am told in their community policing initiative that they are having an impact. I have not gotten the statistics from them, but in all those that have received the grants and have had time to see them begin to be implemented or enhanced, I am told that they are making a difference.

Q Ms. Reno, at one point months ago you said that just having more police officers may not be the answer for all police departments, that some police chiefs felt that they really couldn't absorb more police officers. Are you certain that these 100,000 new officers will be utilized properly?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I have never been so certain of it after talking with police chiefs around the country, visiting community policing initiatives, talking to citizens in the community. The desperate need that police departments have around the country to have police officers and this additional support that will permit them to transition to community policing is echoed everywhere I go. It's gotten so if I go to a community that's applied for a grant I can barely get out of the community without everybody saying, where is my money; why haven't you given me a grant?

I am absolutely convinced that the monies will be used wisely. I am absolutely convinced that just money for policing won't work, but money for sound community policing that focuses on targets in the community where priorities are developed with citizens in the community, where citizens are involved, and prevention efforts are implemented again with citizens can make a difference.

Q If I might follow, you paid some attention to the crime problem here in Washington. And the District has about 50 percent more police officers per capita than the next largest city, yet clearly it's got a big crime problem nonetheless. What is the problem here, do you suppose, if it's not -- obviously it's not just more police officers -- I mean, not more police officers certainly the sole answer.

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Well, as I have suggested, I don't think just more police officers. I think they have to be used the right way. I've obviously not made a close analysis of the District's issues, but I have asked Eric Colder*, the United States Attorney, to work with the Chief of Police and work with public officials to do what is -- anything the federal government can appropriately do to address the problem of focusing on the bad guys, the career criminals, taking steps to identify them and proactively go after them and make the arrest, apprehend the fugitives, get them sentenced to appropriate sentences, while at the same time developing appropriate prevention programs.

SECRETARY CISNEROS: General, if I may say a quick word on the District, because I think that sometimes that's trotted out as -- and it's not exactly a good comparison. And Lee Brown, as a police chief, may want to add a word.

The District of Columbia bears a different burden than any other city of 650,000 people, or so, as a result of the fact that it's the Nation's Capital. So it must allocate police officers to everything from traffic control to coordination with Executive Protective Services in the embassy areas and so forth; unusual number of parades and other civic gatherings and so forth. My guess is that while that number stands out, 50 percent more per capita, it really is because it's the District, because it's the Nation's Capital. And those police officers are not assigned to -- the presumption in the question is not as accurate as one might think.

Q Secretary Cisneros, do you have any idea how many police officers have taken up this offer to move into the public housing?

SECRETARY CISNEROS: I don't have an exact number for you, but it's happening in more communities and faster than I might have imagined. And if you are interested, I could actually take you to people who are doing that right here in the District of Columbia. We have several police officers who have now moved into **housing** developments.

But I would say, in many communities across the country it is happening. We're also now taking the next logical step which is to find ways to provide discounted **housing** for officers who want to live in central city neighborhoods, not public **housing** but in neighborhoods, by making HUD-owned homes, the so-called HUD homes that we take by foreclosure, available on some discounted basis to police departments for officers who want to live in the city.

Q Are they told if they move in there with these discounts that if trouble breaks out it's assumed that they'll try to do something about it?

SECRETARY CISNEROS: A police officer, of course, is never truly off duty, carry weapons even when they're off duty in most jurisdictions. And so the assumption is, first of all, that their very presence, the fact that they drive a cruiser home, the

fact that -- in many communities -- that they arrive in a uniform, that people know that they're there makes a difference.

Now, will they come out in the middle of a disturbance? Many will do that because it's their perception of their role as a police officer.

Lee, you might want to say a word on this concept -- in his role as a former police chief.

DR. BROWN: It's very consistent with the concept of community policing. It gives the police officer an ownership of a geographical area. I visited those locations myself, particularly one in Elgin, Illinois, and talked to the residents of the public **housing** community there. And they told the story of a dramatic and drastic and significantly important change for the better in the living conditions there as a result of having the police officers there.

And that is one of the reasons that the administration is so high, the President is so high on the concept of community policing, because it represents, if you would, a new way of thinking about police work, a new way of delivering police services. It involves a partnership between the police and the people to identify problems that are of concern to the residents -- not so much how the police see the problems but how the people see the problems -- and then jointly coming together to determine what are the best solutions to address the problem. And then using the resources of the police, other governmental agencies, the private sector and individuals to solve the problem.

And that's what's exciting about seeing this really quiet revolution take place in law enforcement today, supported by -- will be supported by the resources provided by the crime bill when passed by the Congress.

The additional police officers are important for community policing. An example being when I went to New York as the police commissioner -- the police officers spend 95, 96, 97 percent of their time just answering 911 calls. You can imagine that you can't really take the time to know the problems, to know the people to solve the problems if you're spending your eight-hour tour of duty just running 911 calls. You can also imagine there's not much job satisfaction in doing that.

In the community policing, officers will have the time to work on solving problems; thus, having a better utilization of the resource of the police department. So it's important to have the police officers, the bodies, to do community policing. And as I said, you can't solve problems if you have no time to do so. And you end up going back to the same locations over and over again. And so that's the reason you find that there's such great support throughout the policing field as well as the administration for the concept of community policing.

Q Is the death penalty posing an obstacle --

Q Could I -- I'm sorry, I have a question about the Treasury chart. These numbers -- are they handguns? In other words, in Houston, do we read that 199 people were told they could not buy a handgun?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: Yes.

Q So that means that 2,183 people were told that,

yes, they could buy a handgun. Does that mean the sale went ahead necessarily, probably?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: If forms were processed, assuming they had the money, the sales went ahead.

Q Does that -- I mean, if you look at that, since February 28th, which is -- what -- three or four weeks ago, 2,183 handguns were bought in Houston. I mean, looking at these numbers another way, do you feel like maybe -- to me that's kind of stunning, to think --

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: To me it's stunning that there are over 200 million handguns in the U.S. That's stunning, but what's more stunning is that there are people with records trying to buy these handguns and that we're able to catch them and stop them.

Q Clearly, that's a good thing, but I just wondered if it makes you think about taking this a step farther, to banning handguns or --

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: No. No.

Q Why not?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: Because the problem that we're trying to address with Brady and that we have addressed with Brady is we're trying to address the problem of the wrong people having handguns. Now, a law-abiding American citizen who wishes to own a firearm should not be prevented from owning a firearm. That's a --

Q Why should they have one?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: First of all, there's a constitutional right to bear arms we hear about time and time again.

Q There is?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: I think there's a constitutional right to bear arms. And I also think there's a right, an individual right to protect himself or herself or one's family. So from my perspective, I don't do anything and wouldn't suggest anything that would impinge upon a U.S. citizen's right to purchase a firearm.

Q Are you a member of the NRA?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: One might think so in light of my answer, right?

Q Are you?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: I am not.

Q Under Brady, the local law enforcement --

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: I just want to respond. I am a college professor, law professor on leave. I may be returning more quickly than I'd like but -- (laughter.) That's my individual position. That's my individual position, just for the record.

Q You have not at this point ruled on --

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: Okay. It's my individual

position, please.

Q Brady requires the local law enforcement establishment to make a reasonable effort. There are more and more reports that many of these law enforcement agencies don't have the resources to make that reasonable effort, and that some even disagree with having to do it under Brady. My question is, has Treasury tried to force and follow up, and do you have the authority?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: We've tried to work cooperatively with state and local law enforcement officers. The starting point -- we worked very closely with the Justice Department -- was deciding who ought to be the chief law enforcement officer for each state. Ought it be one central locale like a state police department where they might have the resources to do the kind of comprehensive check? Or ought it be a local police chief who would know when an application came through with a false address that it was a false address? We try to work cooperatively with state and local law enforcement officers.

We believe one of the biggest controls or checks to make sure that Brady is followed is if that chief of police in some town in the U.S. doesn't do a Brady check, and that convicted felon purchases a firearm and hurts someone you know or someone in the town or someone in the community, that's a tremendous chilling effect, a tremendous check, a tremendous encouragement to make sure that people follow Brady. But beyond that, the law, as I understand it -- and I've just been reading memos recently; there's a question as to what action, if any, can be taken if a law enforcement officer in a particular state says I just don't want to do a check, I don't want to take reasonable steps or reasonable efforts --

Q You mean you don't have the authority?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: Authority in terms of we have authority at Treasury over the federal firearms licence dealer. That's who we have control over. So at Treasury we don't have authority over the particular chief of police requiring him or requiring her to do it. But you can see that a lot of people are doing it. So if there's a possibility that one police officer or one county isn't doing it, I guess that's theoretically possible.

Q Does Justice have any authority over that?

Q Is the death penalty posing an obstacle to passage of the crime bill? That has been true traditionally. I guess the death penalty is in the Senate bill. There's opposition to it in the House.

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: No, I don't think so. I think everybody understands that there are provisions that they may oppose, but we are trying to work together to fashion a balanced bill that meets both the desires and appropriate aims for punishment and prevention.

In answer to your question, we are working -- want to work with state and local law enforcement to make sure that the Brady Bill is enforced as appropriate. And I think working together, explaining what can be done when you identify the number of people who are denied weapons, we can have an impact.

Q Will expansion of the death penalty, though, wind up being part of this compromise? What will happen to it?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Yes, I believe it will.

Q Can you just explain -- there were 50 denied in Dallas for reasons other than criminal history. What are the reasons? Are these all drug addicts?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: No, there are a number of reasons. You can be mentally unstable. You could have been --

Q I know, but you don't know what they are?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOBLE: I don't have it for you, but I can provide it to you later, okay. Thank you.

Q General, in view of yesterday's action by the Supreme Court on the insanity defense, what's your position on that?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: One thing I learned long ago is to never comment on a Supreme Court opinion until I've read it, and I haven't had a chance to read it.

Q it wasn't even a statement, it was just they wouldn't take the case. They let the Montana court ruling stand.

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Again, the dumbest thing anybody can do is comment on a case when they haven't read it.

Q Is the Justice Department involved in the Colosio investigation at all? Can you answer that?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: No, I can't.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END10:40 A.M. EST

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