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**OA/ID Number:** 17969  
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**Document Number:**

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**Folder Title:**  
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## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 12, 1994

The Hon. Bob Dole  
The Hon. Newt Gingrich  
The Hon. Strom Thurmond  
The Hon. Alan Simpson  
The Hon. Orrin Hatch  
The Hon. Bill McCollum  
Congress of the United States  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators and Congressmen:

I am responding on behalf of the President who received your letter on the crime bill moments before he spoke to the National Association of Police Organizations in Minneapolis this afternoon. NAPO is one of several police and law enforcement organizations supporting the President's crime bill.

President Clinton said in Minneapolis that fighting crime is neither a Republican nor Democratic issue, it is a matter of government fulfilling its first responsibility to provide for the security of all of its citizens. He shares your belief that Congress should immediately pass a strong, bipartisan measure aimed at fighting the menace of crime in our country.

Such a bipartisan plan is before you -- it is crime legislation that was adopted by the Senate last November with the support of 42 Republicans and 53 Democrats. Similar legislation was adopted in the House of Representatives in April 1994 with the support of 65 Republicans and 219 Democrats. Ten Republican Senators and 38 Republican House Members also supported the ban on assault weapons contained in this bipartisan plan.

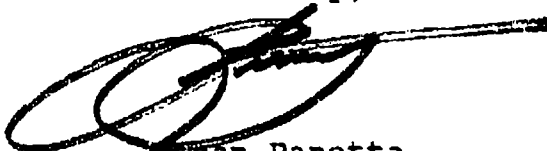
What disappointed me, and what disappointed the President, is that the very spirit of bipartisanship you wrote about today was torn asunder in the House when fifty-five of your Members who voted for a similar bill in April voted to deprive the American people of a vote on this significant anti-crime legislation.

The bill rejected last night gave the American people what they had been promised for six long years -- more police, more prisons, more opportunity for young people to resist the lure of the streets, and fewer guns. Now is the time for the Congress to deliver on that promise, without delays, without partisanship, and without interference from the NRA or other organized special interests. Now is the time for deeds to speak as loudly as words.

August 12, 1994  
Page Two

At this time, the President urges you to work directly with the Leadership of the House and Senate to determine how you can enact the crime bill as soon as possible. The President has directed me to cooperate with all Members of the Congress who are willing to expedite this important legislation. The citizens of our country, and the police who protect them, deserve and demand its passage. For them, we can do no less.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Leon Panetta', written over a horizontal line.

Leon Panetta  
Chief of Staff

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

August 12, 1994

The Honorable William J. Clinton  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

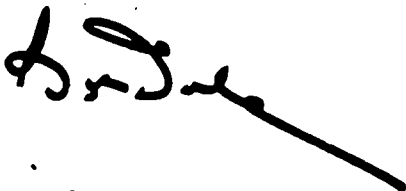
We have noted your recent comments about passing a responsible crime bill. We share that interest and have communicated that to you on at least two occasions in the form of letters from the Senate and House Republican Leadership.

In light of yesterday's defeat of the Rule for consideration of the crime bill, it is clear that the House has expressed its will in opposition to that particular piece of legislation. The defeat yesterday should not be viewed in partisan terms, nor is it a referendum on any single issue. The vote yesterday was a vote to fix a bill that was badly flawed in a number of respects.

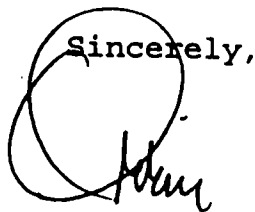
Accordingly, we hope that you will refrain from partisan attacks during your speech today. In the current environment, we think that resorting to such tactics would be counterproductive and detract from our ultimate goal of passing an effective crime bill.

We would like to take this opportunity to request a meeting with you as soon as you return today from your trip to Minneapolis to discuss how we can work together to pass a strong crime bill as soon as possible.

Thank you very much. We look forward to meeting with you this evening.



Bob Dole

Sincerely,  


Orrin Hatch



Newt Gingrich



Strom Thurmond



Bill McCollum



Alan Simpson

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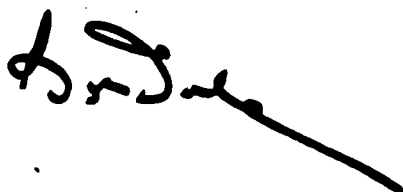
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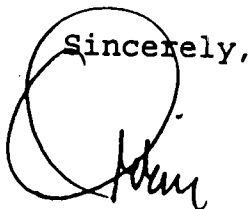
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