

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
March 7, 1994

3/9/94

**CRIME LEADERSHIP BRIEFING WITH CALIFORNIA, LOUISIANA, AND
ARKANSAS**

TO: The First Lady
DATE: Wednesday, March 9, 1994
LOCATION: Room 450, Old Executive Office Building
TIME: 10:30 AM - 10:40 AM
FROM: Steve Hilton, Deputy Assistant to the President for Public
Liaison

I. PURPOSE

This is a substantive briefing for approximately 150 community leaders -- including police chiefs, police officers, religious leaders, school superintendents, teachers, local elected officials and other community activists -- from California, Louisiana, and Arkansas about the provisions, benefits and importance of the President's crime initiative.

II. BACKGROUND

Crime has been defined by the public as its #1 concern and a problem which they would like the President to take stronger action on. This briefing gives us an opportunity to present the President's stance on crime and violence to the people who fight or are impacted by crime in their local communities on a daily basis; in other words, those who are experiencing these problems on a grassroots level. This is the fifth in a series of regional crime briefings. To date, we have held briefings for New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Washington D.C., Illinois, Tennessee, Missouri, Georgia, Florida, and North Carolina. We will continue to hold such briefings once a week through the end of March.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Secretary Riley, Department of Education
Secretary Cisneros, Department of Housing and Urban Development
Assistant Secretary Noble, Department of Treasury
Steve Hilton, Deputy Assistant to the President, White House Office of Public Liaison
Rick Allen, Special Advisor, Corporation for National Service

NOTE: The invitation list was based on recommendations by Members of Congress. Members were invited to greet and/or sit with their constituents during the briefing. See attached list.

IV. PRESS PLAN

Closed. There will be a stakeout following the briefing.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- You will enter the holding room of Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building.
- You will be introduced by Steve Hilton
- You will make remarks and take questions and answers.

VII. ATTACHMENTS

- Agenda
- Sequence of Events
- List of Participants
- Other Supportive Materials

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

AGENDA

**CRIME LEADERSHIP BRIEFING
OLD EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 450**

March 9, 1994

WELCOME

Steve Hilton

Deputy Assistant to the President

Deputy Director of Public Liaison

REMARKS

Ron Noble

Assistant Secretary for Enforcement

Department of Treasury

REMARKS

Richard Riley

Secretary

Department of Education

THE FIRST LADY

BREAK

REMARKS

Henry Cisneros

Secretary

Department of Housing and Urban Development

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

9:30 a.m. - 9:35 a.m.	Steve Hilton
9:35 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Ron Noble
10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Richard Riley
10:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.	THE FIRST LADY
10:40 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Break
11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Henry Cisneros
11:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	Rick Allen
11:45 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.	Steve Hilton

TALKING POINTS

Richard Riley	-- discuss Safe Schools as well as school to work initiative -- take q & a
Ron Noble	-- discuss Gun Control, the major pieces of crime bill that we support, as well as our drug control strategy -- take q & a
Henry Cisneros	--discuss Operation Safe Homes as well as crime prevention in urban areas --take q & a
THE FIRST LADY	-- discuss the need for not only government involvement but personal responsibility -- discuss how the President's crime initiative fits into a larger strategy (along with our drug strategy, safe schools, EITC, empowerment zones, community development banks, etc.) to rebuild our nation's communities; i.e., we are making an investment in our communities

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ATTENDING
as of 3/8/94, 9:30 AM

Rep. Lynn Woolsey -- CA (at end)
Rep. Nancy Pelosi -- CA
Rep. Maxine Waters -- CA
Rep. Bob Filner -- CA
Rep. Cleo Fields -- LA

March 9 Crime Leadership Briefing
List in formation -- as of 2 pm 3/7/94 --

The Honorable Daniel Acuna
Mayor
City of San Fernando
San Fernando CA

The Reverend Dr. Emanuel Akognom
Marin City Community Village Baptist
Church
Marin City CA

Ms. Bobbie Jean Anderson
Chairman, Criminal Task Force
Public Defender's Office
Pasadena CA

Mr. Rogue Barros
Executive Director
Los Ninos
San Ysidro CA

Ms. Helen Bernstein
President
United Teachers of Los Angeles
Los Angeles CA

Sheriff Bob Blankenship
Sheriff
Falkner County
Conway AR

Judge Howard Broadman
Superior Court
Visalia CA

The Reverend Zedar Broadous
President
San Fernando Valley NAACP
Pacoima CA

Mr. Dale Broussard
Sheriff
Louisiana Sheriff's Association

The Reverend Amos Brown
Reverend, Chairman
National Baptist Civil Right's
San Francisco CA

Major Reginald Brown
East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff Office
Baton Rouge LA

Mr. Ronald Brown
Deputy Public Defender
Black Public Defenders Association
Los Angeles CA

The Honorable Jeanne M. Buckley
Superior Court Comissioner
Sonoma County Juvenile Court
Santa Rosa CA

Chief Daschel Butler
Chief of Police
Berkeley CA

Ms. Jane Callahan
Executive Director
City of Vallejo "Fighting Back" Project
Vallejo CA

Mr. Jeffrey Capaccio, Esquire
Attorney
Jackson & Wallace
San Francisco CA

Dr. Eugene Casagrande
Los Angeles CA

Mr. Andrew Cazares
Superintendent
Hacienda La Puente Unified School
District
City of Industry CA

Mr. Frank Chavez
Superintendent
Richgrove City School District
Richgrove CA

Chief Lou Cobarruviaz
Chief of Police
San Jose Police Department
San Jose CA

Ms. Loretta Collier
Senior Administrative Hearing Officer
California State Parole Commission
Sacramento CA

Chief William Colston
Chief of Police
City of Madera
Madera CA

Ms. Deborah Constance
Executive Director
A Place Called Home
Los Angeles CA

Mr. Tim Contillon
Napa CA

Ms. Toni Cook
School Board Director
Oakland School Board
Oakland CA

Mr. Joe Coto
Superintendent
East Side Union High School District
San Jose CA

The Reverend Betitia Coty
Shiloh Christian Fellowship
Oakland CA

Sheriff Glen Craig
Sacramento County
Sacramento CA

Father Rey Culaba
Co-Pastor
Saint Paul of the Shipwreck
San Francisco CA

The Honorable Ernest Cunningham
Arkansas State Representative
Helena AR

Ms. Nancy Davis
Deputy District Attorney
Alimo CA

Chief Lee Dean
Chief of Police
Vacaville Police Chief
Vacaville CA

Jane Decker
Director of Strategic Planning
County of Santa Clara
San Jose CA

Captain Thomas Denham
Sheriff
San Bernadino County Sheriff's
Department
Grand Terrace CA

The Honorable Richard Edwards
Sheriff
Jennings LA

The Honorable Benjamin Elias
Councilmember
City of Union City
Union City CA

Mr. Al Ferris
Ferris, Britton Law Firm
San Diego CA

Mr. Wilson Fields
City Councilman
LA

The Honorable Dave Flemming
Vacaville CA

Mr. Glen Ford
Assistant School Superintendent
Forrest City AR

Mr. James Fox
District Attorney
County of San Mateo
Redwood City CA

Mr. MacDowell Frazier
Los Angeles Police Advisory
Committee
Los Angeles CA

The Honorable Charles Fuselier
Sheriff
Parish of St. Martin
St. Martinville LA

Mr. Gil Garcetti
District Attorney
Los Angeles CA

Mr. Robert Garner
Director
Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Programs
San Jose CA

Sheriff Chuck Gillingham
San Jose CA

Mr. Lawrence Gonzales
Prinipal
Pacoima Elementary School
Sierra Madre CA

Mr. Michael Gonzales
Sierra Madre CA

Mr. Leonard Gordon
Executive Director
Ella Hill Hurch Community Center
San Francisco CA

Mr. Bob Griego
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
County of San Diego
San Diego CA

Mr. V.G. Guinses
Director
Say Yes, Incorporated
Los Angeles CA

Chief Al Guzman
Chief of Police
City of Union City
Union City CA

Ms. Pamela Ham
San Pedro CA

Sargent Bruce Hansen
DARE Program Officer
Ventura County Sheriff's Department
Thousand Oaks CA

Chief Roy Harmon
Chief of Police
Yuba City
Yuba City CA

Ms. Alice Harris
Executive Director
Parents of Watts
Los Angeles CA

Ms. Taalia Hasan
Executive Director
West Contra Costa Youth Services
Bureau
Richmond CA

The Honorable Terry Hatter
Judge
U.S. District Court
Los Angeles CA

Ms. Francis Hdjilgiou
Greek American Women's Organization
Indian Harbour Beach FL

Chief Dennis Hegwood
Chief of Police
Rialto Police Department
Rialto CA

Ms. Barbara Heller
San Rafael City Council
San Rafael CA

Mr. Norman Heller
San Rafael CA

Mr. Jim Hernandez
Gang Prevention Counselor
New Connections
Concord CA

Mr. Ron Hewett

Mr. Ken Hofer
Community Relations Officer --
Neighborhood Policing
San Diego Police Department
San Diego CA

The Honorable Michael Honda
Supervisor, First District
Santa Clara County
San Jose CA

Mr. Robert Hughes
Office of Congressman George Miller
Pleasant Hill CA

Mr. Ben Jeffers
Louisiana Governor's Office
Baton Rouge LA

Chief Gary Johansen
Chief of Police
Palos Verdes Estates Police Department
Palos Verdes Estates CA

Mr. Clarence Jones
Principal
McKinley Senior High School
Baton Rouge LA

Sargent James Jorgenson
President
Sacramento Police Officers Association
Sacramento CA

The Honorable John Joseph
Mayor
City of Opelousas
Opelousas LA

Ms. Sandy Kievman
Director of Activity Program for At
Risk Youth
K.Y.D.S.
West Hills CA

Mrs. Joann LaMotte
Principal
Glen Oaks Park Elementary School
Baton Rouge LA

Mr. David Lehman
Chief Probation Office
Eureka CA

The Honorable Raywood LeMaire
Sheriff
Parish of Vermilion
Abbeville LA

Ms. Khristy Lundy Foletta
Protecting Our Children, A Forum
Napa CA

Mr. Joe Marshall
Co-Director
Omega Boys Club
San Francisco CA

Sheriff Bob Martinez
Yolo County
Woodland CA

Mr. Daniel Mazzella
San Diego CA

Dheodosia McKery
companion, Betitia Coty

Sheriff Leroy Meadows
Sheriff of Mississippi County
Luxra AR

Chief Ted Mertens
Chief of Police
Manhattan Beach Police Department
Manhattan Beach CA

Mr. Al Mijares
Superintendent
Bakersfield City School District
Bakersfield CA

Ms. Patricia Miljanich
Executive Director
Legal Services for Children
San Francisco CA

The Reverend Donald Miller
Allen Temple Baptist Church
Oakland CA

Captain E.L. Montgomery
Commander, Community Services
Bureau
Vallejo Police Department
Vallejo CA

Ms. Eleanor Montono
Wilmington CA

Sargent Michael Morris
East Baton Rouge Parish Police
Department
Baton Rouge LA

Mr. Bradley Morrison
Director
Polly Klaas Foundation
Petaluma CA

The Honorable Tim Nader
Mayor
City of Chula Vista
Chula Vista CA

Mr. Michael Nevin

Ms. Eve Nichol
Director
Polly Klaas Foundation
Napa CA

Detective Mark Nichol
Napa Sheriff's Office
Vallejo CA

Mr. Harry Pachon
Thomas Rivera Center
Claremont CA

The Honorable Esther Padilla
Councilwoman
City of Fresno
Fresno CA

Ms. Betty Pagett
Director of Education
Ecumenical Association for Housing
San Rafael CA

Mr. Dave Paulson
District Attorney
Solano County
Fairfield CA

Chief Gail Peterson
Chief of Police
Ceres Police Department
Ceres CA

Dr. Marcia Plumleigh
Superintendent
Campbell Union School District
Campbell CA

Chief Steven Port
Chief of Police
Hawthorne Police Department
Hawthorne CA

Chief Stephen Prator
Chief of Police
Shreveport Police Department
Shreveport LA

Ms. Irene Redondo-Churchward
Executive Director
Project Info Community Services
Whittier CA

Sheriff David Renner
Eureka CA

Mr. Douglas Ridenour
Modesto Police Officers Association
Modesto CA

Chief Dominick Rivetti
Chief of Police
City of San Fernando
San Fernando CA

Chief Andy Romero
Chief of Police
Bell Gardens Police Department
Bell Gardens CA

Captain Ron Ruitt

Sheriff Warren Rupf
Contra Costa County Sheriff
Martinez CA

Mr. Mitchell Salazar
Executive Director; Co-Chair
Real Alternatives Program; Mission
Violence Project
San Francisco CA

Chief Joseph Samuel, Jr.
Chief of Police
Oakland CA

Sheriff Tom Sawyer
Sheriff
County of Merced
Merced CA

Mr. Bob Scott
President
United Chambers of Commerce of the
San Fernando Valley
Sherman Oaks CA

Sheriff Glenn Seymour
Madera County
Madera CA

Sheriff Jerald Shadinger
Colusa County
Colusa CA

Chief Robert A. Shadley
Chief of Police
Willows Police Department
Willows CA

Ms. Marcine Shaw
Councilperson
Compton CA

Mr. Timothy B. Sottile
Sherman Oaks CA

Mr. Danny Staggs
President
Los Angeles Police Protective League
Los Angeles CA

Ms. Valerie Stallings
Councilmember
San Diego City Council
San Diego CA

Mr. Jeffery Peter Stark
Deputy District Attorney
Oakland CA

Ms. Lavoneia Steele, ED.D.
Superintendent
Berkeley Unified School District
Berkeley CA

Mr. Jack Stephens
Sheriff and Ex-Officio Tax Collector
Saint Bernard Parish
Chalmetta LA

Reverend Hezekiah Stewart
Executive Director
The Watershed
College Station AR

Mr. Mark Stodola
Prosecuting Attorney
State of Arkansas, 6th District
Little Rock AR

Mr. James Summerhouse
International Federation of Professional
and Technical Engineers

Mr. Michael Thompson
Deputy Director, Criminal Justice
Office
City of Los Angeles
Los Angeles CA

Chief Oliver Thompson
Police Chief
City of Inglewood
Inglewood CA

Ms. Sally Thompson
President
New Directions for Youth
Van Nuys CA

Mr. Sidney Thompson
Superintendent
Los Angeles Unified School District
Los Angeles CA

Officer Stephanie Tisdale
Los Angeles Police Department
Reseda CA

Chief Larry Todd
Chief of Police
Los Gatos Police Department
Los Gatos CA

Ms. Tammi Tracy Andersland
Torrance CA

Mr. Fred Travalena
Encino CA

Chief Michael Trevis
Bell Police Department
Bell CA

The Honorable Harold Turner
Sheriff
Allen Parish
Oberlin LA

Sheriff James Tuso
Ukiah CA

Dr. Gerald Uelman
Dean
School of Law
Santa Clara CA

Ms. Margarita Vargas
Chairwoman
Baldwin Park CA

Chief Arturo Venegas, Jr.
Chief of Police
Sacramento Police Department
Sacramento CA

Mr. William Violante
Deputy Mayor for Public Safety
City of Los Angeles
Los Angeles CA

Mr. Luther Wallace
Human Rights Resources
San Rafael CA

Chief Stephen D. Walpole
Chief of Police
Scotts Valley Police Department
Scotts Valley CA

Sheriff Craig Webre
Sheriff and Ex-Officio Tax Collector
Lafourche Parish
Thibodaux LA

Sheriff Les Weidman
Stanislaus County Sheriff
Modesto CA

Mr. Ronald White
Deputy Public Defender
Black Public Defenders Association
Cimpton CA

Mr. Stephen White
District Attorney
County of Sacramento
Sacramento CA

The Reverend Cecil Williams
Pastor
Glide Memorial United Methodist
Church
San Francisco CA

Mr. Norwood Williams
Sheriff's Executive Officer
San Bernardino County Sheriff's
Department
San Bernardino CA

Sheriff Richard Williams
San Bernardino County Sheriff's
Department
San Bernardino CA

Mr. Ed Young
Los Angeles Probation Department
North Hollywood CA

THE CRISIS OF HEALTH CARE & THE CRISIS OF VIOLENT CRIME:

Violence takes a heavy toll on our health care system:

- It overburdens and endangers our health care providers.
- It threatens the viability of our health care institutions.
- It adds billions to this nation's health care bill.

Counting the indirect costs, both financial and societal, violence is one of the premiere threats to public health in America, and the costliest epidemic we face.

"Violence is every bit a public health issue for me and my successors in this century as smallpox, tuberculosis and syphilis were for my predecessors in the last two centuries."

C. Everett Koop, U.S. Surgeon General, 1984

VIOLENCE OVERBURDENS AND ENDANGERS PROVIDERS:

Uncompensated Care:

- Trauma patients often require a greater time commitment from the provider, particularly as measured in follow-up care, than do elective cases.
- Services provided in the trauma center often go unreimbursed, compounding the physician's loss of income.
- Because trauma injuries occur mostly at night, working late and being on 24-hour call is disruptive to some surgeons' lifestyles and can result in their having less time for elective surgeries and office care.
- One D.C. trauma surgeon reported that in 1991, he and the surgeons on his five-member team each provided more than \$100,000 worth of free care to gunshot patients alone. [17]

VIOLENCE OVERBURDENS AND ENDANGERS PROVIDERS:

Providers Are Increasingly at Risk Themselves:

- Upon entering one Los Angeles trauma center, 25% of patients were carrying a lethal weapon .
 - * Some of these weapons go unnoticed by providers.
 - * In some trauma centers, it is not unusual to assign patients aliases to avoid their being tracked down and further assaulted by their perpetrators. (AMNA) As a result, outbreaks of violence are not uncommon in some emergency departments.
- Over 70% of nurses working in psychiatric facilities have been assaulted during their career. The majority of injuries occur while attempting to contain patient violence. (AMNA.)
 - * Data suggests that workers at a maximum security forensic hospital are at higher risk of work-related injuries than employees in the most hazardous industry in the country – construction.
- A recent JAMA article highlights one urban trauma center's "devastating psychosocial effect on physicians and their staff" which the article sites as being minimal compared to the "emotionally dampening and debilitating" experience of underserved local inhabitants who come for treatment.

VIOLENCE THREATENS THE VIABILITY OF OUR HEALTH INSTITUTIONS:

- Inner-city trauma centers are repositories for the victims of violent crime and drug wars because they have to treat those severely injured who often are uninsured and do not pay their bills. [17]
- Already overburdened public hospitals must continue to meet rising demands with progressively diminishing resources.
- Overcrowding has reached a new peak of disarray, commonly referred to as emergency department gridlock -- numerous interlocking stretchers obstruct the paths between stretchers and the nurses station.
- The emergency department at King/Drew Medical Center, the only major hospital serving So. Central Los Angeles, was closed to incoming patients 67% of the time in 1991 because of saturated facilities. [16]
- The ramifications of this are even more detrimental to the public health in light of the fact that 82% of hospital admissions at King/Drew are through the emergency department. This kind of admissions routine is not out of the ordinary. It is largely due to the low socio-economic status of many patients, lacking health insurance, and overcrowded neighborhood outpatient clinics. [16]
- Such overloading delays treatment and exacerbates the incidence of shock and shock-related organ failures. [16]
- Conditions of overcrowding tie up already scarce expensive diagnostic and intensive care facilities, increase costs, and unfavorably affect physical outcome of patients. [16]

VIOLENCE:

- The majority of violent injuries, are penetrating injuries -- such as gunshot and knifewounds. Not only are they among the most expensive injuries to treat; the incidence of these injuries is rapidly increasing.
- The average charge per hospital admission for a trauma patient is three times higher than that for a regular acute care admission. [17]
- Urgently needed trauma care disrupts hospital routines and physicians' private practices and lifestyles, and upsets some private patients. [17]
- At one hospital surveyed by GAO, surgeries, including 15 colon surgeries, were postponed for up to 3 weeks because of trauma disruption. Hospitals rely heavily on their paying customers to reimburse them for the financial losses they incur when treating uninsured trauma victims. But, many hospital officials fear these paying patients will avoid the trauma care environment and seek services elsewhere, causing the hospital to lose revenue. [17]

INDIRECT COSTS TO PROVIDERS:

- In 1989, about 80% of gunshot and stabbing victims treated in some urban trauma centers were uninsured, underinsured, or Medicaid-eligible. [17]
- Hospitals have been forced to hire more security guards, install metal detectors, and take other safety precautions. [17]
- Some hospitals are finding it increasingly difficult to attract and retain qualified surgeons because of the effects of trauma care on physicians' income and lifestyle. [17]
- Rises in unreimbursed trauma care costs have paralleled the increases in penetrating injuries associated with crime and violence. [17]

HEALTH CARE COSTS ADDED TO THE NATION'S BILL AS A RESULT OF VIOLENCE:

- The average cost of any violent injury (fatal and nonfatal) = \$44,000 in \$1992 (Miller)
- Direct health care costs alone due to violent injuries are estimated at \$5.7 billion per year. (30)[1]
- Our health care system treats 1.5 million victims of violent crime every year, according to the National Institute of Justice. (8) [23]
- Approximately 85% of hospital costs for treatment of penetrating trauma (firearms and stabbings) are unreimbursed and subsequently cost-shifted onto the privately insured. (34a)
- Up to 30% of emergency room visits by women are the result of injuries from domestic violence, which accounts for over 1.4 million doctor visits each year. [1]

Talking Points
Crime Leadership Day
Wednesday, March 9, 1994

- **THANK YOU FOR COMING TO THE WHITE HOUSE FOR OUR LEADERSHIP DAY ON THE CRIME BILL. YOUR SUPPORT IN THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE IN ENSURING THAT WE GET A TOUGH, SMART CRIME BILL TO HELP MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES FEEL SAFE AGAIN.**
- **WE ASKED YOU TO COME HERE FOR A REASON: WE WANT TO HELP PEOPLE LIKE YOU -- WHO ARE ON THE FRONT LINES OF THE WAR ON CRIME -- GET THE TOOLS AND RESOURCES YOU NEED TO WIN IT. WE KNOW WE CAN'T WIN THIS WAR FROM WASHINGTON. BUT IT'S TIME WASHINGTON GOT OFF THE SIDELINES AND STARTED GIVING YOU A HAND.**
- **OVER THE LAST DECADE, NO ISSUE HAS SEEN MORE GRIDLOCK, MORE DEMAGOGUERY, AND MORE STALLING ON BEHALF OF THE SPECIAL INTERESTS THAN CRIME. IT'S TIME TO CHANGE THAT.**
- **WE HAVE STARTED BY BREAKING 7 YEARS OF GRIDLOCK ON THE BRADY BILL, WHICH IS ALREADY SHOWING RESULTS. BEFORE PASSING THE BRADY BILL, MILLIONS OF FIREARMS IN THIS COUNTRY WERE SOLD ON THE HONOR SYSTEM. NOW, WITH THE BRADY LAW, WE'RE ASKING LEGITIMATE GUN OWNERS TO WAIT 5 DAYS SO THAT LAW ENFORCEMENT CAN CHECK TO MAKE SURE WE'RE NOT PUTTING GUNS IN THE HANDS OF CRIMINALS.**
- **THOSE OF YOU FROM CALIFORNIA KNOW THAT THE BRADY BILL WILL WORK. SINCE 1989, MORE THAN 20,000 SALES HAVE BEEN BLOCKED UNDER CALIFORNIA'S 15-DAY WAITING PERIOD AND BACKGROUND CHECK. AND ON THE VERY FIRST DAY THAT BRADY WENT INTO EFFECT, 9 PROHIBITED PERSONS TRIED TO BUY GUNS IN KENTUCKY AND 8 IN COLORADO -- INCLUDING TWO FELONS WITH OUTSTANDING WARRANTS, WHO WERE SUBSEQUENTLY ARRESTED BY THE LOCAL POLICE.**
- **PRESIDENT CLINTON WANTS TO BUILD ON BRADY AND PASS A TOUGH, SMART CRIME BILL -- A BILL THAT PUTS SOCIETY'S MOST VIOLENT OFFENDERS AWAY FOR LIFE, BUT GIVES YOUNG OFFENDERS A SECOND CHANCE BY PUTTING THEM IN BOOT CAMPS AND GIVING THEM THE DRUG TREATMENT OR JOB TRAINING THEY NEED TO TURN THEIR LIVES AROUND. HE WANTS A CRIME BILL THAT PUTS 100,000 MORE POLICE ON THE STREET IN COMMUNITY POLICING -- WORKING WITH NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTS TO CATCH CRIMINALS AND PREVENT CRIME. AND HE WANTS TO BAN ASSAULT WEAPONS AND KEEP THEM OUT OF THE HANDS OF OUR CHILDREN.**

- I HAVE A PARTICULAR INTEREST IN THE FATE OF OUR NATION'S CHILDREN AND HOW VIOLENCE INTERFERES WITH THEIR NATURAL RIGHT TO HAVE A SAFE AND HOPEFUL CHILDHOOD. AN ESTIMATED 160,000 KIDS STAY HOME FROM SCHOOL EVERY DAY BECAUSE THEY ARE TOO AFRAID TO GET THERE. THE NUMBERS OF CHILDREN NOW BEING KILLED BY GUNS -- AS WELL AS USING THEM -- HAVE SKYROCKETED IN THE PAST FEW YEARS. ACCORDING TO A RECENT CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND STUDY, TODAY AND EVERY DAY 13 YOUNG KIDS ARE KILLED BY GUNS. AND FROM 1985 TO 1990 THE NUMBER OF 15-YEAR OLD MALES CHARGED WITH MURDER JUMPED 217%.
- IN AMERICA'S TOUGHEST NEIGHBORHOODS, MEANEST STREETS, AND POOREST RURAL AREAS, WE HAVE SEEN A STUNNING BREAKDOWN OF COMMUNITY, FAMILY AND WORK -- THE HEART AND SOUL OF CIVILIZED SOCIETY. THIS HAS CREATED A VAST VACUUM INTO WHICH VIOLENCE, DRUGS AND GANGS HAVE MOVED. SO, EVEN AS WE SAY NO TO CRIME, WE MUST GIVE PEOPLE -- ESPECIALLY OUR YOUNG PEOPLE -- SOMETHING TO SAY YES TO. AND THAT'S WHY A SMART CRIME BILL WILL INCLUDE PREVENTION PROGRAMS TARGETED TO OUR NATION'S YOUTH.
- BUT AS WE WORK TO PASS THE CRIME BILL, LET'S RECOGNIZE THAT WE ALSO HAVE TO CHANGE OUR BEHAVIOR. GOVERNMENT CAN'T SOLVE THIS PROBLEM ON ITS OWN. FAMILIES NEED TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR CHILDREN. INDIVIDUALS NEED TO TAKE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR OWN ACTIONS. AND COMMUNITIES NEED TO CHALLENGE THEIR CITIZENS TO STAND UP FOR COMMON DECENCY AND REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE UNACCEPTABLE ANYMORE. AND WITH YOUR HELP, WE CAN START MAKING A DIFFERENCE.