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**President Clinton: Launching the Largest
National Gun Enforcement Initiative in History
January 18, 2000**

Today in Boston, President Clinton will announce new figures released by the Justice Department which show that in 1999, federal firearms prosecutions increased 25 percent since 1998 and are 15 percent higher than in 1992. To build on this success, the President will announce the largest national gun enforcement budget in history, with an unprecedented level of resources in his FY 2001 budget to crack down on gun-related crime and violence. The President's plan will: (1) add 500 new ATF agents and inspectors to target violent gun criminals, illegal gun traffickers and unscrupulous gun dealers who supply firearms to criminals and juveniles; (2) fund over 1,000 additional federal, state, and local gun prosecutors to help ensure that dangerous gun criminals are taken off the streets; (3) triple funding for ballistics testing to help law enforcement identify more gun criminals; (4) increase resources for crime gun tracing to move toward tracing every crime gun in America; and (5) funding the testing and expansion "smart gun technologies," which limit a gun's use to its proper owner.

A record of getting tough on gun criminals. The President will highlight new data from the Justice Department which shows bolstered efforts by federal prosecutors to put more gun criminals behind bars. The figures show that between 1998 and 1999, the number of federal firearms cases rose from over 4,390 cases in 1998 to 5,500 cases in 1999. The number of federal firearms cases has increased nearly 16 percent greater than in 1992.

Cracking down on gun criminals, gun traffickers, and dishonest gun dealers. The President's initiative would fund a total of 500 new ATF agents and inspectors to strengthen enforcement efforts against gun criminals. The President's request will fund 300 new ATF agents to crack down on violent gun criminals and illegal gun traffickers at gun shows, gun stores and on the street. In addition, 200 new ATF inspectors will target unscrupulous gun dealers who are the sources of firearms to criminal and juveniles. The President's budget request represents the largest increase ever to the ATF budget.

Adding more than 1,000 federal, state, and local gun prosecutors. The President's initiative will fund over 1,000 new federal, state and local prosecutors to help take dangerous gun criminals out of our communities and put them behind bars. The initiative will fund gun enforcement teams to work with local law enforcement agencies and coordinate enforcement efforts to target the most dangerous gun criminals for prosecution.

Helping law enforcement to trace more guns used in crimes. In recent years, communities such as Boston, have had dramatic success in identifying and arresting illegal gun traffickers and reducing gun violence through tracing guns recovered in crimes. The President's FY 2001 Budget provides funding to give 250 local law enforcement agencies the tools they need to begin tracing every crime gun in America. In addition, the President would expand his successful Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative, which utilizes comprehensive crime gun tracing and

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a city that has had dramatic success in reducing gun violence

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*Helping law enforcement
Boston's "Operation Ceasefire": a model for
reducing gun violence*

training + software

emulated

analysis to target criminals that illegally supply guns to juveniles and youthful offenders, to cover 50 cities across the nation.

Launching New Initiative on Ballistics Testing: The Administration's FY 2001 budget request will provide over \$30 million to fund a groundbreaking National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN). This system will give every law enforcement agency in the nation access to valuable investigative information on gun criminals. Ballistics testing is a successful crime-fighting tool that enables police to use the unique "fingerprints" of bullets or shell casings left at the scene of a crime to identify violent criminals and illegal gun traffickers – even in the absence of a firearm. Ballistics testing programs at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms (ATF) have already advanced over 16,000 criminal investigations of gun crimes in over 40 states. This initiative will link these two successful systems for the first time, and triple the number of law enforcement jurisdictions with access to nearly one million ballistics images within a two-year period. \$23 new

Funding Innovative "Smart" Gun Technologies. The President will propose \$10 million for expansion, testing and replication of "smart" gun technologies. These state-of-the-art gun safety precautions have the capability to limit a gun's use to its owner or other authorized users – preventing accidental gun deaths, injuries, and gun theft. The gun accident death rate of children in the U.S. is nine times higher than 25 other industrialized nations combined. \$10

Local anti-gun violence media campaigns: The budget provides \$10 million in matching grants from the Justice Department to support local media campaigns highlighting penalties for breaking gun laws, proper storage of firearms and preventing child access. \$10

from budget document

Firearms Enforcement: When the President took office seven years ago, he put into place a comprehensive strategy focused on keeping guns out of the wrong hands and deterring and incarcerating gun criminals. This strategy is having a dramatic impact in this country: the Brady law has prevented over 472,000 felons, fugitives and stalkers from purchasing firearms, Federal, state and local prosecutions of gun criminals are up, and overall gun crime is down over 35 percent. While the Administration's efforts have helped turn back the tide on gun violence, far too many Americans, especially children, lose their lives in gunfire. The President's budget, coupled with strengthening our nation's gun laws, will build on the Administration's successful efforts to reduce gun violence with the largest national gun enforcement initiative in history:

- **500 new ATF agents and inspectors:** The budget funds the largest increase ever in ATF agents and inspectors, including 300 new agents to crack down on violent gun criminals and illegal gun traffickers at gun shows, gun stores and on the streets; and 200 new inspectors to target unscrupulous gun dealers who supply firearms to criminals and juveniles.
- **Over 1,000 new federal, state and local gun prosecutors:** The budget funds 1,000 new state and local prosecutors to combat gun crime and violence, 100 new federal gun prosecutors, and new gun enforcement teams to coordinate efforts with local law enforcement to remove gun criminals from our communities and put them behind bars.
- **Comprehensive crime gun tracing:** To move toward tracing every crime gun in America, the budget proposes funds to provide 250 local law enforcement agencies with training and software to facilitate comprehensive tracing, and expand the Administration's Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (YCGII) from 38 to 50 cities across the country.
- **New National Integrated Ballistics Information Network:** The Administration proposes to triple current funding for ballistics testing programs to launch the first-ever national ballistics network. The initiative will support the deployment of 150 ballistics imaging units to law enforcement, helping to link bullets and shell casings to the criminals who fired them.
- **Local anti-gun violence media campaigns:** The budget provides \$10 million in matching grants from the Justice Department to support local media campaigns highlighting penalties for breaking gun laws, proper storage of firearms and preventing child access.
- **Strengthened Brady background checks:** The budget provides \$70 million to double funding to improve state criminal history records and improve the speed and accuracy of Brady background checks. In addition, \$5 million will fund a National Instant Notification system to help police apprehend criminals attempting to illegally purchase firearms.

Smart gun technology: The budget proposes \$10 million for expansion, testing and replication of "smart" gun technologies. These state-of-the-art gun safety precautions can limit a gun's use to its owner or other authorized users – preventing accidental gun deaths, injuries and theft.

Keeping used police guns out the hands of criminals: To end the resale of used police guns and seized firearms, \$10 million is provided for one-time grants to help law enforcement agencies on the condition that they agree to halt the practice.

— D/S include this one for Boston announcement.

DRAFT**JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES INCREASE IN CASES
INVOLVING GUN CHARGES**

WASHINGTON, DC --The Justice Department today released statistics showing an increase in the number of federal gun prosecutions. In fiscal year 1999, federal prosecutors brought 5,500 firearms cases against 7,057 defendants. Each case included a charge under the Gun Control Act (18 U.S.C. Sections 922 or 924).

This volume of cases represents a 25.3% increase in the number of federal firearms cases filed against defendants compared to 1998, when 4,391 cases were filed against 5,876 defendants.

The 1999 data also reflect a 15.7% increase in the number of federal firearms cases filed compared to 1992, the first year for which DOJ could make a meaningful comparison. In 1992, 4,754 cases were filed against 7,059 defendants. This increase in federal gun prosecution cases occurred during the period in which the volume of violent crime committed with firearms decreased by more than 35%.

"These statistics, and the historic reduction in violent crimes with firearms, demonstrate the excellent work of federal prosecutors all over the country who are vigorously enforcing the firearms laws," said Attorney General Janet Reno. "We must not become complacent because we have made progress. Gun violence continues to be an American tragedy and we must seize the opportunity to continue the efforts of law enforcement and prosecutors to make real and lasting changes to our communities in order to achieve a safer America."

Although state and local authorities make the vast majority of arrests and bring the vast majority of violent crime prosecutions, federal, state and local law enforcement authorities work

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together to combat gun violence through comprehensive, coordinated strategies. Nationally, firearms convictions are up dramatically, and in 1996, 22% more criminals were incarcerated for either state or federal weapons offenses than in 1992.

REGIONAL STATISTICS:

Roxbury Neighborhood (where speech takes place):

- As a result of these partnerships between national, state and local law enforcement agencies and prosecutors, gun crimes (homicide, aggravated assault and robberies) have decreased by over 70% since 1990 in the Roxbury neighborhood.

Boston:

- Since 1990, the number of murders in Boston -- the majority of which were gun-related -
- dropped by over 75 %.

Federal Gun Cases in Boston (followup news releases with good quotes attached):

- **ROXBURY CASE:** Jose Andrade, a 21-year-old Boston youth attending college in Mississippi, was convicted in May 1996 for the interstate gun trafficking of over 40 semiautomatic pistols, including assault weapons, to criminals and juvenile gang members in Boston. He obtained the firearms through straw purchases at gun stores, and from gun shows and flea markets in Mississippi where background checks and paperwork are required.

U.S. Attorney Stern said, "We on the federal side bring two extra weapons to the table to complement strong local efforts against guns. First, through ATF, we can trace guns and investigate cases across state lines. Today's case, coupled with charges we brought last month against another gun runner who brought guns in from Georgia to sell on the Boston streets (see case below), shows our commitment to carefully tracking and then shutting down the funnel of guns up from the South into Boston. Second, through federal laws which bring stiffer punishment for gun crimes, criminals on the street know they face serious federal time in prison. For example, if a person is a convicted felon, he cannot legally possess a gun, and if he's caught with one, he can be charged with a federal law violation which carries a minimum mandatory sentence of five years in federal prison. We now review all Boston gun arrests with this in mind -- ATF, federal and Suffolk County prosecutors, and Boston police officers, sitting together as a strategic team."

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- **ROXBURY, MATTAPAN, SOUTH END and MORE:** Guiliano Antoine "G-Money," 23, was convicted in June 1995, for illegally trafficking 32 firearms from Georgia to Boston. Many of those firearms have been recovered in crimes in Roxbury and other Boston neighborhoods: two were found at the scene of a South End murder, one was used in an attempted shooting, one was found after an armed home invasion where the suspect discarded it while fleeing during a car chase, one was found in the possession of a convicted felon after he was arrested for the assault and battery of his girlfriend, six others were found on individuals arrested for illegally possessing or carrying a firearm, in Roxbury, Mattapan, the South End, and elsewhere in Massachusetts.

U.S. Attorney Stern said, "Through just this one defendant, 32 semi-automatic pistols came into Boston from Georgia illegally over a three-month period. On average, that's one new semi-automatic pistol hitting the Boston streets every three days." Stern said that this case "represents the firm commitment of federal and state law enforcement to target those individuals who introduce firearms in to the stream of criminal commerce. With the ongoing and very important help of the good citizens of Boston's neighborhoods, who are fed up with gun violence, we intend to keep targeting the illegal flow of guns."

- **DORCHESTER:** Isaiah Hooks, 49, was convicted in 1997 for unlawful possession of firearms and illegally trafficking [90 guns to gangs and crack dealers] in Boston. U.S. Attorney Stern said, "We can't wait until kids are shot. We're going after the illegal gun dealers themselves, who are out to make a quick buck, and don't care about the public safety. We intend to increase the cost of their deadly business." Boston Police Commissioner said, "I am extremely please with this indictment. The continuing cooperation between the Boston Police Department, ATF, and the U.S. Attorney's office is an effort to focus on those who supply weapons to our young people. This indictment should be a clear message of our resolve to remain focused on the problem of guns on the streets and be a warning, as well, that we will increase this effort in the months and years ahead until we have eliminated the gun trafficking in this city."
- **ROXBURY:** Frederick Cardoza, "Humboldt Freddie," 24, was convicted in March 1996 and sentenced to 19 years, 7 months in federal prison with no parole, on federal firearms and ammunition charger relating to his possession of a single round of .9 mm ammunition, and his role in the sale of a semi-automatic pistol and ammunition to a juvenile in Roxbury -- the was the first person convicted in the nation under the Youth Handgun Safety Act, passed under the Clinton Administration, outlawing the sale or transfer of handguns to juveniles.

FEDERAL GUN CRIME REDUCTION STATISTICS:

- Under the Clinton Administration (1993 to 1998), juvenile gun homicides have decreased by 57%.
- Federal gun prosecutions are up nearly 16% since 1992.
- Overall national, state and local gun prosecutions are up 22%.
- Gun crime in America is down over 35% since 1993.
- Under the Clinton Administration, America has experienced the longest period of decline in crime on record.

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An National Enforcement Strategy

- Gen explan. of
our gun strategy on
enforcement

President Clinton called for the development of an integrated firearms violence reduction strategy on March 20, 1999, directing the Secretary of the Treasury and the Attorney General to build upon the approaches that have led to the recent decline in gun violence. Because gun crime problems vary among jurisdictions, the Secretary and the Attorney General called on U.S. Attorneys and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) Field Division Directors nationwide to submit local gun violence reduction plans. In drawing up their plans, these officials drew on the expertise and experience of state, local, and other federal agencies, as well as other members of the community.

These plans, the product of locally led efforts, have been put into effect during the past seven months. We believe they will be successful in reducing violent crime in the communities where they are in force. They are summarized in Appendix A, and referred to throughout this document.

The President's directive asked us, however, to do more than consolidate our present course. Rather it asked us to consider ways to build on what is already working, to point the direction for the continued reduction of violence. The directive asked us to focus on law enforcement innovations that have had a particularly stunning impact on crime, or represent a new threshold in law enforcement methods, or have resulted in greatly increased community awareness of and support for law enforcement efforts to reduce gun crime.

Our strategy is rooted in four basic conclusions: first, that indeed there are such important innovations, whose continued development and wider adoption over time would have the effect of further reducing violent crime and gun violence. Second, these efforts will require some increased funding for federal, state, and local gun enforcement. Third, the law enforcement strategy we propose will not be as effective as possible until there is legislative change that corrects major deficiencies in our federal firearm laws, particularly those that impede law enforcement. Fourth, to solve the problem of gun violence, gun owners and the gun industry must take a substantially more active role in protecting society against the devastating harm caused by firearms.

We therefore plan to expand important developments that are already occurring in law enforcement, to support them with additional federal resources, to propose complementary, and essential, changes in legislation, and to work with the gun industry and gun owners to increase cooperation to reduce gun violence.

The most important innovation in enforcement strategy that we have seen was developed in Boston, by a core team of academics and law enforcement officials. In the five years before the Boston's Ceasefire Working Group became operational in May 1996, the city was averaging 100 homicides a year. By 1997, youth homicide has been reduced by 65 percent and adult gun homicide by 60 percent. The number of homicides has stayed at the new low level since then. In 1999, the city suffered 31 homicides. A similar immediate success occurred when the U.S.

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Attorney's office for the Middle District of North Carolina instituted such a strategy in High Point. Gun homicides were reduced from 25 in 1997 and 1998, most of them group or drug related, to only 2 in 1999, neither of which involved group or drug offenders. Police complaints also dropped, evidence of improved law enforcement-community relations. Comparable results have been achieved in Minneapolis and Indianapolis.

The strategy has been called targeted or focused deterrence because it is designed to target particular crime problems and to deter those groups of offenders causing the problem. It has also been called pulling levers because it uses a broad range of law enforcement actions and interventions, pulling any lever available to deter further violence by these offenders, include parole and probation.

The plans rely on intense coordination of many agencies, service providers, and community institutions. Once the groups of offenders engaged in violence have been identified, law enforcement focuses enforcement resources on them, meeting with them and warning them of the consequences of violence. Social services are offered to them to provide an alternative to a life of violence. Community and faith institutions use moral pressure. If any of the groups engage in violence, law enforcement will respond, using not only federal firearm laws, but any other available law, including local laws and parole or probation revocation.

This approach focuses on the chronic, violent offenders, yet does not rely on federalization of violent crimes, significantly increased arrests, or an increased level of incarceration.

We believe that targeted deterrence plans -- uniting enforcement, services, and moral pressure -- have the potential to rapidly, efficiently, and harmoniously reduce community violence. Where gun homicides can be reduced by 50 percent or more, at least half the battle is won. Therefore, we are committed to expanding the resources that are useful in supporting local development of targeted deterrence plans, primarily coordinators to convene the numerous agencies and institutions that make them successful, and analysts to develop the information about local crime and criminal groups on which the plans focus.

Additional gun violence reduction strategies are required even where targeted deterrence plans are in place. There are dangerous offenders who will not be deterred and for whom the only option is incarceration. There are violent criminals, such as solo armed robbers, who are not part of the crime groups on which focused deterrence plans concentrate. Domestic violence offenders may not have previous contact with law enforcement or be associated with violent groups.

A plan aggressively to bring prosecutions of individuals under the firearms law is not only an important part of the larger deterrent mix in pulling levers plans, and an essential strategy in its own right.

Sometimes, simply launching an intensive firearm prosecution plan can bring about

major community change. This was the case with Project Exile, designed and executed by the U.S. Attorney and ATF in Richmond, Virginia. It was, at its inception, an intensive effort to increase the number of individual prosecutions under federal firearm laws in a short period of time. This strategy was selected because Richmond was suffering from an exceptionally high gun homicide rate, and there was little prosecution under state law of gun crime at that time. Borrowing from Boston, Richmond authorities advertised their efforts, not only to particular groups of offenders as in Boston, but to the entire community, on the sides of busses and on cards that were distributed on the street. This resulted in a high level of public awareness and support, increased public attention to the state's own role and responsibilities, and ultimately, x years/months later, in the passage of new state gun laws, and a renewed commitment to their use by local prosecutors. This reduced the heightened burden that federal law enforcement, the federal courts, and federal prisons, had been temporarily carrying.

Project Exile has come to stand for an unconditional commitment to providing federal law enforcement resources to reduce gun crime. We share that commitment.

Local intensive firearms prosecution plans vary in their use of federal or state law, and their emphasis on armed career criminals and armed narcotics traffickers, felons in possession, applicants who have been denied firearm purchases, and illegal traffickers, whether from gun stores, gun shows, or on the streets. Frequently, these categories of offenders overlap. Generally, the plans give priority to prosecutions of the most violent, recidivist offenders. But variations arise from the differences in the crime, criminal population, laws, and circumstances in particular locations. The most important feature of intensive prosecution is a high level of coordination between the federal, state, and local law enforcement officials involved. Together, these officials decide whether federal or state law is most appropriate for the given type of firearm case or offender.

Virtually all U.S. Attorney offices and ATF divisions have instituted plans to prosecute individual firearms offenders aggressively.*[still reflecting on how closely to tie resources to these plans]*

Intensive prosecution plans often target the criminal traffickers who are frequently the supplier of the firearms to the violent criminal, who is often a felon barred from possessing a firearm. We see the reduction of the illegal supply of firearms as an essential element of a national strategy to reduce gun crime. While street crime is local, and largely the responsibility of state and local law enforcement agencies, firearm commerce is federally regulated. Gun trafficking patterns are shaped by efforts to circumvent federal law and take advantage of the loopholes in it. These patterns are local, regional, and national, and require multi-district coordination to address. *To be contd.*

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safe use and handling of a gun before being permitted to possess a gun. Consequently, every gun owner should be licensed prior to being permitted to possess a firearm. Licensing provides a host of benefits:

- Only those who have demonstrated safe use of a firearm may possess one, thereby reducing the number of accidents due to ignorance;
- Only those legally entitled to possess a firearm may be licensed, thereby further ensuring that felons and other prohibited persons cannot acquire a firearm;
- Tracing of weapons will be enhanced; and
- Licensing provides an ideal avenue for owners to learn the law and regulations regarding firearms and enhance cooperation with law enforcement.

B. Intervention: Breaking the cycle of violence

Intervention is the second critical element of an effective gun violence reduction strategy. Intervention targets those individuals who are most at risk for violence—youths who have themselves been victims of violence, or who have already been involved with the criminal justice system. The goal of intervention programs is to prevent retaliatory violence or recidivism among these groups, thereby breaking the cycle of violence once it has begun. As with many of the prevention programs described above, intervention programs can have a significant deterrent effect when they are backed up with swift and certain legal enforcement of firearms violations.

1. Targeted deterrence

→ Good explan. of these principles

Boston's Operation Ceasefire

One of the most effective intervention programs is known as “targeted deterrence,” because it targets repeat offenders or offending groups, like gangs or drug organizations, and intervenes to deter them from further violent activity. The basic approach was developed in Boston as part of Operation Ceasefire, supported by the Department of Justice. Operation Ceasefire was established in order to apply a multi-faceted approach to the city’s youth homicide problem. And the approach has worked. In 1990, Boston suffered 152 murders. By 1988, the figure had dropped to 34—a 78 percent decline—and the reduction in juvenile homicides led the

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way. Based on Boston's success, this approach has been replicated in other cities through collaborative efforts by the Justice Department and local authorities.⁸

The main focus of a targeted deterrence strategy is to deter the relatively small number of criminals who offend at very high rates, are repeatedly arrested and sanctioned, and –if only by virtue of their continued offending–demonstrate a particular resistance to both deterrence and rehabilitation. This is a particular problem where violent offending is concerned, and most violent offending involves guns. Not all chronic offenders are violent offenders, but a large proportion of violent crimes are committed by chronic offenders, who commit not only crimes of violence but also property crimes, drug crimes, disorder offenses, and the like. Such offenders are themselves victimized at very high rates.

Operation Ceasefire research, for example, showed that youth homicide was concentrated among a small number of serially offending gang-involved youths.⁹ Only about 1,300 gang members—less than 1 percent of their age group citywide—were responsible for at least 60 percent, and probably more, of all the youth homicides in the city. These gang members were well known to authorities and tended to have extensive criminal records.

The premise of targeted deterrence is that violent behavior by these individuals or groups of chronic offenders can be deterred by reaching out directly to those offenders, setting clear standards for their behavior, and backing up that message by “pulling every lever” available when those standards are violated. Law enforcement authorities have a large and varied menu of levers to pull, which can impose costs on these gangs or other kinds of repeat offenders and groups. In addition to bringing firearms charges, they can disrupt street drug activity, focus police attention on low-level street crimes such as trespassing and public drinking, serve outstanding warrants, cultivate confidential informants for medium- and long-term investigations, deliver strict probation and parole enforcement, seize drug proceeds and other assets, ensure stiffer plea bargains and sterner prosecutorial attention, request stronger bail terms (and enforce them), and even focus potentially severe federal investigative and prosecutorial attention on, for example, gang-related drug activity.

By pulling all available levers, law enforcement authorities are able to increase the costs of repeat violent activity, especially by gangs and drug organizations. Not only are individuals

⁸ Substantial portions of this section are drawn from the NIJ Journal article (issue no. 236, July 1998), “Pulling Levers: Getting Deterrence Right” by David Kennedy, who devised the Operation Ceasefire.

⁹ Gangs are defined as groups of chronic offenders such as street crews, and drug dealing groups, and other similar groups. This is because the Bloods and Crips-type gangs are not particularly associated with the crime in these projects.

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prosecuted under the firearms laws, the gang faces cash-flow problems caused by street market disruption, other members are arrested under outstanding warrants or face humiliation through strict probation enforcement, and the gang is susceptible to a federal investigation into its activities. Targeted deterrence imposes costs on the whole gang, not just the individual gun criminal, resulting in a powerful deterrent effect. Communicating the new approach to the targeted gangs allowed the creation of a fundamentally different balance of power between the authorities and the streets.

The basic process has been replicated in Minneapolis; Indianapolis; Baltimore; Stockton, California; Lowell, Massachusetts; and High Point and Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Each of these localities has followed a similar "pulling levers" structure:

- (1) Select a "target category" of behavior to be addressed, such as gang or drug-related gun violence.
- (2) Assemble an array of agency capacities that can be deployed in the service of the strategy. This can include, for instance, police; probation; parole; Federal and local prosecutors; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; school police; youth corrections; gang outreach workers; clergy; the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA); the Immigration and Naturalization Service; and neighborhood groups.
- (3) Deliver a direct and explicit "retail deterrence" message to a relatively small target audience regarding what kind of behavior will provoke a special response and what that response will be.
- (4) Follow through. On a regular basis, assess the violence problem in the city and craft necessary responses.
- (5) Continue to communicate with the target audience as the strategy unfolds.
- (6) Select, if desired, a new category of target violent activity. If the original target behavior is controlled, a new one--overt drug trafficking, domestic violence--may be selected.

Indianapolis' Violence Reduction Partnership

The Indianapolis Violence Reduction Partnership, for example, conducts regularly-scheduled "lever pulling" meetings with high-risk probationers. The message at the meetings is that violence will not be tolerated; that federal state and local law enforcement agencies are working together; that individuals or groups which continue to act violently will face swift and

Number of Offenses, Boston, MA - 1989-98

	Pop- ulation	Crime Index total	Violent Crime total	Property Crime total	Murder	Forcible Rape	Robbery	Aggra- vated Assault	Burg- lary	Larceny- theft	Motor Vehicle theft
1989	580,095	70,003	12,919	57,084	89	483	5,866	6,471	8,882	30,794	16,408
1990	574,283	68,057	13,664	54,393	143	539	6,022	6,960	10,238	29,642	14,513
1991	572,454	62,038	11,828	50,210	113	488	4,784	6,446	10,029	26,726	13,455
1992	572,822	56,398	11,672	44,727	73	537	4,765	6,297	8,718	24,598	11,411
1993	553,870	55,555	10,843	44,712	98	480	4,081	6,184	7,982	24,798	11,932
1994	558,724	53,078	10,684	42,414	85	453	4,246	5,881	6,799	24,375	11,240
1995	550,715	52,278	9,569	42,709	96	379	3,697	5,497	6,671	26,002	10,036
1996	552,519	44,711	9,164	35,557	69	414	3,470	5,211	5,062	21,234	9,271
1997	555,024	37,838	7,888	29,952	43	350	2,728	4,765	4,301	17,920	7,731
1998	559,631	34,881	7,427	27,554	34	358	2,334	4,703	3,610	17,579	6,368

Rate of Offense per 100,000 Inhabitants, Boston, MA - 1989-98

	Pop- ulation	Crime Index total	Violent Crime total	Property Crime total	Murder	Forcible Rape	Robbery	Aggra- vated Assault	Burg- lary	Larceny- theft	Motor Vehicle theft
1989	580,095	12,067.5	2,227.0	9,840.5	17.1	83.3	1,011.2	1,115.6	1,703.5	5,308.4	2,828.5
1990	574,283	11,850.8	2,379.3	9,471.5	24.9	83.9	1,048.6	1,211.9	1,782.7	5,181.6	2,527.2
1991	572,454	10,837.4	2,088.4	8,771.0	19.7	84.9	835.7	1,128.0	1,751.9	4,688.7	2,350.4
1992	572,822	9,845.8	2,037.8	7,808.2	12.7	93.7	831.8	1,099.3	1,521.9	4,284.2	1,992.1
1993	553,870	10,030.3	1,957.7	8,072.7	17.7	86.7	738.8	1,116.5	1,441.1	4,477.2	2,154.3
1994	556,724	9,534.0	1,915.5	7,618.5	15.3	81.4	762.5	1,056.4	1,221.3	4,378.3	2,019.0
1995	550,715	9,482.8	1,737.6	7,755.2	17.4	68.8	653.2	998.2	1,211.3	4,721.5	1,822.4
1996	552,519	8,082.2	1,856.8	6,435.4	10.7	74.9	628.0	943.1	914.4	3,843.1	1,678.0
1997	555,024	6,817.4	1,420.8	5,396.5	7.7	63.1	491.5	858.5	774.9	3,228.7	1,392.9
1998	559,631	6,250.7	1,327.1	4,923.6	6.1	63.6	417.1	840.4	645.1	3,141.0	1,137.5

Low murder rate lauded

But police head says
there is always concern

By Francie Latour
GLOBE STAFF

Around the country and suddenly around the world, it seems law enforcement authorities are still cupping their ears to hear just how the Boston Police Department does it.

The story of the so-called Boston miracle, a multi-agency strategy hailed as a national model for combatting crime, this year brought officials from Jamaica for a hands-on show-and-tell, and even sent a Boston official on a pilgrimage to Rio de Janeiro.

In the eyes of Boston police, prosecutors, and even a cautious clergy, that story continued in the past year, with 31 homicides in 1999 and a conviction rate that turned up 21 guilty verdicts from 26 murder trials in Suffolk County.

"Whatever successes we've achieved this year are a continuum of a lot of strategies and circumstances that have evolved over the past six or seven years," said Suffolk District Attorney Ralph C. Martin II, whose conviction rate for murders was up slightly from 1998. "We are much more strategic in how we view not only our authority but our influence."

But even in a year that saw 31

murders - the lowest since 1961, and four fewer than last year - all the praise and plummeting numbers in the world brought little comfort to survivors for whom one number in the column was too many.

They include Enzie Bonner, who hung her daughter Caryn's favorite Christmas ornament without her, and made three holiday pilgrimages to her grave - each time with no news of an arrest or a suspect.

"There's no celebrating this year, just pain and remembering," said Bonner, whose strong-willed daughter was found bleeding from multiple stab wounds inside her Dorchester apartment. She was 35. "No number could make me feel good."

Nor could the lower numbers dull a brutal canvas that included a 14-year-old mother and her 7-month-old fetus stabbed and buried alive in a vacant lot; a father of three shot in a car as his 5-year-old child watched from the back seat; and a North End shoot-out that sent tourists fleeing for cover.

One nameless, faceless death showed seemingly inexplicable gaps in the strategy that has garnered accolades for law enforcement officers in the city:

10/12/99, 6:15 a.m.

Black male. Beech Street, Roslindale.

Victim: unknown. Cause: Unknown.

"There's a constant state of concern, no matter how many homicides there are," Police Commissioner Paul F. Evans said of the low figures. "It's very fragile out there. We can't sit back and say we've solved this problem and we have nothing to worry about."

"Basically, these are yesterday's numbers," Evans said. "We have to worry about what's happening tomorrow."

What is undeniably happening,

It's very fragile out there. We can't sit back and say we've solved this problem and we have nothing to worry about.'

PAUL F. EVANS
Boston Police Commissioner

warn police, prosecutors, social workers, and clergy, is a teenage population that is expected to increase 30 percent nationally by 2010 from its 1990 level, according to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Glimpses of the strain those numbers could bring were evident this year - with violence that exploded at Charlestown and Dorchester high schools, with an armed stick-up crew of Roxbury students by a 13-year-old ringleader, and

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with a growing concern among gang-unit police about different color bandanas emerging from pre-teen pockets and onto the streets.

"We're inching back up to some violence," said Larry Mayes, an organizer for youth at the Ella J. Baker House. "The question for the coalition - cop, clergy, state police, MBTA, schools - is, 'Is everyone on the same page? And if they aren't why not?'"

Statistically, only two juveniles were killed in Boston in 1999 - 14-year-old Chauntae Renee Jones and her unborn baby - compared with four juveniles in 1998.

But of all the killings, 12, or almost half, claimed young people between the ages 18 and 25. Most were males, and most were killed with a handgun.

"We've tried to create an atmosphere where young people don't feel the necessity to carry guns," Evans said. "When we start to see violence in any area, our concern is it will result in the carrying of guns."

Still, Evans said he was encouraged that the declining figures for homicides also applied to shootings and aggravated assaults, down 3 percent from last year.

Evans credited those numbers to the invisible statistic often overlooked in the Boston miracle: youth.

"When you're dealing with youth crime, we don't give enough credit to the kids themselves," Evans said. "I hope it's the kids who saw the futility of the violence their older brothers killed or died in. I just hope they remember all those funerals that were too frequent, that they remember the lessons of the past."

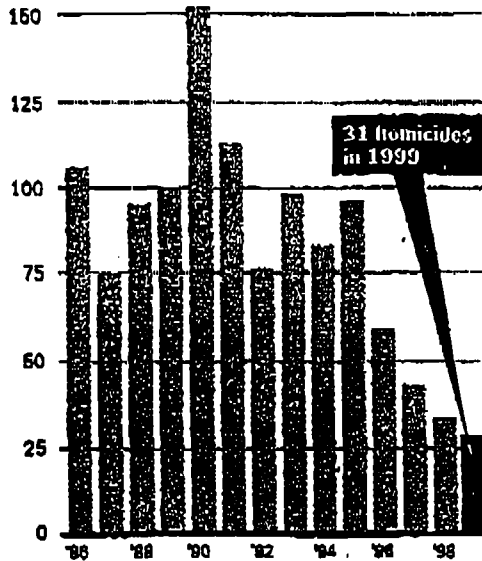
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B1 & B7

Boston homicides



SOURCE: Boston Police Department

GLOBE STAFF GRAPHIC

Homicide rates

The number of homicides in Boston has dropped every year since 1995, giving the city a lower murder rate than many other major US cities.

The murder rate is calculated as the number of annual homicides per 100,000 population.

CITY	98 RATE
San Diego	3.4
Boston	6.3
San Antonio	7.8
New York	8.5
Los Angeles	11.9
Houston	14.2
Dallas	20.6
Phoenix	16.9
Philadelphia	23.3
Chicago	25.1
Detroit	51.5

SOURCES: Boston Police Department, Associated Press, Statistical Abstract of the United States 1999

GLOBE STAFF GRAPHIC

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June 1, 1998, U.S. Edition

*Faith-based
efforts -
Rev. Rivers
is invited*

SECTION: NATIONAL AFFAIRS; The Cover; Pg. 20

LENGTH: 2589 words

HEADLINE: Savior of the Streets

BYLINE: BY JOHN LELAND With CLAUDIA KALB

HIGHLIGHT:

an ex-gang member who went to Harvard, Gene Rivers is an impolitic preacher on the cutting edge of a hot idea: can religion fight crime and save kids?

BODY:

PATRIOT'S DAY IS A CITY HOLIDAY IN Boston, but the Rev. Eugene Rivers, a compact, graying black man in a blue dress shirt frayed at the elbows, is working hard. "Yo, wazzup, G money?" he greets a teenager, slapping him five. He wheels on another. "Take your hat off, son. Yes, what? No, yes, sir, we don't speak no Ebonics here." It is just noon on a spring day, and already the Ella J. Baker House -- a grand, bow-front Victorian in Dorchester, one of the poorest neighborhoods in Boston -- is full of fires: a man's teenage son has brought home a dangerous pit-bull terrier; a pregnant 16-year-old's parents have kicked her out of the house; the Negroes Latinos, the house baseball team, need uniforms and a gangneutral field. Rivers, 48, darts from one to the next, a fixer, embattled but engaged.

When he first moved into this neighborhood, as a refugee from Harvard, Rivers sought out a local drug dealer and gangbanger named Selvin Brown -- "a sassy, smartass, tough-talking, gunslinging mother shut your mouth," he says, not without some appreciation. Brown took the reverend into crackhouses, introduced him to the neighborhood. And he gave Rivers, a Pentecostal, a lesson in why God was losing to gangs in the battle for the souls of inner-city kids. "Selvin explained to us, 'I'm there when Johnny goes out for a loaf of bread for Mama. I'm there, you're not. I win, you lose. It's all about being there'."

Ten years later, as the Baker House kids file out into the sunshine, Rivers turns from his full-contact pastoring -- a mix of street slang and stern lessons -- to tell a group of police officers from Tulsa, Okla., about Selvin Brown. Baker House is Rivers' answer to Selvin: it's run by a dozen people, some of whom have given up professorships, military careers and positions in finance to be there. The Tulsa cops are only the latest in a recent stream of law-enforcement emissaries who have come to Rivers' domain, a rec center and parish house that Rivers says serves more than 1,300 kids a year, to watch, listen and talk about the hottest new topic in crime fighting: the power of religion. For decades, liberals and conservatives have argued past each other about the crisis in the inner city. The right was obsessed with crime, out-of-wedlock births and the "responsibility" of the underclass; the left only wanted to talk about poverty, the need for government intervention and the "rights" of the poor. Now both sides are beginning to form an unlikely alliance founded on the idea that the only way to rescue kids from the seductions of the drug and gang cultures is with another, more powerful set of values: a

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ubstitute family for young people who almost never have two parents, and may not even have one, at home. And the only institution with the spiritual message and the physical presence to offer those traditional values, these strange bedfellows have concluded, is the church.

As the Tulsa cops sit around the Baker House oak table, Rivers tells them about a grievous stabbing inside the nearby Morning Star Baptist Church in 1992. During a funeral service for a young murder victim, a gang chased another kid into the church, beating and stabbing him in front of a crowd of mourners. For the clergy, says Rivers, "this was a wake-up call. We had to be out on the streets," just like Selvin Brown was. While the mainline Boston churches issued a denunciation of the violence, a group of ministers from smaller churches, mostly shoestring Pentecostal or Baptist, met in Rivers' house to discuss a more radical response: walking the 'hoods, engaging the gangs, pulling kids out. Instead of bickering with police, the ministers vowed to work with them, identifying the hardest cases. "The deal we cut was, 'Take this one off the streets, we can deal with him in a prison ministry'," the Rev. Jeffrey Brown, a Rivers ally, tells the Tulsa delegation. The cops, in turn, would rely on the clergy to work with the more winnable kids.

Since the 1992 alliance, and a reorganization of the Boston police and probation departments, juvenile crime here has fallen dramatically. Rivers is now trying to forge a similar coalition of churches nationwide. It won't be easy: his brand of street-smart charisma is not easily transferable, and the work is house by house, block by block. But "at the end of the day," he says, "the black church is the last institution left standing." The noted conservative criminologist John Dilulio Jr., best known for predicting a coming wave of inner-city "superpredators," has become an improbable friend and ally. In apocalyptic tones, Rivers -- a forceful speaker who is sometimes accused of grandstanding -- warns that as the teenage population swells in the next decade, "there will be virtual apartheid in these cities if the black church doesn't step into the breach."

Washington is starting to take notice, too. The 1996 welfare bill gives states the option to fund church groups in place of welfare agencies. Research on the effectiveness of faith-based programs is so far largely anecdotal. "But there is a lot of interest in this area now, because secular institutions have failed," says Bernardine Watson, a vice president of the nonprofit Public/Private Ventures. "Anybody who wants to fund faith-based programs is looking at the Baker House model. Conservatives like it because of the crime angle; liberals like it because of the youth angle."

When Rivers first came to Dorchester, the cops say, he believed there was no such thing as a bad kid. That has changed. Now, "ministers will come to us about a kid, say he's menacing the community," says Lt. Gary French, who works with Rivers. The Boston police estimate that 150 to 250 kids are responsible for most of the violent crime in the city. "We can disrupt a gang by incarcerating the most aggressive player," says French. "But we can also disrupt it by getting the fringe players into alternative programs," like those provided by Baker House. The exchange works both ways. "Right now," says Rivers, "any cop in Dorchester can dump a kid off in Baker House, and say, 'Look, I'm gonna crack this kid's skull, take him.' So we have taken the pressure off the police to play heavies."

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At 2 a.m. in his cramped row house, Gene Rivers is still keyed up. "The great thing about serving the poor," he says, "is that there is no competition. These young males, ain't no black preacher want to be around these boys. You see [he names several kids at Baker House] coming, you go the other way." He is on the short side, maybe five feet six -- by his own description, a "pushy, aggressive, interloper-would-be-usurper, with this kind of guerrilla campaign." In battle mode, he is scandalously impolitic. He refers to the mainline black churches as "the major crime families" and is a critic of Henry Louis Gates Jr., chair of Afro-American studies at Harvard, whom he has called "the emcee at the Cotton Club on the Charles." His own critics -- "[it's a] longlist," he says -- dismiss him as a "black Rasputin" who has duped white people into thinking he has power in the black community. He holds no degrees from college or divinity school; his service on a recent Sunday drew just 19 congregants.

Yet Rivers is becoming a national figure. He has met with the president, been courted by the Christian Coalition and served on the religion panel at Colin Powell's 1997 Volunteerism Summit. Though Rivers comes from what he calls a "radical reform" line, his arguments for black self-help, and his unwillingness to make liberal excuses for urban pathologies, have endeared him to the right. "There's been more litmus-test stuff from the left than from the right," he says. (Rivers' ministry condemns homosexuality and abortion.) "One of the good things about the right is that they're sufficiently indifferent toward the concerns of blacks that they don't bother you." His alliance with Giuliani has given Rivers a boost in policy circles. "Gene and John are very odd soulmates," says Rivers' wife, Jacqueline, who trains inner-city teachers in the Boston Algebra Project. "One is so far left he's right, the other is so far right he's left. They really think alike."

The walls of Rivers' house still bear the bullet holes from two shootings, one a random spray, the second by a drug dealer Rivers had tried to move from a neighborhood park. He roots around for a 1992 essay he wrote for the Boston Review, entitled "On the Responsibility of Intellectuals in the Age of Crack." It, like his other writings, argues that after the victories of the civil-rights movement, the black middle class, particularly middle-class churches, abandoned the black poor. The signature phrases of these articles -- "virtual apartheid," a "crisis of moral and cultural authority" -- swim throughout his conversation, crusty set pieces amid his staccato improvisations. "When he talks slang, I don't understand him," says Police Lieutenant French. "And when he talks the Harvard level, I don't understand him, either."

Rivers was born in 1950 in Boston, the eldest of three children. His mother was a nurse, a Pentecostal; his father, who moved out when Gene was 3, was a painter, a Muslim, who later became art director for the Nation of Islam's paper, Muhammad Speaks. Both parents were black nationalists and intellectuals. "What my mother instilled was that life is duty," he says. "Life itself is a holy war." Rivers grew up in rugged northwest Philadelphia, where he was forcefully inducted into the Somersville street gang at the age of 12. "There was a side of my life nobody understood. At 13, 14 and 15, I remember studying Andrew Wyeth, the Brandywine tradition. [And I'm] in a street gang with a lot of hoodlums. You learn to lead a double life. I've always had that tension."

Whenever Rivers describes the violent potential of the Dorchester kids, his voice livens with a certain rogue romance. "This ain't Yuppie kids, this ain't Cosby kids," he trumpets at one point. In part this is because he's playing to a public that finds lurid gang violence a sexier topic than, say, urban

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overty. But it's also because he savors that street edge. Mark Scott, who runs the day-to-day affairs of Baker House, thinks Rivers would be bored in a straighter life. "He's pastor of the church, but he's also pastored by the people around him, especially Jackie." Scott believes that Baker House has saved Rivers, keeping him on the street but out of trouble, giving him a channel for his anger.

As he describes his own past, Rivers' tone becomes more sober. He's riding in Jackie's Volvo -- Rivers doesn't have a license -- listening to NPR and heading to pick up their two kids, Malcolm and Sojourner, 10 and 8, near their private school in tony Beacon Hill. It does not strike him as a contradiction to send his kids to private school. "I said, 'Jackie, I'm not a liberal. I'm not going to have my kid go to school where the kids are so completely antisocial that Malcolm will end up resenting black kids. No no no no no'." As Jackie drives, Rivers continues his own story. When he was 13, his life was forever changed by the Rev. Billy Graham's radio program. Rivers was being menaced by an older, bigger kid from a rival gang called the Lane, and Graham's words struck him. "He asked, was I ready to meet my creator? At that point, that was not a farfetched possibility. I had a fear of death, which my conversion experience transformed. My response to fear is faith."

Eventually the Rev. Benjamin Smith, a legendary Philadelphia inner-city evangelical, pulled Rivers out of the gang and into the Pentecostal community. But he was at odds here, too, a bookish intellectual in a working-class church. He dropped in and out of two art schools; he read Herbert Marcuse and Noam Chomsky, getting deeper into radical political thought. The 1969 deaths of Black Panthers Fred Hampton and Mark Clark -- men his own age, killed in a police raid -- shook his moral center, as Graham had years before. The nonviolent movement of the '60s had crashed around him. Rivers was angry and confused, "buck wild," scorched with a case of "survivor's guilt" that has been his motivating force ever since. "I promised the Lord that if he would let me survive, I would never turn my back on these kids," Rivers says. He got a woman pregnant and drifted to New Haven, Conn., where he met Kwame Toure, then known as Stockely Carmichael of the Black Panthers. Taking occasional courses at Yale, he carved three identities for himself, collecting welfare checks in Philadelphia, New York and New Haven. Finally, another mentor -- Martin Kilson, an iconoclastic black professor at Harvard -- discovered Rivers and lured him to Cambridge. Rivers raged against the privileged black students of Harvard -- including, at first, a Jamaican woman named Jacqueline Cooke -- and left, angry, in 1983. He and Cooke married three years later.

On a school holiday at Baker House, Rivers is showing two boys the documentary "Eyes on the Prize," the installment about Fred Hampton and the Black Panther Party. The boys are 12 and 13; Rivers takes satisfaction in calling the younger boy, who appeared pseudonymously in a 1997 New Yorker article, "America's worst nightmare." The kids are to write reports on the video, for which Rivers gives them a few bucks. He hugs the boy, pays him, and the kids are off. "Kareem," as The New Yorker called the boy, was Baker House's most critical case a year ago, and he is still. His day with Rivers began when he showed up at the Rev.'s house for breakfast; it will end around 11 at night, when he asks Rivers for a lift to the city bus, bound for wherever. Rivers doesn't worry that Kareem will get home safely. "I'm worried about whether other people will." For Rivers, Kareem is a test. "[Kareem]'s father got murdered," says Rivers. "His mother lives in the street more than he does. If you can get [Kareem], you've got the whole neighborhood."

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In the early days, Rivers pushed religion harder on the kids, but found that it intimidated -- and turned off -- many of them. So now he keeps preaching to a minimum. But the men and women who are giving their lives to Baker House still see faith at the heart of their mission. "Bob Moses and SNCC, Fred Hampton in Chicago, these folk laid their lives down," says Rivers. "My understanding is that those acts of heroism were very Christian acts, in the tradition of the martyrs. I live in Dorchester and have weathered what we've weathered because that's my understanding of radical discipleship. There is no crown without the cross. Most folk aren't ready to hear that."

At the end of a long day, a half dozen Baker House members gather for a prayer meeting: Ivy League refugees, MIT doctorates. Their testimony is an ecstatic, Pentecostal affair, full of hand-clapping and spontaneous witness. After half an hour, Rivers ducks out momentarily, passing the receptionist, a single mother he'd counseled years before. "Hallelujah, praise Jesus," he says -- then, without pause, "Did you page [a city official]?" This is the refracted life of the Rev. Eugene Rivers, drawing upon Harvard and the Philadelphia street gangs, the church and the state. Rivers checks his pager. The Urban Institute is in for a visit; his wife is on the other line. He ducks back into the prayer meeting and gives thanks once more, and once more again.

GRAPHIC: Photo 1, The Man and His Mission, 'The black church is the last institution left standing, says Rivers, who runs the Ella J. Baker House in Dorchester, Mass; Photo 2, Providing Family for Kids Who Have None, At Baker House, there is no cursing; the kids say 'yes, sir' -- though not always without some prompting; Photo 3, Praying in the Midst of Constant Battle, Rivers (with fellow clergy) mixes evangelism with street smarts; Photo 4, Building a Bridge to The Police Force, When he first came to Dorchester, cops say, Rivers with members of the anti-gang unit) didn't think there was such a thing as a bad kid. That has changed. Now he and the police are unlikely -- but effective -- allies; Photo 5, Bullet Holes and Black Panthers, Rivers (in a Dorchester barbershop) is an intriguing combination of literal and conservative. While his critics -- and there are many -- call him a 'black Rasputin,' he is still becoming national figure: he's met with Clinton and been courted by the Christian Coalition; Photos 1 through 5, PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID BURNETT -- CONTACT PRESS IMAGES

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: June 3, 1998

Paul D. Glastris
01/17/2000 02:36:18 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Leanne A. Shimabukuro/OPD/EOP@EOP, Deanne E. Benos/OPD/EOP@EOP
cc:
Subject: draft of tomorrow's Boston speech--comments back ASAP please

Draft 1/17/00 2:30 p.m.
Glastris

WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS ON GUN ENFORCEMENT
ORCHARD GARDENS COMMUNITY CENTER
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
January 18, 1999

Acknowledgments: Sen. Ted Kennedy; Rep. John Joseph Moakley; Mayor Thomas Menino; AG Janet Reno; Treasury Undersec. Jim Johnson; Orchards Garden Com. Cen. Director Lynn Jackson; Boston PD Detective Lisa Holmes; → David Kennedy?

Listening to the Detective Holmes, I am reminded of how far America has come in the last seven years, both in reducing crime and in freeing our minds of some old mental blocks about how to fight crime. When I first became President, many people thought the crime rate was fated rise forever. And Washington was locked in the old debate about whether it was better to prevent crime or prosecute criminals. To me, that was always a false choice. Ever since my days as Arkansas Attorney General 20 years ago, it seemed to me common sense that if we wanted to roll back crime, we needed both more prevention and stronger, smarter prosecution. *enforcement? (cosan) + prosecution*

As President, I have worked hard to provide state and local authorities with tools to do more of both. In 1993 we passed the Brady law, which has kept ~~over~~ ^{over} half-a-million felons, fugitives and domestic abusers from buying firearms. In 1994 we passed an historic crime bill, which has funded ~~over~~ ^{over} 100,000 new community police officers around the country—including ⁱⁿ right here in Boston. We also toughened penalties, passed the assault weapons ban, and kept an eye out for the most innovative and successful local crime-fighting strategies, like Project Ceasefire here in Boston, so that we could help other communities do the same. *longer jail terms*

These and other efforts have clearly paid off. Nationwide, the overall crime rate has dropped every year for seven years—the longest continuous decline in crime on record. The murder rate is down to its lowest level in 30 years. Gun crime has fallen 35 percent; juvenile gun homicides, 57 percent. *raised standards for getting a license, criminal setting to young people* *invested over \$1 million?* *offenders* *31*

Meanwhile, gun prosecutions are up at all levels of government—including at the federal level. Today, I am pleased to announce that federal firearms prosecutions have increased 25 percent since 1998, and up 15 percent over 1992 levels. These increased prosecutions send an unambiguous message to criminals: if you violate our gun laws, you will pay a severe price.

No city has sent that message more clearly than Boston. But another message of your success is that this is not simply a numbers game. You have shown that to reduce crime the most, gun prosecutions must be targeted to where they will have the most deterrent effect—in Boston's case, on violent repeat offenders and on the gun traffickers who supply them. You have also shown that to work, this must be a team effort, requiring close partnerships within the local community and with the federal government.

You have made Boston one of the safest big cities in America. Now, we must take the lessons of Boston and make America the safest big country in the world. I am pleased to announce five new initiatives to do just that in the budget I will submit next month.

First, my budget calls for hiring 500 new ATF agents and inspectors—part of the largest increase in the ATF firearms enforcement budget ever. These new agents and inspectors will help us crack down on illegal gun traffickers and bad-apple dealers who supply guns to criminals and juveniles.

Second, my budget adds a thousand new federal, state and local prosecutors to help take dangerous gun criminals out of our communities and put them where they belong: behind bars.

Third, to strengthen the hand of prosecutors, my budget invests more in the ATF's National Gun Tracing Center, and supplies local law enforcement agencies with the tools they need to utilize the center, from software to training. With these new investments, it will become possible to trace the origin of every gun used in a crime in America. — + the criminals!

Fourth, my budget will create a groundbreaking national ballistics network capable of tracing almost any bullet left at a crime scene anywhere in America to the gun of the criminal who fired it.

Fifth, my budget provides local communities with grants to run the same kind of anti-gun-violence media campaigns that have been such an important part of the successful strategy Boston has used to reduce gun crime.

Together, these (five new initiatives) will help communities across America push violent crime rates down further by cracking down harder on gun criminals. I ask Congress to support them.

But I also say to Congress: let's start this new century by abandoning another stale

debate from the last century, about whether it's better to strengthen gun laws or enforce the laws now on the books. The fact is, we've done both, with the Brady law and increased gun prosecutions, and the result has been a major drop in the crime rate. Clearly, we must do more of both if we want to bring the crime rate down further.

Last year, Congress listened to the gun lobby, rather than the American people, and gave up a chance to require Brady background checks at gun shows, child safety locks for all new handguns, and a ban on large-capacity ammunition clips. Passing this common-sense gun safety legislation should be the very first action of this Congress.

The gun industry must also take more responsibility, and change the way it designs, markets and distributes firearms. I know that there are responsible people in the gun industry who want to find new ways to make sure that the guns they sell don't end up in the wrong hands. I want us to work together to find the answers.

Part of the answer may be new technologies that could reduce firearms accidents. The accidental gun death rate of children under 15 is nine times higher in the U.S. than in 25 other industrialized nations combined. Technologies now exist that could lead to guns that can only be fired by the adults who own them. My budget helps the gun industry accelerate development of these smart guns.

In 1968, in his last campaign, Robert Kennedy said the fight against crime "is a fight to preserve that quality of community which is at the root of our greatness." Today, here in Boston, and across America, we are winning that fight. If, in this new century, we keep fighting to preserve that quality of community Kennedy talked about, I have no doubt that America's greatest days are yet to come.

Thank you and God bless you.

PRESIDENT CLINTON UNVEILS LARGEST EVER NATIONAL GUN ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVE, HAILS NEW PROSECUTIONS DATA

January 18, 2000

At an event today in Boston, where federal and local partnerships have helped dramatically reduce gun crime, President Clinton will unveil the largest national firearms enforcement initiative in history. He will also announce new figures from the Department of Justice showing increased federal prosecutions of dangerous gun criminals. The Administration's initiative provides a record \$280 million investment in the FY 2001 budget to: 1) add 500 new Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) agents and inspectors to target violent gun criminals and illegal gun traffickers; 2) fund over 1,000 new federal, state, and local gun prosecutors to take dangerous gun offenders off the streets; 3) create the first nationally-integrated ballistics testing system and expand crime gun tracing to help catch more gun criminals; 4) fund local media campaigns to discourage gun violence and send a tough message on penalties for breaking gun laws; and 5) expand development of "smart gun" technologies. The President today will also unveil new data from the Justice Department indicating that federal firearms prosecutions rose 25 percent from 1998 to 1999. Finally, he will call again on Congress to enact common sense gun measures that will keep guns out of the wrong hands and make our communities safer.

SWEEPING INITIATIVE TO CRACK DOWN ON GUN CRIMINALS. President Clinton today will unveil budget plans for an unprecedented initiative on gun enforcement. The plan includes funding for:

- **500 New ATF Agents and Inspectors.** The President's initiative includes the largest-ever increase to the ATF for firearms enforcement, including 500 new ATF agents and inspectors. The agents will crack down on violent gun criminals and illegal gun traffickers at gun shows, gun stores and on the street. The firearms inspectors, whose numbers are doubled by this funding, will target unscrupulous gun dealers that supply guns to criminals and juveniles.
- **Over 1,000 Federal, State, and Local Gun Prosecutors.** The President's initiative will fund more than 1,000 new federal, state and local prosecutors to incarcerate gun criminals:
 - 1,000 state and local gun prosecutors. The initiative provides \$150 million to hire 1,000 more state and local gun prosecutors. The new prosecutors will work closely with the community, law enforcement, and federal prosecutors on gun-related crimes.
 - Over 100 additional federal gun prosecutors and new enforcement teams. The initiative will fund nearly 100 more federal gun prosecutors in the offices of U.S. Attorneys. The initiative also funds 20 gun enforcement teams in high gun crime areas, enabling 20 cities to replicate Boston's comprehensive anti-crime strategy, "Operation Ceasefire." These teams will coordinate

enforcement efforts and maximize tough federal sentencing laws against armed career criminals and illegal gun traffickers.

- **Comprehensive Crime Gun Tracing.** Boston's "Operation Ceasefire" and the Boston Gun Project have brought federal, state and local law enforcement together to trace crime guns and identify and arrest illegal gun traffickers. The Administration's Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative was launched to replicate the Boston model, and today the President will announce that his budget expands the YCGII from 38 cities to 50 cities. Today's initiative will also help more cities crack down on illegal traffickers by providing funds for tracing equipment and training to 250 state and local law enforcement agencies.
- **New Initiative on Ballistics Testing.** The Administration's FY 2001 budget request will triple current ballistics testing funding by investing \$30 million to create the first ever National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN). This system will help law enforcement use the unique "fingerprints" of bullets or shell casings left at the scene of a crime to identify criminals and illegal gun traffickers – even in the absence of a firearm. Ballistics testing programs at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and ATF have already advanced over 16,000 criminal investigations of gun crimes in over 40 states. This initiative will link these two systems for the first time, and within two years will triple the number of law enforcement jurisdictions with access to nearly one million ballistics images.
- **Local Anti-Gun Violence Media Campaigns.** The President's initiative will provide \$10 million in Justice Department matching grants to support local media campaigns on gun violence and gun safety. Campaigns would be linked to local gun violence strategies to publicize gun penalties and to maximize deterrence, as well as to highlight proper storage of guns and child access prevention. Targeted campaigns have been used successfully in Richmond's "Project Exile" to emphasize lengthy federal sentences, and in Boston to make clear the consequences of breaking gun laws.
- **Innovative "Smart" Gun Technologies.** The President will also propose \$10 million – more than double last year's request – for the expansion, testing and replication of "smart" gun technologies. These state-of-the-art safety innovations could limit a gun's use to its owner or other authorized users – and could therefore prevent accidental shooting deaths of children, deter gun theft, and stop criminals from seizing and using the guns of police officers against them.

NEW DATA SHOW THAT FEDERAL FIREARMS PROSECUTIONS ARE UP. Today, the President will also highlight new data from the Justice Department showing the results of bolstered efforts by federal prosecutors to put serious gun criminals behind bars. From 1998 to 1999, the number of federal firearms cases prosecuted by U.S. Attorneys increased 25 percent, from 4,391 cases in 1998 to 5,500 cases in 1999. Tough prosecutions, strategic efforts to deter and prevent gun crime, and the passage of strong new gun laws such as the Brady Act, have together led to a more than 35 percent drop in gun-related crime since 1992 and a 57 percent

decrease in juvenile gun homicide offenders since 1993.

COMMON-SENSE GUN MEASURES ARE STILL NEEDED AND LONG OVERDUE.

In addition to pursuing an aggressive enforcement budget, the President will continue to call for much-needed reforms to our nation's gun laws to keep guns out of the wrong hands. Among the common-sense measures he will call on Congress to enact: requiring background checks at gun shows, mandating child safety locks for handguns, banning the importation of large capacity ammunition clips, and banning violent juveniles from owning guns for life.

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Fax

TO:

Deanne

DATE:

2-16-00

FAX:

456-7028

of PAGES:

8

FROM:

☐ Lew Raden

☐ Gail Davis

☐ Zeb Graham

☐ Mary Mahoney

☒ Christine Smith

☐ Jerri Kennedy

Comments:

CASE SUMMARY STATISTICS 1988-1998*

Fiscal Year	Field Special Agent Staffing	Total # of Cases Submitted for Prosecution	Total # of Defts. Recommended for Prosecution	# of Firearms Cases For Prosecution	# of Firearms Defts. Recommended For Prosecution
1998	1212	4099	6470	3619	5620
1997	1263	3637	6302	3134	5376
1996	1363	4112	7471	3643	6576
1995	1454	5249	9583	4708	8612
1994	1457	5619	9582	5132	8676
1993	1520	6991	11770	6467	10818
1992	1511	8019	13065	7458	12084
1991	1564	7179	11369	6643	10390
1990	1521	5886	8798	5413	7955
1989	1293	5019	7477	4599	6669
1988	1160	3855	5680	3361	4648

1999

5131

6800

4628

6057

*Source: Case Summary Reports, Field Management Staff
Compiled 5/27/99 (updated 2/7/00)

adopted VV

AMENDMENT TO COMMITTEE FY2001 BUDGET VIEWS AND ESTIMATES
FIREARMS LAWS ENFORCEMENT

OFFERED BY MR. CONYERS AND MR. MEEHAN

On page 16, strike the second paragraph under the section titled "Combating Gun Violence" and insert the following:

"We strongly support full funding of the Administration's package for enforcement of the firearms laws. The Administration and Congress agree that, to reduce gun violence, we must have effective enforcement of existing firearms laws. The Administration has proposed a \$900 million package to address the problem of firearms enforcement: 500 new ATF agents and inspectors and over 1,000 new Federal, State, and local gun prosecutors. First, the Administration has proposed \$756 million in additional funding to hire 500 new ATF agents and inspectors. Data shows that the agencies responsible for firearms enforcement, specifically the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms ("ATF"), have inadequate resources to investigate unlawful firearms purchases. This new funding would assist significantly the ATF in its efforts to detect and deter such purchases.

Second, the Administration proposes funding for 100 new Federal gun prosecutors and 20 gun enforcement teams (\$14.5 million) and for over 1,000 new State and local gun prosecutors (\$150 million). Having agents to investigate unlawful purchases of firearms is not enough; effective enforcement of the firearms laws requires prosecutors to try the offenders. By working closely with local communities, law enforcement, and Federal officials on gun crimes, these new prosecutors would further efforts to keep guns out of the hands of criminals.

BUDGET INCREASE HISTORY FACT SHEET

Fiscal Year 1997 House report: Salaries and expenses \$389,982,000

Report Language:

"The Committee is concerned by reports that ATF does not have sufficient resources to provide proper training and equipment to its personnel. ATF management estimates that it should expend about 23 percent of its resources on "operations" – all of the legitimate expenditures of a law enforcement agency other than salaries, benefits, rent and utilities. This includes training, computer equipment, vehicles, weapons, surveillance equipment, and other materials and services necessary to conduct investigations, arrests, and audits. ATF has informed the Committee that it requires about \$122,441 per year to fully equip and train an average full time employee. Fiscal Year 1996 appropriations fall short of this amount, providing less than \$100,000 per employee.

The President's Budget fails to address this issue. In fiscal year 1996, ATF has 3,918 full-time equivalent employees. The resources necessary to support this level of employment is about \$480 million – far greater than the Administration's proposed funding of \$406 million.

The Committee will not continue to allow agents or inspectors to perform their duties without sufficient training and equipment. To continue to do so would be a recipe for disaster.

The Committee intends to accomplish its goal of providing sufficient resources for ATF operations through a two-pronged approach: selective downsizing and resources targeted for training and equipment under the Crime Trust Fund."

Downsizing ATF

In light of ATF's training and equipment needs, the Committee finds that the current staffing levels of ATF are not sustainable over the long run given current budgetary constraints. The Committee therefore assumes that ATF will reduce staff by about 10 percent – from the 1996 on board level of 3,918 to 3,473, a staffing cut of 445 full-time equivalent employees. The Committee understands that ATF hired a large group of agents between 1972 and 1976, and that many of these agents are at or near retirement. Encouraging many of the more experienced agents to take buyouts will allow the agency to remake itself into a law enforcement organization that is somewhat smaller, but better trained and better equipped to operate in the difficult law enforcement environment of today.

The Committee intends that this downsizing be entirely voluntary. Mandatory reductions force the youngest and brightest workers out of an agency. The Committee there has included a legislative provision authorizing ATF to offer separation incentive packages to its employees as well as a prohibition on any reduction in force.

Training Initiatives

After completion of the proposed downsizing, the Committee intends that ATF employees be as well trained and equipped as any law enforcement group in government. The Committee therefore has included \$41,462,000 in the Violent Crime Trust Fund to upgrade training and to purchase needed equipment for all ATF employees.

Fiscal Year 1997 Conference Report:

Included supplemental appropriations of \$12,011,000 to support congressional-mandated ATF response to all church fires under the Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996, bringing total appropriation to \$393,971,000.

Also included \$6,978,000 to begin relocation of ATF's National Laboratory and new Fire Research Center.

Also included \$66,423,000 in supplemental appropriations per the Oklahoma City 1996 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act.

Conference Report language:

"The conferees do not believe it is possible for ATF to maintain an adequately equipped or trained force at the current levels of employment and funding. To fully equip and train an average, full-time ATF officer requires approximately \$122,441, yet the fiscal year 1997 budget request was \$73 million below (15 percent) the amount necessary to sustain such a level. This neglect has resulted in an agency in which pay alone represents 74 percent of the overall budget. The conferees believe this situation can no longer be ignored.

In order to operate more effectively in the contemporary law enforcement environment, the ATF must become a smaller, better trained and better-equipped organization. The conferees are pleased to note that the Director of ATF feels the same. Therefore, the conferees direct ATF to develop and implement a plan to downsize toward its own "ideal" distribution of expenditures of 62 percent pay, 23 percent operations and 15 percent fixed costs. The conferees further recommend that ATF downsize in fiscal year 1997 by approximately 400 FTE to realize the immediate

benefits of increased training and better equipment. The conferees have provided buyout authority to ease this transition and have deleted a House provision prohibiting ATF from implementing a reduction in force. Although the conferees will not micromanage this downsizing by requiring a specific reduction in FTE's in fiscal year 1997, the conferees direct that no reductions come from the explosives and arson investigative or regulatory functions and strongly recommend that downsizing be targeted toward agents at or near retirement.

Fiscal Year 1998 Conference Report: Salaries and Expenses
\$478,934,000

Also included: \$55,022,000 for new National Laboratory and Fire Research Center.

Fiscal Year 1998 hearing on ATF's budget before House
Appropriations Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service and General
Government:

Chairman Kolbe: "Bureau resources have been taxed in recent years by several major and tragic acts of terrorism that have stretched its personnel and technical capacity greatly. The committee has been responsive to ATF's resource needs, providing, for instance, \$12 million in supplemental funding last year for the Bureau to investigate church fires, church arson fires.

Last year, the Director expressed his concerns that ATF lacked the resources it needed to provide optimal levels of equipment and training for ATF personnel. The committee addressed this issue by encouraging ATF to downsize and use its resources for training, equipment and staff. I am concerned that this downsizing has not happened as had been anticipated or directed by the subcommittee.

I share the views of my predecessor in this role of chairman that it is essential the Bureau can perform its missions with the optimal technology and systems for incident analysis and reporting, for database development, explosives, arson, and ballistics identification, and that Bureau personnel be trained and equipped at a level equal to or better than that of any other Federal law enforcement agency."

I am pleased with ATF's efforts at developing performance measures."

Downsizing

Chairman Kolbe: "As I indicated, in 1997 the subcommittee appropriation provided authority for ATF to downsize with the expectation that it would be using this to meet its requirement for equipment and training and operating expenses. But you did not do so. You have not done so. So my first question is: What was your decision not to downsize? Why did you decide not to downsize?"

Mr. Magaw: "Well, shortly after that meeting, Mr. Chairman, a rash of church fires started to occur. Bombings have gone up, and arsons have gone up some 600 in that period of time. As a result of this, the Committee saw a need to give us additional funds.

Now, by taking those additional funds that you gave us and applying them to equipment, moving personnel in to assist in all those particular areas, it freed up some of our base, and, therefore, I did not have to do that.

I want to make sure that you understand, as well as everybody on the Committee, that this was not any intentional act whatsoever to do something different than what the Committee wanted us to do. Last year, as I remember this discussion, it was, 'Mr. Director, what will you do if you do not get your base restored?' Our base was cut up to 70-some percent, and we did not have much operational money because our fixed costs were 16 to 20 percent. My answer was: 'If I do not get the funds, I will have to reduce the size.' I must have a balanced budget. I must be fiscally sound. And that was what I intended to do.

But in the meantime, all these other things occurred. As a result, I think we have been able to serve the public very well and, at the same time, do it with a reasonable amount of money.

The truth is that this organization is only 48 people larger than it was in 1973. We are 200 smaller than we were in 1990. So, it is not a large organization. And with the things that have occurred in the last year – we had the Olympics, the church fires, the bombings, the Anti-Terrorism Act, the Brady law, the Youth Crime Interdiction Program, the Lautenberg amendment – these kinds of things have added to our responsibilities. And I believe that we have done them well. Had we not received that extra amount of money and had those other things not occurred, we would have downsized. "

WED, FEB 25, 1998 - HOUSE TIF

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APPROPS. HEARING
FOR FY 99 BUDGET

that southwest border, in the traffickers. And the one is they watch every move we do. They know when we are on the line.

We have launched into this most

"Ring," in which we are in process. We are doing everything the way that we do business to try to determine what the solutions are.

Absolutely, we are concerned about this.

Cocaine, there was a slightly drop there was nationally, but a significant drop. And in heroin on the southern tier; and

as the board here, the drop you think it is related primarily across in smaller amounts

piece of it. The other thing comparing notes with border percent drop in the amount at checkpoints, as well.

Take the measure, as I think success, the street price, I lay down for—let us take a year ago. So you are not aware of it?

In the world I would suggest, ending?

Thank, that they have gone to

is, actually during this same period where the amount of cocaine seized, is the number of seizures significantly.

SPECTIONS

Since I have already exceeded a 31-percent estimated increase in cars, a 21-percent increase in the tremendous increases we see it every day, trains coming from the United States, and vice versa, we doing of railroad cars? We really did not do much in months ago. And they are not have the facilities to in the months ago was we launched a

We have actually reached agreements with the railroads, especially Union Pacific. We are in the process of, one, building those facilities; two, tying into their automated systems so we can track who is actually shipping within their cars. Three, we have launched a joint effort with border patrol to go after these cars. We have sent dogs out. We have brought technology in. We use the gamma ray imagers in order to try to look through the rail cars.

Within the last four months, we have seized 15 rail cars in El Paso. Most of those have been with false compartments. A couple of them have been active with narcotics. But the concerns that we still have are, they are getting to those rail cars, the bad guys are getting to those rail cars, before we do. They go into those staging areas and they are vulnerable to theft and people going in like we showed on that videotape.

Mr. KOLBE. Last question. Do you confiscate the rail car the same way you would a truck?

Mr. BANKS. Yes, sir, we sure do. Fifteen rail cars.

Mr. KOLBE. Well, if you are doing that, those are expensive pieces of equipment. It seems to me that the railroads would have an interest in providing better security in their yards so that they are not being used inadvertently or unknowingly, unwittingly, as the carriers for this.

Mr. BANKS. Since we have seized those 15 rail cars, we have gotten significant enhanced cooperation from the railroad companies. [Laughter.]

Mr. KOLBE. I have more questions.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Hoyer.

Mr. HOYER. Do we still have the cars?

Mr. BANKS. Yes, sir, we still do. We are looking for a locomotive. [Laughter.]

ATF GREAT PROGRAM

Mr. HOYER. Good for you. Because our time is brief, I am just going to ask a few questions, not necessarily the most important questions in terms of the fiscal issues, but questions that interest me. The GREAT program I want to mention. Senator DeConcini, as you know, from your state, Mr. Chairman, was very instrumental in the GREAT program. Phoenix, of course, was the first site. And it has been a terrific program.

We utilize it in Maryland. We were one of the first. Director Magaw has been out there. And our police department and educational officials are very enthusiastic about it, and they believe it is effective. I do not know whether the longitudinal study will show the justification for that enthusiasm, but they think it works.

And one thing it does, like the DARE program, it gives a lot of young kids a very positive involvement with uniformed officers in a very constructive program, and builds therefore a partnership between young kids and uniformed police officers; not a confrontational relationship, but a cooperative relationship. And I think that is critically important. As well as educating them about the dangers of gangs and negative associations that can result. That is not a question, obviously.

Staffing levels. Director Magaw, what has the staffing growth been at ATF over the past four to five years, and how does this

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compare with the FBI and DEA? This ties in with the charts and the observations made by the Chairman.

ATF STAFFING

Mr. MAGAW. The ATF has lost about 400 personnel over the last three or four years. And at the same time, agencies like the FBI and—well, the FBI actually has increased about 3,000 agents during that time. But we have gone from a little over 2,000 agents to a little over 1,700. By the projections with all the jurisdictions and the church fires and the abortion clinic bombings and these other things, my projection is—and it is a realistic one—we should have grown to about 2,600 agents. And so dropping to 1,700 is a tremendous net loss for us.

And it was shown very well this morning on the graphs. And ATF would fit in there as a big loss.

Mr. HOYER. Let me extrapolate quickly. Would that mean is that you're approximately 50 percent understaffed in agents, from your perspective?

Mr. MAGAW. Yes, sir.

Mr. HOYER. Seventeen hundred to 2,600?

Mr. MAGAW. And our inspectors are likewise. We were asked to do 100 percent of the explosive storage facilities around the country, and we just cannot do it with the number of people we have.

Mr. HOYER. How many inspectors do we have, Director?

Mr. MAGAW. About 745.

Mr. HOYER. How many do we need?

Mr. MAGAW. We would need near 1,000. And those are conservative. Those are not stacked figures at all, sir.

NATIONAL INTEGRATED BALLISTIC IMAGING NETWORK

Mr. HOYER. The—I don't know how you pronounce it—NIBIN or "NEEBIN"—the National Integrated Ballistic Imaging Network; can you tell me how much progress has been made in achieving inter-operability between ATF and FBI?

As you know, Mr. Secretary, this is one of the turf wars that I and other members on this Committee and members on the Committee that Mr. Kolbe is also a member of, as well as the Authorizing Committees, were involved in. And I would like to hear how—I understand we have got essentially an agreement on how to operate jointly. How is that going?

Mr. MAGAW. Well, it is going very well so far. It has the chief of police from Boston on it. It has one of our assistant directors and one from the FBI. And they sit as a group and make judgments on how those funds will be spent to best serve local law enforcement.

There are some problems, as you would expect, when you put two separate programs together, in terms of the units that are already out there. How do we get those two units to talk to each other? And with our portable system that you saw here, it does both bullets and shell casings. The FBI system does primarily shell casings. And so when you have a situation or a crime scene that has bullets, it will be very important that we get those systems tied together.

NIST is working with us to try to work out a system so that we can get them to talk together. And if that cannot be worked out

satisfactory to this Committee, we need to go to one system.

But I believe we are coming together. The attitude from our staff, has been very positive.

Mr. HOYER. I am glad to hear that, although we talk about cost of money. When you put enforcement assets and a lot of money, we have a lot of assets.

One of the reasons, Mr. Chairman, I think it is so important that it creates enforcement, successful.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR CHILD ABUSE INVESTIGATION

Mr. Merletti, again, let me ask you some new duties. You are going to have a long period of time to do a lot of things. You are going to be in charge of the National Center for Child Abuse Investigation.

Two-point-six million dollars. That is a lot of money. I assume, Mr. Merletti, you made your request to OMB.

Mr. MERLETTI. Yes. The National Center for Child Abuse Investigation, local, state, and other federal services that we have, we have a lot of core missions. And we have a lot of child victimization.

We do understand that there are a lot of things, that that was not able to do.

Mr. HOYER. I appreciate that. Let me ask you, this is a useful service that we have had a unique ability to provide for America's children.

Mr. MERLETTI. Absolutely.

SECURITY

Mr. HOYER. Thank you very much. I am going to ask of Mr. Magaw? I know you are going to then let me end with this request to Mr. Magaw in terms of the National Center for Child Abuse Investigation.

Mr. MERLETTI. Yes, we are as far as uniformed divisions just about. There has been a lot of things that we have had, in terms of as far as special agents, we are well in the process of getting them.

At the end of this year, we are going to be completely staffed.



Deanne E. Benos
01/17/2000 10:42:43 PM

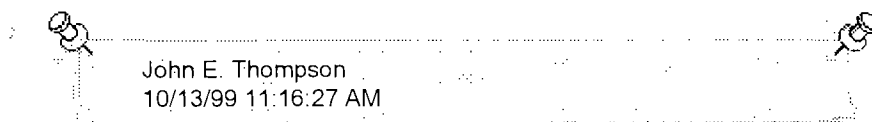
Record Type: Record

To:

cc:

Subject: Re: Prosecutor #'s

----- Forwarded by Deanne E. Benos/OPD/EOP on 01/17/2000 10:42 PM -----



John E. Thompson
10/13/99 11:16:27 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Deanne E. Benos/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Re: Prosecutor #'s

DOJ budget and prosecutors in every year from 1989-99.

	Total DOJ Budget Authority (\$ in millions)	# of prosecutors
1989	6.7	2,751
1990	8.6	3,738
1991	9.0	3,981
1992	10.0	3,973
1993	10.5	3,960
1994	10.2	3,898
1995	12.9	4,016
1996	15.2	4,131
1997	17.3	4,166
1998	18.8	4,306
1999	19.0	4,370
2000		4,900

The large increase in 1990 is due to the Bush administration's violent crime amendment to the Budget, much of which was enacted. The increase was for violent crime generally. Presumably some of the increased funds went to firearms prosecutions, although nothing was specifically identified for firearms/Triggerlock.

The U.S. Attorneys are compiling more detailed information for me describing the reason for each year's

changes. I'd be happy to share it with you, should you want additional detail.

Note: Number of prosecutors includes only U.S. Attorneys prosecutors (U.S. Attorneys and Assistant U.S. Attorneys) and not other DOJ divisions, e.g. Criminal, Civil, Civil Rights, Antitrust, etc., which do not generally handle firearms/violent crime prosecutions.



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Clinton Announcing New Gun Program

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By Kevin Galvin

Associated Press Writer

Monday, Jan. 17, 2000; 5:48 p.m. EST

WASHINGTON — President Clinton is taking a new tack in the fight against gun violence by asking Congress for more ATF agents and support for a system to track firearms through ballistics tests, officials said Monday.

The president was to announce the program Tuesday in Boston. The appearance at the Orchard Gardens Community Center in Boston's Roxbury section also was expected to highlight Clinton's community policing initiative.

After a spate of high-profile shooting attacks by troubled killers at high schools and other places, Clinton pushed for tougher gun-control measures in Congress. Lawmakers refused to close the gun show loophole in the Brady law or require safety locks on handguns.

Outlining plans for his final year in office, Clinton last week alluded to new projects aimed at curbing gun violence. The administration already announced a request for \$10 million to develop "smart guns" that fire only when held by their owners.

The new plans for the budget for fiscal year 2001, which begins Oct. 1, represent an effort to invest more in enforcement of laws aimed at combating the illegal use and possession of firearms.

People familiar with Clinton's plan, speaking on condition of anonymity, said he would ask Congress to hire more Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents and for money to improve federal investigators' ability to track crimes through improved ballistics testing. The officials were unable to provide dollar amounts of the requests.

By maintaining records of unique markings each gun barrel leaves on bullets, investigators could track firearms used in crimes to their purchasers, even if that person had passed the weapon to another individual.

"What I want us to do is to put our partisan divisions aside to complete the unfinished business of the last century," Clinton said, "including things like ... sensible legislation to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and children."

Boston's homicide rate dropped to a 38-year low in 1999, thanks in part to a program that allied law enforcement, the clergy, community

leaders and gang members against crime.

The effort, called the Boston Pilot Project, is credited with forcing the homicide toll down from 132 slayings in 1990 to 31 in 1999. A strong economy and declining use of crack cocaine also contributed to improved neighborhood security.

Mayor Thomas Menino and Massachusetts Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, both Democrats, and several religious and community leaders were expected to attend the address at the Orchard Gardens, in an area where crime was down more than 65 percent last year, officials said.

In his Roxbury appearance, Clinton also was expected to stress the success of his 1994 crime-fighting package, which provided money for 100,000 community police officers. The fiscal 2000 budget includes funds for 50,000 more.

Later Tuesday, Clinton was addressing a Democratic National Committee fund-raising reception at a private residence in a Boston suburb.

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Yellow Pages



Deanne E. Benos
01/17/2000 02:11:06 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Eric P. Liu/OPD/EOP@EOP
cc: leanne a. shimabukuro/opd/eop@eop, anna richter/opd/eop@eop
bcc:
Subject: Re: boston stats

YOUR QUESTIONS:

- (1) **JUVENILE GUN HOMICIDES:** There were no juvenile gun homicides in Boston from July 1995 to December 1997. (Note: MA law defines juvenile as under 16 years old. Also, Ceasefire didn't start until 1996. . . .)
- (2) **"OPERATION CEASEFIRE":** David Kennedy says that we are absolutely permitted to call the entire initiative "Operation Ceasefire." (It has since enveloped the "Boston Gun Project." Ceasefire has 2 strategic components: (1) "doing something about gun trafficking;" and (2) "telling gangs to stop."

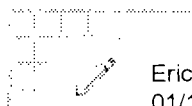
STATISTICS:

- (1) Under Operation Ceasefire, which began in May 1996, murders of youth (under 24) are down 63% -- most of which are gun-related. Murders of adults are down 50% -- most of which are gun-related. (these figures are through June 1998.) And, you can say that the homicide rate has continued to decline. (but no official reports released yet.) SOURCE: David Kennedy.
- (2) Through November 1999: As a result of Operation Ceasefire and federal partnerships, gun crimes (including homicide, aggravated assault and robberies) are down by over 70% in Roxbury since 1990. Depending on our message, specifically since the start of Operation Ceasefire, gun crime is down 41% in Roxbury.

ROXBURY: Gun crimes (homicide, aggravated assault and robberies)

1990	826
1991	714
1992	645
1993	541
1994	517
1995	503
1996	400
1997	263
1998	235
1999	236

Eric P. Liu



Eric P. Liu
01/17/2000 02:08:16 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Leanne A. Shimabukuro/OPD/EOP@EOP, Deanne E. Benos/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc: Anna Richter/OPD/EOP@EOP

Subject: boston stats

In addition to the stat in the Wkly, what are the other great Boston gun or crime stats?



Anna Richter

01/18/2000 09:58:47 AM

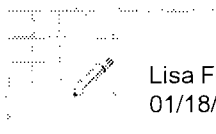
Record Type: Record

To: Leanne A. Shimabukuro/OPD/EOP@EOP, Deanne E. Benos/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Eric Holder on Good Morning America, January 18, 2000

----- Forwarded by Anna Richter/OPD/EOP on 01/18/2000 09:58 AM -----



Lisa Ferdinando

01/18/2000 08:54:46 AM

Record Type: Record

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

cc:

Subject: Eric Holder on Good Morning America, January 18, 2000

ABC GOOD MORNING AMERICA

JANUARY 18, 2000

**SPEAKERS: ERIC HOLDER, DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
CHARLES GIBSON, ANCHOR**

GIBSON: I had a chance to talk to Attorney General Eric Holder who joined us from Washington just a few moments ago to talk about the president's new initiative.

General Holder, let me see if I have a handle on the main tenets of the president's initiative. He wants more Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearm agents; he wants more gun-law prosecutors, state and federal; more money for gun tracing; money for ballistics testing--all designed to do what?

HOLDER: To reduce the level of gun violence that we see in our nation. Though that rate has been coming down pretty steadily over the last seven years, we think that with these new tools we can bring that rate down even lower.

GIBSON: But this is really more money for prosecution of people who have already committed gun crimes, right?

HOLDER: Yes. This is designed to do a variety of things. With the ATF agents we would be putting on the streets, 500 of them with the 1,000 new prosecutors at the state and the federal level, we'll be more effective in detecting gun crime, and in those crimes we do detect, we'll do a better job in prosecuting them.

GIBSON: Is this a change in emphasis? In the past, gun initiatives from the administration have been in the realm of gun control, to try to keep guns out of the hands of criminals, try to prevent crimes before they happen. Now you're talking about prosecuting, better prosecuting, gun crimes after they happen.

HOLDER: No, this is pretty consistent with what we've been doing all along. We had a pretty balanced approach trying to prevent gun crimes from happening, at the same time trying to do tough and

smart enforcement measures. The emphasis here today is really on the enforcement side, but it is consistent I believe with what we have done. If you look at the numbers, you'll see that we've increased the number of federal prosecutions from 1998 to 1999 by 25 percent. The overall rate of gun violence has gone down about 35 percent since 1992, and that's as a result of the balanced approach that we have been using.

GIBSON: Does this say that there are crimes occurring with guns that we have not been prosecuting? I mean, you want more prosecutors. Have we been letting some of these crimes slip through the cracks?

HOLDER: No, it's not a question of letting anything slip through the cracks; it's just a question of doing a better job. We have a gun violence rate now that is at historic lows, but we think that we can take it even lower.

The concern that I have is that we might become complacent with the success that we've had. We've had reductions in crime over the last seven and a half years, wide-ranging reductions, and what we really want to do is focus now on those things that really continue to bedevil our nation, and that's the problem of gun violence.

GIBSON: General Eric Holder, appreciate your being with us. Thanks very much.

HOLDER: Thank you.

END

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Clinton to seek \$280 mil to fight gun violence

By Kevin Galvin

The Associated Press

January 18, 2000 8:30 a.m. CST

WASHINGTON (AP) -- President Clinton is asking Congress for \$280 million in additional funds to hire 500 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents and inspectors and create a program to track guns through ballistics testing.

"We're at a moment where crime rates across the country are going down, but the message that we feel is important to send is that we've got to keep our vigilance up," said Eric Liu, the White House deputy domestic policy adviser. "We have to do all that we can to strengthen our enforcement efforts and crack down on gun criminals."

Clinton was announcing the program to hire 500 more ATF personnel today in Boston. The appearance at the Orchard Gardens Community Center in Boston's Roxbury section also was expected to highlight Clinton's community policing initiative.

The emphasis on law enforcement represented a subtle shift in the administration's efforts to curb gun violence.

After a spate of high-profile shooting attacks by troubled killers at high schools and community centers, Clinton pushed for tougher gun control measures in Congress. But legislation has stalled over such issues as how to extend Brady law background checks to gun shows or whether to require safety locks on handguns.

Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder said today the administration's approach has produced results. "We've increased the number of federal prosecutions from 1998 to 1999 by 25 percent and the overall rate of gun violence has gone down about 35 percent since 1992," he said on ABC's "Good Morning America."

"We have a gun violence rate now that is at historic lows but we think that we can take it



VIDEO

[Gun sales by state \(QT 663K;
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AUDIO

[5/21/1999: Rep. James Rogan
\(R-Calif.\) on making legislative
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historic lows but we think that we can take it even lower," Holder said.

Wayne LaPierre of the National Rifle Association questioned whether the administration really plans to go after gun criminals. "While I applaud what they're doing -- they seem to be embracing it -- I want to look real hard at this to see that they have had a change of heart and want to make this a way of life," he told ABC.

Outlining plans for his final year in office, Clinton last week alluded to new projects aimed at curbing gun violence. The administration already announced a request for \$10 million to develop "smart guns" that fire only when held by their owners. A similar request died in Congress last year.

The new plans for the budget for fiscal year 2001, which begins Oct. 1, represent an effort to invest more in enforcement of existing laws on the illegal use and possession of firearms, a priority for Republicans and groups such as the National Rifle Association.

"These things are all overlapping armor," said Liu. "I don't think it makes sense to focus on one piece to the exclusion of others."

Clinton intended to ask Congress to hire the new ATF agents and inspectors and 1,000 more federal, state and local prosecutors to focus on gun-related crimes.

He also will seek to expand an existing gun-tracing program from 38 to 51 cities and ask for \$30 million to create a ballistics information network to track ballistics data of guns used in crimes.

By maintaining records of unique markings each gun barrel leaves on bullets, investigators could track firearms used in crimes to their purchasers, even if that person had passed the weapon to another individual.

Boston's homicide rate dropped to a 38-year low in 1999, thanks in part to a program that allied law enforcement, the clergy, community leaders and gang members against crime.

The Boston Pilot Project is credited with the homicide toll dropping from 132 slayings in 1990 to 31 in 1999. A strong economy and declining use of crack cocaine also contributed to improved neighborhood security.

Mayor Thomas Menino, Rep. Michael Capuano and Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, all Democrats, and several religious and community leaders were expected to attend the address at the Orchard Gardens, in an area where crime was

Orchard Gardens, in an area where crime was down more than 65 percent last year, officials said.

In his Roxbury appearance, Clinton also was expected to stress the success of his 1994 crime-fighting package, which provided money for 100,000 community police officers. The fiscal 2000 budget includes funds for 50,000 more.

Afterward, Clinton was addressing a Democratic National Committee fund-raising reception at a private residence in a Boston suburb.

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Mark J. Schwartz

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January 18, 2000

Clinton Seeks New Spending to Enforce
Laws on Guns

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By MARC LACEY

ASHINGTON, Jan. 17 -- The White House will ask Congress for \$280 million in new spending to enforce existing gun control laws, a strategy intended to address one of the main complaints of those who oppose additional gun restrictions, administration officials said today.

President Clinton plans to announce the spending proposal, which will be part of his 2001 budget, on Tuesday at an appearance in Boston. The spending, which is subject to Congressional approval, would be used to hire more gun investigators and prosecutors, foster development of so-called smart-gun technology, improve the government's ballistics testing program and begin an antigun news media campaign.

In a joint appearance with Attorney General Janet Reno and local law-enforcement officials, Mr. Clinton will also hail new Justice Department figures showing a 25 percent increase from 1998 to 1999 in the number of firearms cases brought by federal prosecutors. The number of such cases rose to 5,500 last year, from 4,391 in 1998.

The increase in financing and the release of the new data are intended to counter a major arguments advanced by the National Rifle Association and other critics of gun control laws: that new gun restrictions are not needed because scores of existing laws are rarely enforced.

"These numbers should put to rest once and for all the gun lobby's phony contention that the government is not enforcing the existing laws," said Bruce Reed, the White House domestic policy adviser.

Mr. Clinton is planning to propose a 20 percent increase in staffing at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, adding 300 agents and 200 firearms inspectors, officials said. The agents will focus on violent gun criminals and illegal gun traffickers, while the inspectors will target "unscrupulous gun dealers that supply guns to criminals and juveniles," a White House fact sheet said.

The president will also recommend tripling the spending for the development of a national ballistics database. At a cost of \$30 million, the database, the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network, will link the firearms identification computer files operated by the A.T.F. and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Within two years, 230 local and state law enforcement agencies are expected to have access to the system.

To prosecute violators, the president's budget will also provide financing for more than 1,000 new federal, state and local prosecutors. A new \$150 million program will provide grants to state and local governments to hire gun prosecutors.

The National Rifle Association reacted cautiously to the administration's plans, embracing the focus on existing laws while repeating its opposition to new gun legislation.

"We're glad that the Clinton administration agrees with the N.R.A. that enforcing the federal firearms laws is a good thing to do," said James Baker, the rifle association's chief lobbyist.

Along with increased spending, Mr. Clinton will announce proposals in his State of the Union address next week to limit sales at gun shows, require safety locks for handguns, ban the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips and ban violent juveniles from owning guns for life. Mr. Clinton proposed similar measures last year, without success.

Mr. Reed said, "We'll continue to keep the pressure on Congress to finish the job and pass the gun bill that has been tied up in a conference committee since last summer."

The climate for such gun control bills is not expected to improve markedly from last year, analysts say, despite school shootings.

"Congress won't touch some of these measures with a 10-foot pole," said Mark Pertschuk, legislative director for the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, based in Washington. "But there is a modest chance that we can bring up some of these issues, like the gun show loophole."

Administration proposals to impose strict restrictions on firearms sales at gun shows were a source of bitter division in Congress last year.

Also last year, Mr. Clinton failed to win approval of a \$4 million program to develop smart-gun technology that would allow only the owner of a gun to fire it. The president will try again in his 2001 budget proposal, aides said. He will propose \$10 million in federal spending to spur development of the technology, which is intended to prevent accidental shootings and deter gun theft.

The Justice Department figures to be released on Tuesday show that the number of prosecutions has risen 16 percent, up from 4,754, since 1992, presidential aides said. The length of the average sentence for gun violators has also risen, to eight years in 1999, from six years in 1992.



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Clinton Backs Anti-Gun Plan

President Wants More ATF Agents, Firearms Tracking

President Clinton has announced a new program to crack down on gun violence, including a proposal to help police track bullets from crime scenes to the guns that fired them. (AP Photo)

Jan. 18 — President Clinton today unveiled a \$280 million initiative to combat gun violence that includes a proposal to help police track bullets to the gun that fired them.

“We are trying to send a message, an unambiguous message, to people who violate the law: If you commit crimes with guns or violate gun laws, you will pay a heavy price,” Clinton said in Boston before an audience of lawmakers and law enforcement officers.

The president also stated an ambitious goal: “We want America to be the safest big country in the entire world.”

The proposal would create the first nationally integrated ballistics testing system — linking databases built by the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. The proposal would also add 500 new ATF agents and inspectors.

Fighting for gun control has been a staple issue for the Clinton administration, often raising the anger of the National Rifle Association. But Clinton’s latest foray into the gun issue was designed to satisfy a major NRA request — that the federal government spend more to enforce existing gun laws.

“We’ve been begging for this for three years and I’m tempted to declare it a victory,” Wayne Lapiere, executive vice president of the NRA, told ABCNEWS’ *Good Morning America*.

“Before I do, this is something the administration has dismissed several years as a cookie-cutter approach to solving crime. While I applaud what they’re doing and they seem to be embracing it, I want to look real hard on this to make sure they really have a change of heart and will make this a way of life.”



GUN FIGHT
SEEKING A CEASE-FIRE

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The budget request would triple the funding for the testing by investing \$30 million to link the two systems for the first time, creating a database called the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network, or NIBIN. Ballistics testing programs at the FBI and ATF have already advanced more than 16,000 criminal investigations of gun crimes in more than 40 states.

In a related development, ABCNEWS has learned the gun manufacturer Glock will use the same technology starting in April, to build its own voluntary database using the shell casings from newly manufactured guns.

The gunmaker will use a laser scanner to get the markings and put them in a database so if the gun is used in any crime in the future, whether or not that gun is recovered, law enforcement officials will be able to use the shell casings to trace the gun to the original owner and possibly subsequent owners, and to the place where it was purchased.

Other gun manufacturers are looking into following suit. One source says the move is largely because the large-scale class-action lawsuits brought by cities and counties against the companies that are on the horizon.

Replicating 'Operation Cease-Fire'

The Clinton administration's initiative would also provide \$150 million to fund more than 1,000 federal, state, and local gun prosecutors. The new prosecutors would work closely with the community, law enforcement, and federal prosecutors on gun-related crimes.

Nearly 100 more federal gun prosecutors in the offices of U.S. Attorneys and 20 gun enforcement teams in high gun crime areas would also be funded, enabling 20 cities to replicate Boston's anti-crime strategy, "Operation Cease-Fire." These teams will coordinate enforcement efforts and maximize tough federal sentencing laws against armed career criminals and illegal gun traffickers.

The administration doubles its request from last year for innovative "smart" gun technologies to \$10 million. The technologies could limit a gun's use to its owner or other authorized users — and could therefore prevent accidental shooting deaths of children, deter gun theft, and stop criminals from seizing and using the guns of police officers against them.

ABCNEWS correspondent Don Dahler, ABCNEWS producer Josh Gerstein and ABCNEWS.com's Buck Wolf contributed to this report.

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Clinton Pushes Anticrime Ideas

By ANNE GEARAN Associated Press Writer

BOSTON (AP) -- President Clinton appealed to Congress on Tuesday to begin the new century with a fresh slate on gun control, saying "commonsense gun safety" should be the first item on this year's congressional agenda.

Clinton requested the lawmakers' support for a \$280 million package of new gun safety and enforcement programs that he will propose in his budget package.

And he asked that they "start this new century by abandoning another stale debate" about whether the government should enforce existing gun laws stronger or fight crime and prevent firearms accidents through new gun-control laws.

"The real answer is we should do both," Clinton said.

His budget package, he said, was designed to send an unambiguous message to criminals: "If you commit crimes with guns or violate gun laws, you will pay a heavy price."

Clinton's usual nemesis on gun issues, the National Rifle Association, offered cautious support for the new enforcement tools Clinton is requesting. Clinton wants 500 new Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents and inspectors, plus 1,000 more prosecutors focusing on gun crime at all levels and a program to track guns through ballistics testing.

Calling an emphasis on increased enforcement and prosecution "long overdue," NRA spokesman Jim Manown said the organization is ready to renew its fight against two new gun-control measures that collapsed in Congress last year.

"We certainly don't expect the Clinton-Gore administration to abandon their push for new restrictions on law-abiding gun owners," Manown said.

Clinton announced his gun proposal during a visit to a spotless new gymnasium and community meeting hall in the Boston neighborhood of Roxbury, where reported crime was down more than 65 percent last year.

"The drop in the crime rate has been due both to changing laws and to better enforcement and better prevention," the president said.

Boston's homicide rate dropped to a 38-year low in 1999, thanks in part to a program that allied law enforcement, the clergy, community leaders and gang members against crime.

The Boston Pilot Project is credited with the homicide toll's plunge from 153 slayings in 1990 to 31 in 1999. A strong economy and declining use of crack cocaine also contributed to improved neighborhood security.

In addition to the gun plan Clinton announced Tuesday, the administration already has said it will ask for \$10 million to develop "smart guns" that fire only when held by their owners. The White House also is trying to convince gun makers and gun dealers to agree to new safety rules, with the threat of a national lawsuit if the groups don't comply.

The White House hoped to win new, tougher laws in Congress last year, when national sentiment over gun violence ran high in the wake of high-profile shootings such as the teen massacre at Columbine High School in Colorado.

In particular, Clinton wanted to tighten rules on buying guns at swap-meet style gun shows and to require additional safety features on handguns and ban the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips.

A version the White House liked passed the Senate, with the tie-breaking vote cast by Vice President Al Gore. Clinton said that vote represented a defeat for "the high-pressure tactics of the NRA," one of the most powerful and effective lobbies in Congress.

"But we couldn't pass it in the House of Representatives even after the travesty of Columbine High School," Clinton said Tuesday. "I believe passing commonsense gun safety legislation should be the very first action of this Congress."

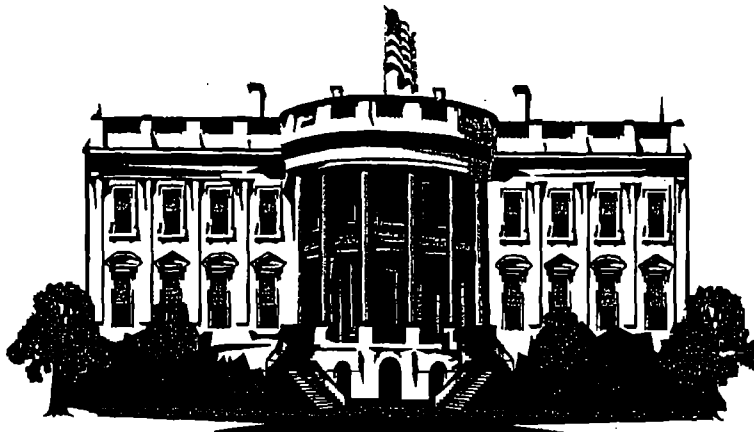
Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., applauded as Clinton made that appeal. But Frank gave a sober assessment afterward of whether Republicans can be persuaded to support the new gun proposals.

"It depends on public pressure," Frank said. "The Republicans are torn. Their primary electorate doesn't want them to do it, but I think the public wants them to do it."

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DATE: 01/19/00 NUMBER OF PAGES (INCL. COVER): 8

FROM: Anna Richter

TO: Leanne & Deanne

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COMMENTS: Articles from major newspapers^(01/19) regarding
Gun Industry involvement/negotiations —
An FYI or for files b/c I compiled for
Eric & thought you may want copies.

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In shadow of Columbine, 35,000 gather for world's biggest gun show

By Melanie Eversley

Knight Ridder Newspapers

LAS VEGAS, Nev. The weight of 19 lawsuits brought by 29 cities and counties has not demoralized a gun industry that offered tough talk this week against the movement to make it pay for gun violence.

Rather than give in to the pressure, gunmakers and dealers making up most of the 30,000 people who flooded the Sands Expo and Convention Center in Las Vegas for one of the industry's largest trade shows are digging in for a fight.

Among the hot topics at the 22nd annual Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade (SHOT) Show:

The raising of money to help companies defend against the crush of litigation.

The forming of a political action committee to contribute to the campaigns of candidates for president and Congress who oppose gun-control measures.

Most important, the message to gunmakers, dealers and enthusiasts was to get political, a tactic that has worked well for other organizations, such as the National Rifle Association.

"This upcoming election will impact our industry, and we must have an impact on this election," Robert Delfay, president of the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), the Newtown, Conn., organizer of the show, told members in a fiery speech Monday night.

Many who attended the show said the lawsuits helped them resolve to vote in November. And many said those votes would likely be for pro-gun Republican candidates.

Delfay harshly admonished the Bill Clinton White House for its recent announcement that the Department of Housing and Urban Development might file its own lawsuit against the gun industry.

"We will not allow the most anti-gun administration in history to bully us into an agreement that will impact our customers' right to own and use firearms, or your right to conduct your business responsibly," Delfay said.

"The next president could appoint up to five Supreme Court justices who could decide the future of our 2nd Amendment," he said. "A Democratic House and Senate would blaze through a series of gun-control measures that have been stymied to date.

"Now historically, we have not been politically active as an industry," he said. "That must change, and it will change with these upcoming elections."

Guest speaker Alan Simpson, the former Republican senator from Wyoming, also volleyed harsh words at the White House and its threatened HUD lawsuit and urged members to "get in, get wet" in the political arena.

"You can get yourself a new president. When you get a new president, you get a new HUD," Simpson said.

Responded Sarah Gegenheimer, a White House spokeswoman, on Tuesday: "The Clinton administration is working on all fronts to keep guns out of the wrong hands and help make our communities safer. This isn't about politics. It's about saving lives."

Organizers used the show to announce the formation of an NSSF political action committee to give financial support to pro-gun candidates. The group also formed a fund to help pay legal defense costs and other pro-gun projects.

The group also said it had moved for dismissal of 17 of the lawsuits and that three dismissal requests would come before a judge in the next few weeks, including Detroit's on Feb. 10. NSSF members said they were confident that they would prevail after

judges threw out three lawsuits Cincinnati, Bridgeport, Conn., and Miami-Dade County. The plaintiffs are appealing those cases.

Despite the siege-like undercurrent, visitors remained enthusiastic about the show.

The back offices of sleek, two-story displays hummed with buying and selling, while row after row of dealers studied and fingered the latest technology. Along people-packed, carpeted aisles, videos featured the newest firearms, alongside rows of pistols, rifles, camouflage clothing, books, locks, covers, cases, safes, knives, birdcalls, backpacks, hunters' chairs and bowls of free hard candy, all cramped onto two convention center floors, each easily the size of a football field.

Dealers attending said they blamed the media for misinforming the public about their business. Dealers and gun manufacturers are law-abiding, not criminals, they said. Yet many said they feel the media have been unduly harsh since late 1998, when New Orleans became the first jurisdiction to file a lawsuit. Detroit and Wayne County are each seeking \$400 million in damages from several gun manufacturers and dealers.

Employees staffing the booths for Colt Manufacturing, a firearms maker based in Hartford, Conn., were barely responsive when asked to discuss safety technology. One employee said there was no one at the show representing the company who would discuss the issue.

There have certainly been other tough times for the gun industry the assassination era of the 1960s was one, said Jeff Reh, spokesman for Beretta U.S.A. But even that atmosphere did not spawn a rash of lawsuits, Reh said Monday.

"I don't think we've seen anything in the past that is quite as severe as this," Reh said.

Others were focused on the November general elections.

"If the Democrats get the presidency and the House and the Senate, we'll be in trouble," Dennis Mazet, owner of High Country Sporting Goods in Riverton, Wyo., said Monday.

"I don't think you're going to see very many dealers voting Democrat," he said.

Another theme that ran through the show was a movement to get the public thinking differently about the sport of shooting. Leadership of the NSSF repeatedly referred to criminals as "nontraditional gun owners" and touted a new television campaign to encourage more participation in shooting sports by promoting the time it gives families to share experiences outdoors.

Mary Lou Boyd, 57, who with husband Cliff Boyd owns Cliff's Rifle Shop in Traverse City, and others talk wistfully of the culture surrounding a sport that brings people closer with nature, allows them to spend time with their children and other family members and keep wildlife populations at a manageable size.

"These are good people in here," Mary Lou Boyd said.

"The problem is with the general public, not the people in here."

Another Michigander attending the show, Madeleine Rafferty of Coldwater, spoke of discovering the joy of hunting two years ago.

"Once I got outdoors, it was unbelievable, the feeling of being out there, the release of everyday stress," Rafferty said.

Industry members said they are not overly concerned by the lawsuits. One executive, Reh of Beretta, even suggested they might have a positive effect on sales.

Gun owners might increase their purchases as a sign of protest, Reh explained.

"This is an activist industry," he said.

END

Clinton Proposes New Measures to Crack Down on Illegal Gun

By Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar and Robert L. Jackson

Los Angeles Times

BOSTON Responding to critics who say that his administration has done too little to enforce gun-control laws already in place, President Clinton proposed \$280 million in new measures Tuesday to crack down on illegal firearms and to improve handgun safety.

On a visit to Boston's Roxbury section, an area notorious for drug-related violence that has seen a marked drop in its crime rate, Clinton called for 500 new agents and inspectors to police gun dealers across the nation, 1,100 more prosecutors at the federal and state level and development of new technology for so-called "smart guns" that can be fired only by their owners, not by children or thieves.

Speaking in a gymnasium packed with law enforcement officers, lawmakers and community leaders, Clinton soft-pedaled his embrace of a legislative position long espoused by congressional Republicans and the National Rifle Association that the nation needs better enforcement of existing gun laws rather than restrictive new ones.

"It's a stale debate," Clinton said, declaring that "the real answer is we should do both." He added that "the drop in the national crime rate has been due both to changing laws and to better enforcement and prevention."

Clinton's conservative foes seemed to welcome his new approach.

"I am pleased that President Clinton appears to be partially signing onto the Republican solution to reducing gun violence," said Sen. Orrin G. Hatch, R-Utah, chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

"The NRA for decades has called for vigorous prosecution of criminals who violate gun laws," NRA spokesman Jim Manown said. "We hope this proposal is serious and sincere."

At a hearing last May, House Republicans charged that one sign of the administration's failure to enforce gun laws was its poor record of prosecuting people who had tried to buy weapons but were rejected when crime data checks showed that they were ineligible as convicted felons.

GOP lawmakers said that there have been only a handful of prosecutions of more than 250,000 felons and others in this category and of more than 6,000 juveniles who were expelled from school for carrying firearms.

But Deputy Attorney General Eric H. Holder told the hearing that since 1993 the number of violent crimes involving a firearm has declined by 27 percent.

Furthering the debate, the Justice Department released statistics on Tuesday showing an increase in federal gun prosecutions in 1999 over 1998. Last fiscal year, federal prosecutors brought 5,500 firearms cases against 7,057 defendants compared with 4,391 cases against 5,876 defendants in 1998 a 25 percent increase in firearms cases, the department said.

Meanwhile, the Washington-based Coalition to Stop Gun Violence joined its conservative opponents in calling Clinton's proposals "a huge step in the right direction."

Desmond Riley, representing the coalition, said that the Treasury Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms "could do a better job of enforcement" and that the additional funding the president is requesting "will help a great deal."

Riley added, however, that "with 100,000 gun dealers in the nation there's really no way ATF can adequately regulate them" without additional laws.

In his speech, Clinton also called on Congress to approve his package of new gun-control bills that cleared the Senate by one vote last year but died in the House. That package included background checks for people buying weapons at gun shows, child safety locks for handguns, a ban on the importation of large capacity ammunition clips and a lifetime ban on gun ownership for violent youths.

A breakdown of the administration's \$280 million proposal:

Hiring 500 new ATF agents and inspectors, which would be the largest increase in staffing ever.

Hiring 1,100 additional federal, state and local prosecutors to work on gun-related crimes. Federal funds would pay for the local hires. The cost of this part of the package is estimated at \$50 million. It also would pay for 20 new gun enforcement teams in high crime areas around the country.

Funding to expand ATF's capacity to trace guns used in crime and "fingerprint" bullets recovered from crime scenes.

Providing an additional \$10 million for research into "smart gun" technologies, which can prevent a weapon from being accidentally fired.

Funding for anti-violence media campaigns by city and state governments.

Gun Talks Stall as Industry Shuns Clinton

By Myron Levin

Los Angeles Times

LAS VEGAS Talks aimed at settling the wave of anti-gun lawsuits by major cities have hit a snag because handgun manufacturers are refusing to admit Clinton administration officials to the negotiations.

The White House announcement last month that it would throw its weight behind the cities and join them at the bargaining table had been widely seen as boosting chances for a settlement. Cities and counties involved in the litigation had welcomed the increase in their leverage, and industry officials said White House participation might improve prospects for an agreement.

But a meeting scheduled here for Friday, which was to be the first negotiating session attended by administration officials, was called off early this week when industry negotiators, in a shift in strategy, told the cities they would not show up if the White House took part. The cities then balked at resuming talks on Friday by themselves.

"Those are the terms," an official for one city involved in the talks said of White House involvement. "They (the industry) may be pursuing a divide-and-conquer strategy," but "we believe we are stronger if unified."

"We've got a few manufacturers who are standing in the way of making progress," said Los Angeles City Attorney James Hahn, who filed one of the suits.

"It's unfortunate that a few hard-line voices in the industry are delaying this effort and playing politics," said Bruce Reed, President Clinton's domestic policy adviser.

The announcement of a White House alliance with the cities had been coupled with the threat by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to help public housing authorities plagued by gun violence to file another big lawsuit if settlement talks weren't productive.

It later emerged that few of the nation's 3,400 public housing authorities had agreed to join in. Other housing authorities since have questioned the need for the suit and voiced frustration at not being consulted in advance.

Many in the firearms industry have criticized the White House move as election-year politics, and the industry has responded in kind. Pinning their hopes on a Republican victory in November's presidential and congressional elections, industry officials do not want the Clinton administration to be able to take credit should a peace accord be reached.

The industry's strong embrace of the GOP had been clearly evident this week at the annual SHOT (Shooting, Hunting, Outdoor Trade) show, a giant trade fair in Las Vegas that has attracted 30,000 people, including makers and retailers of all manner of guns and ammo, accessories and apparel.

At a "state of the industry" briefing Monday night, Robert Delfay, executive director of the National Shooting Sports Foundation, which sponsors the show and has led gun manufacturers in settlement talks, blasted away at White House officials, vowing not to "allow the most anti-gun administration in history to bully our industry."

He called on all members of the firearms industry to support a new political action committee that he said will become heavily involved in the upcoming elections.

Swiss Gun Maker SIG Plans to Sell U.S. Unit

By PAUL M. BARRETT

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
LAS VEGAS — Another well-known firearms manufacturer said it hopes to leave the U.S. handgun market.

Switzerland's SIG Swiss Industrial Co. Holding Ltd. said at the industry's annual trade show here that as part of a larger restructuring, it will seek to sell its firearms businesses in Europe and the U.S.

Asked if the costs and risks related to pending municipal litigation against the gun industry in the U.S. played a role in the decision to exit from the American firearms market, SIG executive Dieter Strich said "a lot of factors" were considered. SIG's American unit has been named as a defendant in some of the municipal lawsuits.

Gun executives at the trade show said if the Swiss company can find a buyer, it would probably be another firearms company and the sale would add momentum to the consolidation of the U.S. handgun market. SIG, which says it has an 11% share of the U.S. commercial pistol market, declined to discuss potential buyers.

In a separate development, gun manufacturer H&R 1871 Inc. said it would cease to produce handguns because of the litigation-driven increases in the cost of product-liability insurance and shipping. H&R, Gardner, Mass., had made a relatively small number of handguns and is primarily known for shotguns and rifles.

The SIG and H&R announcements follow a move in the fall by Colt's Manufacturing Co., one of the oldest and best-known gun companies in the world, to sharply reduce its production of handguns and transform itself almost entirely into a maker of military small arms. The New York investor group, headed by Donald

Zilkha, that owns Colt's also is trying to finalize the acquisition of Heckler & Koch GmbH, a German manufacturer of military, law-enforcement and civilian weapons. If that deal comes through, the owners of Colt's say, they plan to reduce or phase out Heckler & Koch's sales of civilian pistols in the U.S.

In addition, over the last year, three small California makers of inexpensive handguns went out of business or sought bankruptcy-court protection, at least partly because of the financial pressure of lawsuits filed against the industry by 28 cities and counties. The suits seek to recover the public costs of gun violence but are being used as leverage to try to force the industry to add safety features to handguns and to exercise more self-regulation in distribution and marketing.

The trade show under way here offers a snapshot of an industry both fired up and under fire. Gun executives said 1999 produced excellent sales, although most of their companies are closely held and don't release results. Beyond the healthy overall economy and some buying based on fears of year-2000 computer havoc, handgun sales were driven by consumer concern that the lawsuits and legislative gun control might limit supplies in the future, industry executives said.

Robert Delfay, head of the industry's main trade group, the National Shooting Sports Foundation, said in his "state of the industry" speech Monday that despite strong sales, the industry faced "unprecedented" legal and political threats. In response, he announced it has formed its own political action committee to make contributions to candidates in this year's elections. Traditionally, that sort of political activity has been left to the National Rifle

Association, whose primary mission is representing gun owners.

The industry has agreed to meet here Friday for another round of preliminary settlement talks with representatives of some of the municipalities that have sued, as well as officials from the Clinton administration, which has threatened to sue on behalf of violence-ridden public-housing authorities. But in his speech, Mr. Delfay attacked the White House as "the most antigun administration in history," and some executives raised the possibility that the meeting would be canceled.

The SIG announcement that it would try to sell its American firearms unit is notable because the company attracted attention just last month, when it said that it would be the first manufacturer to market "personalized" handguns. These weapons include an electronic locking system designed to allow only authorized users to fire.

The municipalities have made development and marketing of personalized, or "smart," guns one of their demands to settle the suits. SIG said it will go ahead with "limited shipments" of its personalized pistols later this year.

Once again, Clinton's solution is more officers

By Kevin Johnson
USA TODAY 01/19/00

WASHINGTON — President Clinton has addressed every big problem confronting law enforcement during his two terms in roughly the same way: He has put more people in uniform. Since 1994, the administration has:

- Financed the hiring of 100,000 more local police officers nationwide.

- Provided funding for more than 400 new FBI agents to fight terrorism after the 1995 bombing in Oklahoma City.

- Added hundreds of officers to the ranks of the Border Patrol to cut the flow of illegal immigrants from Mexico.

Clinton applied the same strategy Tuesday to the national struggle for control of firearms when he proposed the largest firearms enforcement initiative in U.S. history: a \$280 million proposal to hire 500 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) officers and 1,100 federal and state prosecutors.

Here are some questions and answers on the proposal:

Q: Does this kind of strategy work?

A: Crime is down, there have been no terrorist incidents on

U.S. soil in the past five years, and vast portions of the Southwest border are no longer unguarded. Yet questions have been raised about the start-up time and long-term future of some of these programs.

Last year, the Justice Department's inspector general found that some local police departments had difficulty keeping officers hired under the 1994 federal plan. Last month's arrest of a suspected Algerian terrorist in Washington state also raised concern about the inadequate distribution of officers along the Canadian border.

ATF officials said Tuesday it is too early to tell how 500 new officers would be deployed, but the plan has won over a key ATF critic on Capitol Hill.

"It's about time," said Arlen Specter, R-Pa., a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee. "The first line of defense against guns is investigation and prosecution. The president is finally putting the money where it's needed."

Q: How radical is this plan?

A: Treasury officials, who oversee the ATF, say it essentially provides \$53 million for a hiring initiative that the ATF has been urging for months.

Before leaving office last

month, former ATF director John Magaw said his long-term hope was to increase the number of special agents from 1,800 to 2,400. Under Clinton's plan, the number of agents would increase by 300, while 200 inspectors (officers who monitor compliance among gun dealers) would be added to an existing force of 740. "This allows us to focus more intensely on violent crime and the people who would be trafficking in guns," Treasury Undersecretary James Johnson said.

Q: If approved by Congress as part of the federal budget process, how long would it take to implement the plan?

A: Oct. 1 is the earliest the money could be available. What's not known is how long it would take to recruit, train and hire the additional agents, inspectors and prosecutors.

Q: What opposition does the initiative face?

A: So far, one of the administration's harshest critics on gun policy, the National Rifle Association, is not ready to throw Clinton its full-fledged endorsement. "I'm tempted to declare victory," said Wayne LaPierre, the NRA's executive vice president. "But I'm not persuaded

their heart is really in (enforcement)."

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., hinted Tuesday that congressional approval might be possible. "Some additional funds for enforcement of gun laws is something Congress would look favorably at," he said, as long as the proposal's details pass scrutiny.

Q: What are the political implications of this plan?

A: Some gun-rights advocates say the election-year tim-

ing of Clinton's proposal is designed to disarm Republicans who have criticized the administration's enforcement of gun laws.

"Everything about this president is about getting a political advantage. Should this be any different?" said John Snyder, spokesman for the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

Contributing: Gary Fields, Wendy Koch and Laurence McQuillan.

WASHINGTON TIMES 01/19/00

Clinton force to fight gun crimes

Wants more agents, prosecutors; NRA applauds idea, claims credit

By Kevin Galvin
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON — President Clinton yesterday called for the hiring of 500 new federal agents to police gun laws and 1,000 more prosecutors to focus on gun-related crimes in a move the National Rifle Association said is "right out of the NRA playbook."

In a city that drove its homicide rate down by emphasizing community policing and aggressive enforcement of firearms laws, Mr. Clinton called for \$280 million worth of new steps to combat gun violence.

Speaking to a group of lawmakers and police officers at the Orchard Gardens Community Center in Boston's Roxbury section, an area notorious for drug-related violence, Mr. Clinton issued a warning: "If you commit crimes with guns or violate gun laws, you will pay a heavy price."

He also said he will seek to expand an existing gun-tracing program from 38 to 51 cities and ask for \$30 million to create a ballistics information network to track data of guns used in crimes.

The executive vice president of the National Rifle Association lauded the effort — and said it is one the organization has been pushing for some time.

"We have been begging this administration for three years to do something about the lack of enforcement of gun laws," Wayne LaPierre said. "All the existing laws are only as good as the prosecutors who enforce them."

Mr. LaPierre questioned whether Mr. Clinton's "heart is in this" and also warned that unless Congress earmarks the money for the program, problems will ensue.

But he said it is clear why the Clinton administration moved now.

"The heat got too hot. In an election year, they knew they had to do

something about the lack of prosecution," Mr. LaPierre said.

The new measures Clinton seeks — 500 new Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents and inspectors and creation of a program to track guns through ballistics testing — represents a shift in administration strategy.

After a spate of high-profile shooting attacks by troubled killers at high schools and community centers, Mr. Clinton pushed for tougher gun-control measures in Congress. Republicans on Capitol Hill, however, raked the administration for its poor prosecution record for criminals who break gun laws.

The new plans for the budget for fiscal 2001, which begins Oct. 1, represent an effort to invest more in enforcement of existing laws on the illegal use and possession of firearms, a priority for Republicans and groups such as the NRA.

"This administration is finally coming into line with the NRA view that the laws we have on the books must be enforced," said spokesman Jim Manown. "The Clinton administration has done a poor job of prosecuting criminals who violate the nation's tough gun laws."

"It looks like they've taken a page out of the NRA handbook," Mr. Manown said.

The president urged Congress to move beyond the debate between enforcement and preventive measures and to quickly pass "common sense" gun legislation instituting background checks at gun shows, mandating child safety locks and banning the import of large ammunition clips.

"I have always been convinced that we have to have the proper balance of punishment and prevention," Mr. Clinton said.

Boston's homicide rate dropped

to a 38-year low in 1999, thanks in part to a program that allied law enforcement, the clergy, community leaders and gang members against crime, as well as greater enforcement of gun laws.

The Boston Pilot Project is credited with the homicide toll dropping from 153 slayings in 1990 to 31 in 1999. A strong economy and declining use of crack cocaine also

contributed to improved neighborhood security.

City Mayor Thomas Menino, Reps. Joe Moakley, Barney Frank and Michael Capuano, and Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, all Massachusetts Democrats, and several religious and community leaders attended the address in an area where crime was down more than 65 percent last year. Attorney General Janet Reno also attended.

Pressured by Suits, Gun Makers Turn To Political Effort

A By MICHAEL JANOFFSKY

LAS VEGAS, Jan. 18 — Feeling pressure from a succession of lawsuits against gun makers, the trade organization that represents them is collecting millions of dollars from its members for legal defense and this week announced plans to support candidates and to lobby at all levels of government to fight greater gun restrictions.

Until recently, the National Shooting Sports Foundation, representing companies that make all manner of outdoor products as well as firearms, had steered clear of political entanglements over gun laws and elections, leaving the fight to the National Rifle Association, an organization of gun owners that has long taken the lead on such matters.

At the foundation's 22nd annual trade show here, Robert T. Delfay, the foundation president, said on Monday that his group would join the rifle association in opposing forces that favor more laws and regulations as a way to curb violent crime.

"Historically, we have not been politically active as an industry," Mr. Delfay said in a state-of-the-industry address on Monday night. "That must change and will change. This upcoming election will impact our industry, and we must have an impact on this election."

More than symbolic, Mr. Delfay's remarks reflected a major shift in strategy for the 39-year-old foundation, which represents more than 1,700 manufacturers and distributors of things like camouflage outfits, telescopic sites and the most elaborate of handguns and rifles.

To this point, the foundation has concerned itself almost exclusively with issues focusing on how its members do business, like regulations governing sales, marketing and distribution. By comparison, the major thrust of the rifle association has always been the rights of gun ownership, most recently supporting the enforcement of existing gun laws rather than the passage of new ones.

While the two organizations have many interests in common, they diverge on some issues, with the manufacturers backing help to the federal government in tracking guns and exploring new technologies like so-called smart guns.

And now, recent lawsuits filed by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and more than two dozen municipalities, the first major assault on gun makers, have forced the foundation to assert its own political agenda rather than to rely on the rifle group.

As part of an initiative, 1 members are contributing 1 percent of their gross sales to help the gun makers defend themselves in the lawsuits, which are trying to force the companies to make safer guns. The money has been coming in since the program was announced at last year's trade show, and in an interview, Mr. Delfay predicted that the donations could reach as much as \$10 million a year.

The recent threat of a federal lawsuit by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to force the companies into an omnibus settlement with the N.A.A.C.P. and municipalities has spurred further action by the industry group.

For the first time, Mr. Delfay said, the foundation has formed a political action committee to influence elections in November. He said efforts were under way to gather the names of customers from member companies to establish an initial list of 500,000 people who would be encouraged to support gun-friendly candidates for Congress and president, including any Republican who opposed Vice President Al Gore or the former Senator Bill Bradley.

In delivering the keynote address on Monday, former Senator Alan K. Simpson of Wyoming, an avid gun enthusiast, encouraged industry officials to get involved in the political process. He was especially critical of the housing department lawsuit and said: "You can do something about HUD. Get yourself a new president, and you get yourself a new HUD."

He slipped in words of support for two candidates, saying that nothing would be heard about gun control from George Bush and Senator John McCain, "so remember that when you waddle off to the polls."

It was an easy sell to gun makers in the audience, for whom the gun wars have become a growing concern since New Orleans became the first city to sue in October 1998.

Since then, 27 more jurisdictions have sued the gun makers, but some have combined efforts, leaving 19 actual lawsuits. Of the four that have come before judges, three — in Cincinnati, Miami and Bridgeport, Conn.

— have been dismissed. In a fourth, by Atlanta, the product liability claim was dismissed but a negligence claim was allowed to proceed. The other suits are still pending.

"My advice is stay the course," Douglas Kliever, the foundation's general counsel, told members, whose resources are far less than those of tobacco companies, which faced similar legal action from states. "Above all, do not panic in the face of this litigation."

From the rifle association's perspective, the new efforts by the shooting group to exert political pressure can only enhance the power and influence of gun-rights proponents in months ahead.

"Any time an organization with the potential of the firearms industry can participate in elections, it is a great assist to everybody who believes in less gun control and more crime control," said James Jay Baker, the association's chief lobbyist.

He conceded that the two groups might disagree on some objectives, but he said the lawsuits "have certainly activated, invigorated and expanded the industry to look at the political and legislative landscape."

Besides threatening their business operations, gun makers here said the lawsuits have also made them a growing target of public disdain. Many blamed organizations like Handgun Control Inc., a nonprofit organization that fights for tighter gun-control laws, for orchestrating a campaign against them and distort-

ing messages that stress gun safety and crime prevention.

"We're a security company for cities, states and homes," said Ed Shultz, president of Smith & Wesson, one of the country's largest gun makers. "But we've been demonized."

As the lawsuits have been filed in recent months, individual gun makers have taken some steps like telling distributors not to sell guns at gun shows, as Sturm, Ruger & Company did this year, or abandoning the retail gun business, as the Colt Manufacturing Company has done.

Still, Mr. Shultz and executives at other gun companies said business had never been better. They said their opponents' efforts to pass new laws and file lawsuits had rallied their customers to buy more guns to show support.

"It's fair to say people are apprehensive about the future of our industry," said Jeffrey K. Reh, general counsel to Beretta U.S.A. "Having said that, many times in the past when the firearms industry has come under attack, we have not only survived but flourished."

Just how and when an agreement might arise between the litigants is unclear. Many company executives here said they did not even know what a settlement might include. Mr. Delfay and other foundation officials have already held informal meetings with officials from the housing department and cities that are suing to discuss a possible resolution.

In time, some companies might grow more anxious to settle than others — at least that was the impression conveyed by Housing Secretary Andrew M. Cuomo, who has monitored the meetings.

"Keep in mind," Mr. Cuomo said in an interview from Iowa, "there is no one group. There is a spectrum. Some are more responsible than others. Some are more political than others. All we want is for them to design and distribute safer guns. Nobody wants to outlaw guns. That is not the question."

The New York Times

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2000

Orchard Park Housing Development Trend
in Part I and Part II Crime
Reporting Area 904
January 1995 through November 1999

<u>Crime Category</u>	<u>Jan.-Nov. 1995</u>	<u>Jan.-Nov. 1996</u>	<u>Jan.-Nov. 1997</u>	<u>Jan.-Nov. 1998</u>	<u>Jan.-Nov. 1999</u>	<u>% Chg. 95/99</u>	<u>% Chg. 98/99</u>
Violent Crime	40	40	47	22	16	-60%	-27%
Property Crime	34	40	32	20	8	-76%	-60%
Homicide	1	0	1	0	1	0%	100%
Rape	1	3	6	0	0	-100%	0%
Robbery	13	7	17	7	5	-62%	-29%
Aggravated Assault	25	30	23	15	10	-60%	-33%
Burglary	14	13	16	7	2	-86%	-71%
Larceny	17	12	10	9	4	-76%	-56%
Vehicle Theft	3	15	6	4	2	-33%	-50%
Total Part I	74	80	79	42	24	-68%	-43%
Other Assaults	45	33	33	14	15	-67%	7%
Vandalism	14	22	5	9	4	-71%	-56%
Weapons Violation	6	3	5	2	0	-100%	-100%
Prostitution	1	1	2	0	0	-100%	0%
Drugs	59	72	33	19	5	-92%	-74%
DWI	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Disorderly Conduct	4	4	3	0	1	-75%	100%
Other Part II	82	72	42	31	22	-73%	-29%
Total Part II	211	207	123	75	47	-78%	-37%
Grand Total	285	287	202	117	71	-75%	-39%

