

Potential Crime Announcements

April

Guns/ Procurement: (still TBD but possibly as soon as late next week) The President will issue a directive to members of his cabinet to develop a plan on federal firearms procurement that helps to encourage firearms industry reforms in the design, distribution and marketing of their products.

Guns/ Colorado. (April 12) The President will visit Denver to participate in a rally held by SAFE Colorado and Tom Mauser in support of a statewide referendum to close the gun show loophole. We may be able to release the Justice/Treasury Department Gun Violence Reduction Strategy that has been in the works for some time, that will highlight gun strategies developed in all 94 federal judicial districts (including one recently kicked off in Denver) as well as reinforce the need for stronger gun laws.

Justice Department Illegal Gun Trafficking Report (ready April 15). In late April, DOJ will release a new report entitled "Reducing Illegal Firearms Trafficking: Promising Practices and Lessons Learned." The report will discuss the importance of shutting down illegal firearms distribution channels to criminals, and will highlight three Administration programs that built partnerships with local law enforcement to crack down on illegal gun traffickers. The report may have some regional press interest since it contains information on plans located in about 8 jurisdictions, and may be best as a press leak or released with a Presidential statement.

Guns/ Domestic Violence: (Ready April 15-17) The President could highlight the link between domestic violence and guns by announcing that: (1) FY 2000 Justice funding for State criminal history records improvement is now available and will place a new priority on domestic violence restraining order records to help ensure that domestic abusers and stalkers are prevented from buying guns; and (2) his FY 2001 budget doubles funding for the program (the National Criminal History Improvement Program) to make Brady background checks faster and more effective. The event could be held at a community center with local police and advocates from the domestic violence community.

School Safety (second week in April). The President could announce \$65 million in Justice Department COPS grants that will help fund approximately 400 school resource officers across the country. He may also be able to announce a new round of Safe Schools-Healthy Students grants to add more communities to this Administration initiative. This should be a good lead-up youth violence prevention/school safety message prior to the Columbine anniversary.

5th Anniversary of the Oklahoma City Bombing (April 19). There is a commemoration of the bombing that will take place in Oklahoma City. It will also fall during National Victims Rights Week (checking on this). The President could tape a video for the commemoration event and discuss the federal funding that will be disbursed in FY 2000 out of the National Crime Victims' Fund that pays for victims' compensation and victims' services.

1999 Crime Statistics (April 22). The FBI will release the final 1999 Uniform Crime Report data which will contain city and regional information on violent and property crime. While we have not yet seen the report, we expect the final numbers to continue the decline in crime rates. Since we cannot adjust the release date of this information, we should put out an embargoed statement and work into any remarks for events the following week.

Smart Guns (Week of April 24th -- Specific Date TBA) The President could announce an estimated \$850,000 in FY 2000 grant funding to three gun manufacturers for the development of "smart gun" technology. This funding is available as part of a broader NIJ law enforcement technology research program. The event could be used to highlight the President's FY 2001 \$10 million request to create the first smart gun grant program and build on the successful research made possible by the current NIJ program. The event should hold media interest since the gun lobby has run radio ads criticizing the viability of smart guns and the President's \$10 million initiative.

Ending the Resale of Police Guns (Late April). The President could use his a radio address to highlight his FY 2001 Budget initiative to help law enforcement end the practice of selling used police firearms on the civilian markets. The grant provides funding to agencies on a one-time basis on the condition that they agree to end the practice. The President's announcement could be held in conjunction with the release of new statistics from the ATF on the number of used police guns that were sold on civilian markets and later used in crimes, and the release of statements made by national law enforcement organizations encouraging their members to end the practice as well.

Ballistics Testing (Week of April 24th -- Specific Date TBA). The President's FY 2001 budget includes over \$33 million in funding to create the first national ballistics network to link bullets and casings left at crime scenes to the gun of the criminals who fired them. The initiative includes funding to encourage gun manufacturers to test shoot every new handgun they produce and send a copy of the ballistic images to ATF to incorporate into the network. There was great media interest when Glock became the first to volunteer to participate last December. ATF and Glock will complete a feasibility study on the program in late April that will determine when and how many other manufacturers can participate. [NB: This is a tentative date, and the results of the feasibility study could significantly impact whether we would want to announce this at all.]

Drug Testing and Treatment for Offenders: (sometime in April). The President could release a new study prepared by the Bureau of Prisons which shows that drug testing and treatment for federal offenders helped to reduce future drug use and recidivism. He could highlight funding in his FY 2001 budget to help states and localities to expand drug testing and treatment for prisoners, parolees and probationers. The ONDCP would be very interested in this announcement.

Reentry of Offenders. (April-June) The President could use his radio address to highlight his Justice and Labor Department FY 2001 budget initiatives to assist in the reentry of offenders released from incarceration. There are a few Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) reports that are coming out that we could tie this to: (1) in mid-April, a report will be ready on the mid-year prison and jail inmate population. This report usually receives some attention and will reinforce

the need to respond to the growing number of persons who are incarcerated; (2) in June or July, a similar document with year-end 1999 data on the prison population will be ready; (3) in end of April/early May, a more comprehensive document on the 1997 correctional population will be released; and (4) in mid-late April, a drug use, testing and treatment in jail report will be ready for release. It may be possible to release #3 and #4 reports at the same time, but since these documents are prepared by the BJS, we have difficulty controlling the timing of their release.

May

Handgun Licensing (early May) . In May, the President could hold an event to announce the introduction of his licensing proposal while visiting a state with a successful licensing system for handgun purchasers that is comparable to his initiative. [Connecticut appears to have the most similar licensing system, but we are taking a second look into a few other states with laws that might be consistent as well.] The event would be held with the sponsors of the legislation: Rep. Carolyn McCarthy, Rep. Nita Lowey and Senator Chuck Schumer

Million Mom March (May 14th). On May 14th, an estimated 50,000-100,000 moms from across the nation will rally on the Mall in support of stronger gun safety laws. While elected officials are not expected to speak, the First Lady attend the some fashion. The President could hold a meeting at the White House the Friday before the event with some of the participating moms to discuss common sense gun legislation.

Peace Officers' Memorial (May 15). The President will attend the annual Peace Officers Memorial sponsored by the Fraternal Order of Police. The President could announce the availability of through the following week of Justice Department funds for bulletproof vests, and support for legislation to extend and double funding for this program (we are still working out support for legislation with OMB). The vest program has the strong support of the FOP. The President should also renew his call to reauthorize the COPS program.

June

ATF Illegal Gun Trafficking Report (June). The President could release ATF's first Illegal Gun Trafficking Report detailing their successful efforts to shut down illegal gun markets and providing comprehensive information on illegal trafficking cases for the first time. The report will include new case numbers and will detail the sources of crime guns including investigations of gun shows, gun dealers and straw purchasers.

Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (Mid-June TBA). The President could release ATF's annual Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative Report (YCGII) on the results of their comprehensive gun tracing programs in 38 cities. YCGII provides resources to localities to help law enforcement crack down on illegal gun traffickers that supply firearms to juveniles, criminals and other restricted persons. The President's FY 2001 budget includes funding to expand this successful program to 12 new cities. The report provides regional data on the success of the program in each of the participating cities.