

LEVEL 1 - 1 OF 7 DOCUMENTS

Public Papers of the Presidents

September 29, 1999

CITE: 35 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1856

LENGTH: 561 words

HEADLINE: Statement on Signing the Treasury and General Government
Appropriations Act, 2000

BODY:

I have signed into law today H.R. 2490, the "Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2000," which provides \$ 13.7 billion in discretionary budget authority for programs in the Department of the Treasury, the United States Postal Service, the General Services Administration, the Office of Personnel Management, the Executive Office of the President, and several smaller agencies. I commend the Congress for producing a bipartisan bill that allows us to continue the IRS reform effort and the national youth anti-drug media campaign and to fund important law enforcement efforts and other programs.

The bill provides \$ 12.4 billion for the Department of the Treasury, including \$ 132 million for violent crime reduction programs. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is funded at \$ 8.2 billion. I believe that these funds will strengthen the IRS's ability to provide timely and accurate data for American tax-payers. The bill also includes \$ 144 million for the Earned Income Tax Credit compliance initiative and \$ 250 million for Year 2000 conversion requirements for IRS computer systems. Law enforcement bureaus within the Department of the Treasury are funded at \$ 3.4 billion. I am pleased that the Congress has fully funded my request for the expansion of the **Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative**.

The bill provides \$ 185 million for the Office of National Drug Control Policy's (ONDCP) national youth anti-drug media campaign. This money will enable ONDCP's national media campaign to continue its effort to change youth attitudes about drug use and its consequences. The campaign is a model public-private partnership, exposing 90 percent of all 9- to 17-year-olds to antidrug messages at least four times a week.

I am pleased that the enrolled bill requires health plans participating in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program that provide prescription drug coverage to provide prescription contraceptive coverage as well. I am also pleased that the enrolled bill allows agencies to use appropriated funds to support day care centers at Federal facilities. This provision should improve the affordability of child care for lower-income Federal employees.

Several provisions in the Act purport to condition my authority or that of certain officers to use funds appropriated by the Act on the approval of congressional committees. My Administration will interpret such provisions to require notification only, since any other interpretation would contradict the Supreme Court's ruling in *INS v. Chadha*.



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Section 622 of the Treasury/General Government Appropriations Act prohibits the use of appropriations to pay the salary of any employee who interferes with certain communications between Federal employees and Members of Congress. I do not interpret this provision to detract from my constitutional authority and that of my appointed heads of departments to supervise and control the operations and communications of the executive branch, including the control of privileged and national security information.

I urge the Congress to complete action on the remaining FY 2000 appropriations bills as quickly as possible and send them to me in an acceptable form.

William J. Clinton
The White House, September 29, 1999.

NOTE: H.R. 2490, approved September 29, was assigned Public Law No. 106 -- 58.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: October 26, 1999



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LEVEL 1 - 2 OF 7 DOCUMENTS

Public Papers of the Presidents

March 20, 1999

CITE: 35 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 489

LENGTH: 725 words

HEADLINE: Memorandum on Deterring and Reducing Gun Crime

HIGHLIGHT:

Memorandum for the Secretary of the Treasury, the Attorney General

BODY:

Subject: Deterring and Reducing Gun Crime

Since the start of my Administration, we have developed and implemented a number of effective national strategies to reduce crime. We have provided funds to over 11,000 communities to hire and deploy more than 92,000 local law enforcement officers; we have prevented more than a quarter of a million illegal handgun sales through Brady background checks; and we have developed a coordinated attack on the illegal sources of guns used in crime. Dozens of other smart, tough, crime-fighting strategies have been put in place throughout the country through the leadership and dedicated efforts of State and local police and prosecutors, Mayors, U.S. Attorneys, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), and community leaders.

During this period, the Nation's crime rate has dropped by more than 20 percent, and crime committed with guns has dropped 27 percent. In certain communities, where Federal, State, and local law enforcement officials have worked with other community leaders, violent crime rates have gone down even more dramatically. In Boston, Massachusetts, for example, when law enforcement and community leaders worked together to reduce violence by youth gangs, they reduced the number of homicides among youth by 70 percent in just 2 years. In Minneapolis, Minnesota, effective law enforcement and prevention efforts conducted by public-private partnerships have reduced homicides by 30 percent and summertime homicides by 75 percent. And in Richmond, Virginia, effective and coordinated law enforcement, including stepped up enforcement of gun crimes through the program known as Project Exile, has reduced the homicide rate significantly.

Still, the number of people killed with firearms remains unacceptably high. More than 14,000 people were murdered with guns in the United States in 1997. We must redouble our efforts to deter and further reduce gun crime -- and work to make every neighborhood and community free of gun violence.

I therefore direct you to develop an integrated firearms violence reduction strategy that draws on the proven measures and innovative approaches being demonstrated by communities throughout the country. We know that gun violence issues differ in each community, and no single program or strategy will be right for every community. Therefore, in developing the strategy, you should consult closely with U.S. Attorneys and ATF Special Agents in Charge, as well as other



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Federal, State, and local law enforcement, elected officials, and other leaders. The strategy should consider the special needs of local communities and strike an appropriate balance between Federal and State law enforcement. I ask that the strategy specifically include elements to:

- (1) Increase investigation and prosecution of significant firearms violations, including illegal possession, use, and trafficking of guns, through innovative programs such as Project Exile and Boston's Operation Ceasefire;
- (2) Expand comprehensive "crime gun" tracing, analysis, and mapping; increase use of ballistics identification technology; and coordinate use of crime gun information to identify illegal gun markets, gun "hot spots," and illegal gun traffickers;
- (3) Strengthen the coordination of law enforcement and regulatory enforcement efforts to ensure compliance with all applicable laws by federally licensed gun dealers and prospective gun purchasers;
- (4) Implement targeted deterrence of violent offenders through (a) improved coordination with probation and parole officials supervising such offenders, and (b) swift and certain punishment for those found to have violated the conditions of their parole or probation; and
- (5) Promote problem-solving analysis and innovative strategies to work closely with community members to identify gun criminals, remove weapons in the hands of juveniles, search for and seize crime guns, and increase the public's knowledge of their community's gun-related crime and violence problem.

Finally, I direct you to make recommendations on how best to allocate Federal resources to support the goals of the strategy you develop. I further direct you to provide me with your report on this integrated firearms violence reduction strategy within 90 days of the date of this memorandum.

William J. Clinton

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 28, 1999



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LEVEL 1 - 3 OF 7 DOCUMENTS

Public Papers of the Presidents

February 6, 1999

CITE: 35 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 212

LENGTH: 765 words

HEADLINE: The President's Radio Address

BODY:

Good morning. Six years ago I determined Washington had to get off the sidelines and join the frontlines in the fight against crime. I committed my administration to recovering our streets from violence, to reclaiming our neighborhoods as safe havens for families. Since then we've pursued a new strategy of law enforcement based not on tough talk but on tougher penalties, better prevention, and the substantial, visible presence of community police.

This strategy is showing remarkable results. Since 1993, crime rates in America have fallen to the lowest point in a quarter century. Property crime is down. Violent crime has dropped 20 percent in the last 6 years. The murder rate is the lowest in 30 years. Americans can take pride in streets that are safer, but mostly they can take comfort in lives that are more secure.

There are many reasons that crime is in a sharp decline. Chief among them is our growing ability to keep guns out of the hands of criminals. Gun-related crime is on the wane, and it's no wonder. According to a recent report by the Justice Department, the background checks we required in the Brady law have put a stop to nearly a quarter-million handgun purchases. Thanks to Brady, we turn away more than 200 felons a day, sending them home empty handed instead of well-armed. And now that the instacheck system is in effect, we can conduct these checks in even less time. Retail gun stores, sporting goods stores, licensed gun dealers: They're all working to keep guns out of the hands of felons and fugitives.

But there's a loophole in the law, and criminals know how to exploit it. They go to gun shows. Last year there were more than 4,400 gun shows all across America. I come from a State where these shows are very popular. I have visited and enjoyed them over the years. I know they're the first place where many parents teach their children how to handle firearms safely.

But at the same time, at too many gun shows, criminals are buying guns with no questions asked. That's because the law permits some sellers -- one-quarter to one-half of the vendors at a typical gun show -- to skip the background checks required by Brady. That is a significant loophole. It's wide enough that criminals reach right through it, grabbing, collectively, thousands of firearms that disappear without a trace.

Last fall I asked the Secretary of the Treasury and the Attorney General to report on the problem and to come up with solutions. I now have their report. It is sensible and sobering. It shows conclusively that gun shows are a forum for gun traffickers, a cash-and-carry convenience store for weapons used to main



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and kill.

We must close this loophole. America cannot allow its gun shows to become illegal arms bazaars, where lawbreakers shop side-by-side with the law-abiding. That's why I strongly support the recommendations of Secretary Rubin and Attorney General Reno. We should extend Brady checks and **gun-tracing** records to any and all open markets where large numbers of firearms are sold. And we should vigorously and fairly enforce the rules. The gun lobby may not want to hear this, but clearly it's the right thing to do.

No background check, no gun. No exceptions.

To toughen enforcement of the existing law, my balanced budget includes new funds to hire more than 100 agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. These agents will help arrest violent criminals and gun traffickers, and will shut down illegal purchases of firearms. My budget also increases funding for firearms prosecutions and expands our successful efforts to keep guns out of the hands of violent youth.

In these efforts, I am thankful for the leadership of Senator Lautenberg, and Congressman Blagojevich, who will introduce legislation to make this gun show policy the law of the land. I'm joined today by Senator Lautenberg, along with Senator Dick Durbin from Illinois, and Congresswomen Julia Carson from Indiana, as well as Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder. I thank them all for their support.

I'm looking forward to working with members of both parties in the coming months, so that together we can strengthen the laws that serve us so well, and in doing so, build a stronger America for the 21st century.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 5:05 p.m. on February 5 in the Oval Office at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on February 6. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 5 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 21, 1999



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LEVEL 1 - 4 OF 7 DOCUMENTS

Public Papers of the Presidents

July 19, 1997

CITE: 33 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1107

LENGTH: 940 words

HEADLINE: The President's Radio Address

BODY:

Good morning. Today I want to talk about the important progress we're making in our efforts to get guns out of the hands of violent juveniles.

Our administration has put in place a tough, smart anticrime strategy, relying on more community police, stricter punishment, and better afterschool prevention efforts. This strategy is working. For 5 years in a row, we've seen serious crime drop nationwide. Last year, we saw the largest one-year decline in violent crime and murder in 35 years. Our most recent figures even show a slight decline in juvenile crime. But we all know that juvenile crime and violence are still significant problems in our country. We know that children are still killing children for shoes, for jackets, for turf. We know that too many of our young people are drawn to guns and violence as a way of life.

One fact stands out and demands our attention. Over the past decades, the number of gun murders by juveniles has skyrocketed by 300 percent. This is simply unacceptable. We know we must break this deadly trend. Some of our cities are beginning to do it. In Boston, thanks to a comprehensive effort by prosecutors, police, probation officers, community leaders, and ordinary citizens, not a single juvenile murder has been committed with a gun in 2 full years. Boston police commissioner Paul Evans should be commended for his leadership role in this outstanding effort, and I'm very glad that he's joined me here today.

A year ago, I looked at Boston's approach, and it was clear that **tracing guns** seized from young criminals was a key to the city's success. So I directed the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to launch a national initiative in 17 cities to replicate Boston's effort and trace all the guns used in crimes. A year later, the first results are in. Police departments in these 17 cities submitted for tracing nearly twice as many guns used in crimes as they did the year before. We found that almost half of all guns used in crimes came from young people. More importantly, for the first time, we know where the juveniles are getting these guns, how they are getting them, and what kinds of guns they are using.

One crucial fact is now clear, that guns are finding their way quickly from legitimate retail stores to black markets through a network of gun traffickers and corrupt gun dealers. Make no mistake: Gun traffickers are funneling guns to lawless youth. We know how they operate, and we intend to shut them down.

In Milwaukee, thanks to our youth **gun-tracing** initiative, police officers were able to find a pattern. Several guns used in driveby shootings and armed



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robberies had originally been purchased by one man, a security guard named Larry Shikes. Police investigators quickly discovered that Shikes was selling brand new semiautomatic weapons from the trunk of his car. Police swept in and arrested him in April. He pled guilty to trafficking charges, and he will be sentenced next month.

Our youth **gun-tracing** initiative has been so effective that I'm pleased to announce we will expand our efforts to 10 more cities, including Philadelphia and Los Angeles. I want to thank the ATF and all the people who have worked on this initiative, especially Under Secretary of Treasury Ray Kelly, who is also with me today. We will work with Congress to hire more ATF agents to work with local police officers and prosecutors to pursue traffickers based on the leads we're generating now every day.

We also have a chance to build on our progress by passing a smart, tough juvenile justice bill that cracks down on guns and gangs. We need to provide for more prosecutors, tougher penalties, and better after-school gang prevention programs. We should require that every new gun sold in America has a child safety lock. And we should prohibit violent teenagers from buying guns once they become adults.

Last week, I was disappointed that a Senate committee considering a juvenile crime bill voted against requiring Federal firearms dealers to provide child safety locks. I urge the full Senate to reconsider this action.

A juvenile crime bill must be comprehensive. Of course, it must get tough on violent juvenile offenders, but it also must cut off their access to guns. That's one big reason why Boston's program works. To keep guns away from crime-committing youth, we must also continue to perform background checks on gun-buying adults. The Brady law has already stopped more than 250,000 fugitives, felons, and stalkers from buying handguns. The Supreme Court recently struck down a portion of the Brady law that requires local officials to perform these checks. But in a meeting this week with law enforcement officials from around the country, Attorney General Reno and Treasury Secretary Rubin confirmed that the overwhelming majority of police departments are continuing to do the responsible thing, to perform these background checks voluntarily because they work.

Now that we're making every effort to keep criminals from getting guns through the front door of a gun shop, we're turning our attention to locking the back door, too. We have started to crack the code of the black market in illegal weapons. We are **tracing the guns**, targeting the traffickers, taking more of our children out of harm's way. Cities like Boston have shown us great results. And if we'll all work together, there is no reason why every community in America can't expect and achieve the same success.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:48 p.m. on July 18 in the Roosevelt Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on July 19.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: August 22, 1997



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The Washington Post, July 09, 1996

Pressed at news briefings to explain how Clinton's announcement was different from the earlier one, administration officials initially did not offer a direct answer.

Later, they said that the signed agreements with the 17 cities, as well as \$ 2 million in additional enforcement money, would help make the campaign ATF has underway more effective. "You can decide for yourself whether it's news," said White House press secretary Michael McCurry.

The campaign of presumptive Republican presidential nominee Robert J. Dole responded with sarcasm. "Maybe it was too far away from Election Day, Nov. 5, 1996, for Bill Clinton to focus on juvenile predators and guns, but the fact is this 'new' program was first announced by the ATF way back on Nov. 5, 1993," Dole campaign spokesman Nelson Warfield said in a statement. "Leave it to Bill Clinton to wait until four months before the election to embrace the idea."

Warfield said Dole thinks better gun tracing is a good idea, but that other measures, such as a national computer system to do criminal background checks on would-be gun purchasers, are needed.

Baltimore and Richmond are also among the 17 cities participating in the latest program, which administration officials said they hope will set an example for other cities around the nation.

ATF has been involved before in efforts to combat the District's crime problem. Last summer, the agency joined forces with Police Chief Larry D. Soulsby and U.S. Attorney Eric H. Holder Jr. to implement Operation Cease Fire, a program aimed at reducing the number of guns and related violence on District streets.

Soulsby dedicated 60 officers to the project. The ATF made it a routine practice to trace all weapons captured in the District. And the U.S. attorney's office stopped offering plea bargains, as a matter of course, to persons illegally carrying a gun.

Their efforts have resulted in 1,700 arrests for illegal possession of a firearm, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel Zachem.

GRAPHIC: Photo, rich lipski, President Clinton hands his pen to Joseph Chery of Boston after signing a crime-fighting directive in the White House East Room. Gunfire killed Chery's stepson.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 09, 1996



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LEVEL 1 - 5 OF 7 DOCUMENTS

Public Papers of the Presidents

July 12, 1996

CITE: 32 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1239

LENGTH: 480 words

HEADLINE: Checklist of White House Press Releases

HIGHLIGHT:

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of other White House Announcements.

BODY:

Released July 6

Transcript of a press briefing by OMB Director of Communications Larry Haas, Agriculture Secretary Daniel Glickman, and OMB Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs Sally Katzen on the meat and poultry inspection system

Released July 8

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Transcript of remarks by Vice President Albert Gore and Joseph Cheon the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms youth crime gun interdiction initiative

Transcript of a press briefing by Treasury Under Secretary Raymond Kelly on the youth crime gun interdiction initiative

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on the President's meeting with President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland

Released July 9

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Transcript of a press briefing by Secretary of Commerce Mickey Kantor on the Presidential economic and business development mission to Croatia and Bosnia

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on the appointment of Steven K. Pifer as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Russia, Ukraine, and Eurasian Affairs at the National Security Council

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on the appointment of Anthony J. Blinken as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Strategic Planning at the National Security Council



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Fact sheet on training and equipping the Bosnian Federation

Released July 10

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on the massacre of 80 civilians by Hutu rebels in Burundi

Released July 11

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Transcript of a press briefing by National Economic Adviser Laura D'Andrea Tyson and Deputy Assistant to the President for Economic Policy Gene Sperling on the President's school reconstruction initiative

Transcript of a press briefing by NSC Senior Director for Nonproliferation Dan Poneman on the agreement between North Korea and the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on interference by the regime of General Bare in the Nigerian elections

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on progress in implementation of the U.S.-North Korea Agreed Framework

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry announcing the President's letter to the women of Srebrenica on the anniversary of the fall of Srebrenica

Released July 12

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry announcing the commemoration of the second anniversary of the sinking of the "Thirteenth of March" vessel off the Cuban coast.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: August 27, 1996



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LEVEL 1 - 6 OF 7 DOCUMENTS

Public Papers of the Presidents

July 8, 1996

CITE: 32 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1204

LENGTH: 1085 words

HEADLINE: Remarks on the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative

BODY:

Thank you very much. Joseph and Tina Chery, your son must have been a remarkable young man to inspire such devotion and vision, and we thank you. We thank you for your work, and we thank you for your courage and heart in being here today. And we thank you, too, ma'am. Thank you very much.

Mr. Vice President, Secretary Rubin, Attorney General Reno, Under Secretary Kelly, thank you all for your good work. Senator Robb, thank you for being here today, sir, and for your leadership.

I thank the police chiefs, the prosecutors, the public officials from all across America who are here today, who know better than anyone that we will never be able to protect our children from violence or take our streets back for them and away from guns and drugs and gangs unless we all work together, as Mr. Chery said.

In the State of the Union Address I challenged our Nation to focus on this issue of youth violence. It is a supreme irony that we are living in an age of greater possibility for young people to live out their dreams than at any point in our history, but we are moving into the 21st century with youth violence on the rise, with too many of our children killing children, and too many others raising themselves on the street, and too many others simply vulnerable because they're going about their lives and they happen to be in the wrong place at the wrong time because we permitted those wrong places to develop and we permit them to continue to exist.

I'll never forget the young man I met in Long Beach, California, who was in a junior high school. He told me that his school had developed a school uniform policy because of the gangs in his neighborhood. And they figured if the all wore green clothes to school every day nobody would shoot them. And he said it was the first time in 3 years he'd gotten to walk to and from school without having to look over his shoulder.

There is no future for these young people unless we move to take it back for them. As the Vice President said, we have worked very hard with many of you and others to place a comprehensive strategy to take back our streets from guns and gangs and violence and drugs. Many of you have been a part of it; we thank you for that. And the strategy is beginning to work. We believe this will be the 4th year in a row when the crime rate will go down.

But we all know there is still way too much crime in America, and we know that while crime is going down in the country as a whole, youth violence is



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going up. While drug use has been going down and cocaine use has dropped dramatically, casual drug use by young people is going up. So we have to do more to focus our strategy on youth violence.

That's why we strengthened the safe and drug-free school law, why we instituted a policy of zero tolerance for guns in schools, why we're now encouraging communities more strongly than ever to enforce their truancy laws and to take steps ranging from school uniforms to community curfews.

The drug strategy announced this spring by General McCaffrey focuses on young people. We are mounting a nationwide crackdown on gangs. And this spring I sent to the Congress legislation to make it easier to prosecute gangs. This January, in the State of the Union Address I said that if a teenager commits a crime as an adult, he should be prosecuted as an adult, and that is a proposition that is gaining wider and wider agreement.

But as we take on this problem of youth violence, if we're serious about it we cannot avoid dealing with one of its most terrifying elements, teens with guns. This is an amazing fact; listen to this. The number of teenagers committing crimes without guns is the same today as it was in the 1970's, two decades ago. Let me say that again. The number of teenagers in the United States today committing crimes without guns is the same today as it was 20 years ago. The number of homicides by teens who have guns has tripled.

Today, if a gang member is caught committing a crime with a smoking gun in his hand, often as not, the gun is simply put in a police locker with little further investigation. Yet we know that gangs often buy in bulk from a single, shadowy supplier, a criminal network that channels an arsenal of weapons to young criminals or would-be criminals.

We need a national campaign to cut off the flow of guns to teens who commit crimes. Today I am directing the Department of the Treasury and the Department of Justice to work with local law enforcement in a new nationwide initiative.

In the 17 cities already mentioned, we will, for the first time, see that every time a gun is used in a crime and seized by law enforcement, it will be tracked through a national tracing system to find out where it came from. We will use that information to target those criminal gunrunning networks that are peddling guns to our teenagers.

Local and national prosecutors have agreed to work together to break up these criminal gangs. And the new data from these 17 cities will give us a much better idea of how the black market in guns actually operates and how to break it. Police on the beat, prosecutors in the courtroom, Federal investigators in the crime lab, they'll all work together in a genuine national team to take on the gunrunners.

Those who illegally peddle guns to our children will get a simple message: We will find you, we will prosecute you, and we will punish you. We owe that much to fine families like the Cherys, to the children they lost and the children they still have to give to this world and to our future.

We have to give the future back to all of our children. We cannot permit the United States to go into the 21st century the richest, the most powerful country in the world, with more opportunities available to more young people to live out



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their dreams than ever before, and keep allowing our young people to die before their dreams ever have a chance to take shape.

I thank the law enforcement personnel who are here and those who stand with you all across America. I thank the members of the administration who have worked on this. Most important, I thank the Cherys and all the families who have known the most unimaginable loss any human beings can know, for having the courage to stand with us and demand that we do better.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:45 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Joseph and Tina Chery, whose son was killed in gang crossfire in 1993.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: August 27, 1996



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LEVEL 1 - 7 OF 7 DOCUMENTS

Public Papers of the Presidents

July 8, 1996

CITE: 32 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1205

LENGTH: 466 words

HEADLINE: Memorandum on the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative

HIGHLIGHT:

Memorandum for the Secretary of the Treasury, the Attorney General

BODY:

Subject: Implementation of the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative

Firearms violence is a scourge on our society. Homicides committed by young people with firearms have nearly tripled since 1985, and other types of gun-related violence have been on the rise. Too many guns are in the hands of our Nation's children.

Through the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act and the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, we have reduced criminals' access to firearms, including military-style assault weapons. We are using the Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994 to take guns out of schools, making schools a safer learning environment for our children.

In addition, working in cooperation with State and local law enforcement in unprecedented fashion, Federal investigators and prosecutors have successfully disrupted numerous illicit gun markets across the country over the last 3 years. We need to strengthen our efforts to damp down on these illegal markets, especially those that provide crime guns to children.

The Department of the Treasury's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) has developed a pilot program that will trace all guns used in crime that are seized by Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers, and work with that trace information to help identify illegal gun traffickers. The project utilizes an innovative computer software system that examines crime gun trace information and provides law enforcement officers with crucial investigative leads about the sources of these guns. By analyzing patterns of gun trafficking that exist in an area, we are developing more effective, law enforcement strategies to target illegal gun traffickers for prosecution, particularly those who put guns into the hands of our Nation's young people.

★ I am directing you to implement this project in 17 pilot cities: Atlanta, Georgia; Boston, Massachusetts; Baltimore, Maryland; Birmingham, Alabama; Bridgeport, Connecticut; Cleveland, Ohio; Inglewood, California; Jersey City, New Jersey; Memphis, Tennessee; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; New York, New York; Richmond, Virginia; Salinas, California; Seattle, Washington; San Antonio, Texas; St. Louis, Missouri; and Washington, D.C.

In addition, you should work with local, State, and Federal law enforcement



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in each of these cities to ensure that all crime guns seized in their cities are traced and to develop joint investigative and prosecutorial strategies to combat the problem of illegal gun trafficking. Your efforts should build upon existing partnership programs with State and local law enforcement officers, such as the Anti-Violent Crime Initiative.

You should jointly report to me in writing by August 8, 1997, on the first-year accomplishments of this project.

William J. Clinton

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: August 27, 1996



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LEVEL 2 - 23 OF 27 STORIES

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November 6, 1993, Saturday, Final Edition

SECTION: FIRST SECTION; PAGE A3

LENGTH: 421 words

HEADLINE: ATF Pledges to Trace Guns Taken From Youths;
Project Will Try to Chart Flow of Firearms

SERIES: Occasional

BYLINE: Pierre Thomas, Washington Post Staff Writer

BODY:

Concerned about the rising tide of juvenile gun violence, federal firearms agents yesterday announced a new project to trace all weapons recovered from youths.

The goal is to find out how juveniles are obtaining firearms by tracing the guns back to their original owners.

"Everyday we hear our children are being killed or wounded by other children in our schools and in their neighborhoods," said John W. Magaw, acting director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms in a news conference. "This violence is a problem tearing at the very core of our society. We should not have to face a future permeated with lawless youths who become hard-core, violent adults offenders."

In 1992, 2,829 juveniles were arrested for murder in the United States -- 2 1/2 times the number recorded in 1984, ATF officials said. Most of the murder charges involved firearms.

ATF's efforts reflect the federal government's growing focus on violent crime, particularly offenses committed with firearms and those involving youths.

18-21 gun ban [Last month, President Clinton endorsed pending federal legislation to ban juveniles from purchasing or possessing handguns under most circumstances. The measure would make it a federal crime to sell or give a handgun to anyone under age 18.

Magaw said that the bureau wants to find out how many guns obtained by juveniles are stolen, traded for drugs or property or are provided by drug dealers.

"Once we can identify where these guns came from, perhaps we can stop the flow," Magaw said, noting that federal law enforcement has not traditionally



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The Washington Post, November 6, 1993

focused on juveniles. "We're going to change that."

Tracing guns recovered in violent crimes committed by juveniles and those recovered in school zones "will be the highest priority" for the bureau's National Tracing Center, Magaw said.

ATF now traces firearms if requested to do so by a law enforcement agency. The traces are done on the serial number found on the weapon.

Bureau officials then track the firearm from the manufacturer to the firearms dealer and eventually the last person that bought the weapon. The tracing can involve making telephone calls or reviewing microfiche or paper records for dealers that have gone out of business.

In fiscal 1992, ATF conducted more than 53,000 traces, which can take from a day to weeks, depending on the priority and cooperation of dealers.

ATF's action comes as Congress considers a handgun waiting period. Clinton also backs the so-called Brady bill and has endorsed a ban on assault weapons.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: November 5, 1993



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to pay for it. Aides said the scope and cost of Clinton's plan was scaled back as it went through the policy process. And some questions, such as whether the tax credit should be paid to the college or to the individual student, are unanswered.

White House press secretary Michael McCurry said Clinton agrees that the tax credit proposal is in part political, but that it is appropriate for a president to offer new policies in an election year to highlight what he would do in a second term.

But Christina Martin, a spokeswoman for Dole, said Clinton is using the powers of incumbency on several fronts to unfair advantage. "Whether it's travel, events staging, 'war rooms' in the White House, or taxpayer funded policy experts being used for Bill Clinton's political gain, it is abusive and wrong," Martin said.

Mary Matalin, a veteran of Bush's campaign, said if Clinton thought the tax credit or other proposals were good ideas, he should have pushed them when Democrats had control of Congress two years ago.

But Martha Joynt Kumar, a Towson State University political scientist, said Clinton is shrewdly using the agenda-setting powers of the presidency. By announcing even a modest proposal, "He can immediately get on the news," and that public exposure gives him a chance "to define himself."

Staff writers Bill McAllister and Rick Weiss contributed to this report.

GRAPHIC: Photo, ap/ruth fremson, President Clinton, with daughter Chelsea, left, and wife Hillary, leaves for Camp David. Clinton uses agenda-setting power to "define himself."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 14, 1996

LEVEL 2 - 8 OF 27 STORIES

Copyright 1996 The Washington Post
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July 09, 1996, Tuesday, Final Edition

SECTION: A SECTION; Pg. A04

LENGTH: 652 words

HEADLINE: **Clinton** Announces Push To Track Youths' Guns; New Campaign Reminiscent of 1993 ATF Program

BYLINE: John F. Harris; Robert Pierre, **Washington Post** Staff Writers

BODY:

President **Clinton** announced a new federal push yesterday to track down the source of guns used by juvenile crime suspects. But the initiative had an unintended consequence, highlighting how a campaign launched more than two years ago to combat the same problem has not worked as well as the administration hoped.

Law enforcement officials in 17 cities around the nation, including the District of Columbia, have signed agreements with the federal government to report to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms whenever they seize a gun from a juvenile during a crime. ATF will then use its computer system to track down the source of the weapon.

Nearly three years ago, the ATF said it was starting a vigorous new effort to track down the source of juvenile firearms. While that initiative has produced some results, officials said, it has been hampered by the fact that local law enforcers often don't bother to report to ATF when they seize a gun.

The voluntary reporting "was, quite frankly, spotty," said Treasury Undersecretary Raymond W. Kelly, who oversees ATF. Under the new arrangement announced by **Clinton** yesterday, local chiefs of police and prosecutors have signed memorandums of understanding pledging to report weapons taken from youths to ATF authorities.

Clinton's announcement came with a flourish in an East Room appearance, in which he was joined by law enforcers and the parents of a 15-year-old Boston boy killed in 1993 by a stray bullet. It was intended to advertise the administration's get-tough stance on youth crime, not the shortcomings of its previous efforts.

Some White House officials promoting the event as a major new initiative in the fight against youth violence confessed they were unaware that, in a highly publicized statement in November 1993, ATF had launched a campaign to encourage better tracking of how guns get into youths' hands.



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LEVEL 2 - 6 OF 27 STORIES

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July 14, 1996, Sunday, Final Edition

SECTION: A SECTION; Pg. A01

LENGTH: 1612 words

HEADLINE: Clinton Merges Policy and Politics; In Bid for Reelection, Message Is the Initiative

BYLINE: John F. Harris, Washington Post Staff Writer

BODY:

At Dole for President headquarters on Capitol Hill, nine people help study and draft policies for the candidate. Across town at the White House, President Clinton has a decided advantage -- a campaign issues staff of 1.9 million.

It's not literally true, of course, that every civilian in the federal government has been enlisted in Clinton's reelection. But over the past several months, the White House has arranged a barely hidden marriage between the executive branch and the presidential campaign, aggressively using the first to advance the second, blurring the divide between politics and policy.

Cabinet departments and agencies have worked with the White House to churn out policy proposals, issues statements and presidential orders -- a blizzard of rhetoric, and some occasional substance, designed to help Clinton's message reach voters.

Clinton is not the first president to discover that the bureaucracy can be used to great advantage by a president seeking reelection. But campaign and government veterans say this White House has been unusually bold in orchestrating the work of agencies around the president's political needs.

At the behest of the White House and Clinton's campaign advisers, for instance, Education and Treasury department officials recently pulled all-nighters to crank out a \$ 1,500 tuition tax-credit proposal that Clinton is making a centerpiece of his campaign.

Alerted that the Department of Veterans Affairs wanted to expand benefits to people exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam, the White House quickly approved the proposal and Clinton scheduled a speech to announce the move. The real-world impact of these initiatives -- a sample of more than a dozen examples so far this year -- varies widely.

Six weeks after Clinton unveiled the education tax-credit proposal, for instance, the administration has yet to send a bill to Capitol Hill to implement the idea, and aides say they have yet to make some basic decisions about how the



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The Washington Post, July 14, 1996

tax credit would work. Even so, Clinton weaves mentions of the plan into almost every campaign speech.

The Agent Orange decision, by contrast, quickly disappeared from view after a round of headlines the day it was announced. The administration offered no precise cost estimates. But medical experts say the decision to compensate every Vietnam veteran who gets prostate cancer could eventually cost the federal government far more than \$ 1 billion, although the big bills won't come due until many years from now as veterans grow older.

The VA made its decision despite a lack of scientific evidence showing anything more than a possible link between Agent Orange exposure and prostate cancer, which more than 10 percent of all males will get regardless of whether they served in Vietnam.

The presidential campaign of former Senate majority leader Robert J. Dole accuses Clinton of politicizing the government and campaigning at taxpayer expense. But White House aides are unapologetic about their determination to merge government policy and campaign message, and claim they are practicing sensible incumbency politics.

Poor coordination between the White House and the reelection campaign contributed significantly to President George Bush's defeat in 1992 by making him vulnerable to the charge that he had no message or philosophy, Clinton aides contend. They are eager not to let Dole benefit the same way they did.

"We are determined to speak with one voice and not have a disconnect," said White House senior adviser George Stephanopoulos.

New examples keep springing forth, sometimes two or three a week.

This spring, with campaign polling showing that people want to get tough on wayward youths, the White House ordered the Justice Department to develop guidelines to be mailed to localities to encourage them to impose night curfews. The Education Department put together a similar manual on how schools can stop truancy.

Last month, the Health and Human Services Department came up with new rules requiring women to provide more information about who fathered their children before receiving welfare benefits. The move, White House officials said, would help show Clinton as a tough-minded innovator, and help blunt the GOP charge that by vetoing two Republican bills Clinton had reneged on his 1992 promise to "end welfare as we know it."

In March, Clinton announced that Housing and Urban Development Department aid to local housing authorities would be weighted in favor of projects that evict tenants accused of a single crime, even if the tenants have yet to be convicted. HUD and Justice Department officials helped draft the initiative, which a spokesman for the American Civil Liberties Union called "political grandstanding at the expense of the poor."

The next day, Clinton announced that the Food and Drug Administration was streamlining rules to bring anti-cancer drugs to market. Clinton said it was an example of how the administration's "reinventing government" campaign was



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helping individuals. But it also responded to Republican complaints that the FDA is too slow and bureaucratic.

In April, Clinton answered consumer fears that gasoline prices were rising too high by ordering the Energy Department to sell some of the strategic petroleum reserve. The next day, he answered ranchers' fears that beef prices were falling too low by enlisting the Agriculture Department to speed up school lunch program purchases.

Sometimes, the effort to put Clinton forward with a campaign message of the day involves initiatives that amount to little. Last week's announcement of a program to track guns used in crimes by juveniles was largely a presidential restatement of something the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms announced more than two years ago.

But sometimes Clinton's pronouncements involve important policy. The Agriculture Department had been working for years on a compromise plan for more rigorous meat inspections. The final announcement was hastened by several days last week, administration officials said, in time for Clinton's weekly radio address, dominating the Sunday papers a week ago.

The relationship between the executive branch and Clinton's political advisers works in both directions. Sometimes the campaign takes advantage of an idea the bureaucracy had been working on. Other times, the political team orders the bureaucracy to work on a proposal that Clinton campaign consultant Dick Morris or some other adviser believes will prove popular.

In the Agent Orange decision last May, Clinton seized upon a policy decision that as a practical matter had already been made. Congress in 1991 passed legislation requiring the government to give the benefit of the doubt to veterans in cases where the scientific evidence is murky about whether Agent Orange causes a particular health problem. A scientific panel found there was "suggestive" but inconclusive evidence of a link between prostate cancer and exposure to the herbicide and recommended the disease be added to a list of others for which Vietnam veterans receive benefits.

Once the panel made its decision, according to interviews with officials at the White House and Department of Veterans Affairs, there was no serious discussion of the considerable costs in future years or any possibility that Clinton might not approve.

Instead, according to officials, there was considerable discussion of how Clinton should announce the decision. Some thought a Memorial Day address would be appropriate, but others thought that would look too political. Clinton made his announcement the day after the holiday, surrounded by veterans.

The education tax credit, by contrast, was conceived at the White House. Clinton, according to an aide, was eager for "a big idea" on education that would help "define what the second term would be about," and had long been intrigued by a Georgia program to subsidize the first two years of college.

The problem was meshing it with the realities of budgeting. Economic adviser Laura D'Andrea Tyson and one of her deputies, Clinton campaign veteran Gene Sperling, supervised a process of extended wrangling among the White House and Departments of Education and Treasury, over how big to make the credit, and how



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LEVEL 1 - 1 OF 7 DOCUMENTS

Public Papers of the Presidents

September 29, 1999

CITE: 35 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1856

LENGTH: 561 words

HEADLINE: Statement on Signing the Treasury and General Government
Appropriations Act, 2000

BODY:

I have signed into law today H.R. 2490, the "Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2000," which provides \$ 13.7 billion in discretionary budget authority for programs in the Department of the Treasury, the United States Postal Service, the General Services Administration, the Office of Personnel Management, the Executive Office of the President, and several smaller agencies. I commend the Congress for producing a bipartisan bill that allows us to continue the IRS reform effort and the national youth anti-drug media campaign and to fund important law enforcement efforts and other programs.

The bill provides \$ 12.4 billion for the Department of the Treasury, including \$ 132 million for violent crime reduction programs. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is funded at \$ 8.2 billion. I believe that these funds will strengthen the IRS's ability to provide timely and accurate data for American tax-payers. The bill also includes \$ 144 million for the Earned Income Tax Credit compliance initiative and \$ 250 million for Year 2000 conversion requirements for IRS computer systems. Law enforcement bureaus within the Department of the Treasury are funded at \$ 3.4 billion. I am pleased that the Congress has fully funded my request for the expansion of the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative.

The bill provides \$ 185 million for the Office of National Drug Control Policy's (ONDCP) national youth anti-drug media campaign. This money will enable ONDCP's national media campaign to continue its effort to change youth attitudes about drug use and its consequences. The campaign is a model public-private partnership, exposing 90 percent of all 9- to 17-year-olds to antidrug messages at least four times a week.

I am pleased that the enrolled bill requires health plans participating in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program that provide prescription drug coverage to provide prescription contraceptive coverage as well. I am also pleased that the enrolled bill allows agencies to use appropriated funds to support day care centers at Federal facilities. This provision should improve the affordability of child care for lower-income Federal employees.

Several provisions in the Act purport to condition my authority or that of certain officers to use funds appropriated by the Act on the approval of congressional committees. My Administration will interpret such provisions to require notification only, since any other interpretation would contradict the Supreme Court's ruling in *INS v. Chadha*.



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Section 622 of the Treasury/General Government Appropriations Act prohibits the use of appropriations to pay the salary of any employee who interferes with certain communications between Federal employees and Members of Congress. I do not interpret this provision to detract from my constitutional authority and that of my appointed heads of departments to supervise and control the operations and communications of the executive branch, including the control of privileged and national security information.

I urge the Congress to complete action on the remaining FY 2000 appropriations bills as quickly as possible and send them to me in an acceptable form.

William J. Clinton
The White House, September 29, 1999.

NOTE: H.R. 2490, approved September 29, was assigned Public Law No. 106 -- 58.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: October 26, 1999



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LEVEL 1 - 2 OF 7 DOCUMENTS

Public Papers of the Presidents

March 20, 1999

CITE: 35 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 489

LENGTH: 725 words

HEADLINE: Memorandum on Deterring and Reducing Gun Crime

HIGHLIGHT:

Memorandum for the Secretary of the Treasury, the Attorney General

BODY:

Subject: Deterring and Reducing Gun Crime

Since the start of my Administration, we have developed and implemented a number of effective national strategies to reduce crime. We have provided funds to over 11,000 communities to hire and deploy more than 92,000 local law enforcement officers; we have prevented more than a quarter of a million illegal handgun sales through Brady background checks; and we have developed a coordinated attack on the illegal sources of guns used in crime. Dozens of other smart, tough, crime-fighting strategies have been put in place throughout the country through the leadership and dedicated efforts of State and local police and prosecutors, Mayors, U.S. Attorneys, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), and community leaders.

During this period, the Nation's crime rate has dropped by more than 20 percent, and crime committed with guns has dropped 27 percent. In certain communities, where Federal, State, and local law enforcement officials have worked with other community leaders, violent crime rates have gone down even more dramatically. In Boston, Massachusetts, for example, when law enforcement and community leaders worked together to reduce violence by youth gangs, they reduced the number of homicides among youth by 70 percent in just 2 years. In Minneapolis, Minnesota, effective law enforcement and prevention efforts conducted by public-private partnerships have reduced homicides by 30 percent and summertime homicides by 75 percent. And in Richmond, Virginia, effective and coordinated law enforcement, including stepped up enforcement of gun crimes through the program known as Project Exile, has reduced the homicide rate significantly.

Still, the number of people killed with firearms remains unacceptably high. More than 14,000 people were murdered with guns in the United States in 1997. We must redouble our efforts to deter and further reduce gun crime -- and work to make every neighborhood and community free of gun violence.

I therefore direct you to develop an integrated firearms violence reduction strategy that draws on the proven measures and innovative approaches being demonstrated by communities throughout the country. We know that gun violence issues differ in each community, and no single program or strategy will be right for every community. Therefore, in developing the strategy, you should consult closely with U.S. Attorneys and ATF Special Agents in Charge, as well as other



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Federal, State, and local law enforcement, elected officials, and other leaders. The strategy should consider the special needs of local communities and strike an appropriate balance between Federal and State law enforcement. I ask that the strategy specifically include elements to:

- (1) Increase investigation and prosecution of significant firearms violations, including illegal possession, use, and trafficking of guns, through innovative programs such as Project Exile and Boston's Operation Ceasefire;
- (2) Expand comprehensive "crime gun" tracing, analysis, and mapping; increase use of ballistics identification technology; and coordinate use of crime gun information to identify illegal gun markets, gun "hot spots," and illegal gun traffickers;
- (3) Strengthen the coordination of law enforcement and regulatory enforcement efforts to ensure compliance with all applicable laws by federally licensed gun dealers and prospective gun purchasers;
- (4) Implement targeted deterrence of violent offenders through (a) improved coordination with probation and parole officials supervising such offenders, and (b) swift and certain punishment for those found to have violated the conditions of their parole or probation; and
- (5) Promote problem-solving analysis and innovative strategies to work closely with community members to identify gun criminals, remove weapons in the hands of juveniles, search for and seize crime guns, and increase the public's knowledge of their community's gun-related crime and violence problem.

Finally, I direct you to make recommendations on how best to allocate Federal resources to support the goals of the strategy you develop. I further direct you to provide me with your report on this integrated firearms violence reduction strategy within 90 days of the date of this memorandum.

William J. Clinton

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 28, 1999



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LEVEL 1 - 3 OF 7 DOCUMENTS

Public Papers of the Presidents

February 6, 1999

CITE: 35 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 212

LENGTH: 765 words

HEADLINE: The President's Radio Address

BODY:

Good morning. Six years ago I determined Washington had to get off the sidelines and join the frontlines in the fight against crime. I committed my administration to recovering our streets from violence, to reclaiming our neighborhoods as safe havens for families. Since then we've pursued a new strategy of law enforcement based not on tough talk but on tougher penalties, better prevention, and the substantial, visible presence of community police.

This strategy is showing remarkable results. Since 1993, crime rates in America have fallen to the lowest point in a quarter century. Property crime is down. Violent crime has dropped 20 percent in the last 6 years. The murder rate is the lowest in 30 years. Americans can take pride in streets that are safer, but mostly they can take comfort in lives that are more secure.

There are many reasons that crime is in a sharp decline. Chief among them is our growing ability to keep guns out of the hands of criminals. Gun-related crime is on the wane, and it's no wonder. According to a recent report by the Justice Department, the background checks we required in the Brady law have put a stop to nearly a quarter-million handgun purchases. Thanks to Brady, we turn away more than 200 felons a day, sending them home empty handed instead of well-armed. And now that the instacheck system is in effect, we can conduct these checks in even less time. Retail gun stores, sporting goods stores, licensed gun dealers: They're all working to keep guns out of the hands of felons and fugitives.

But there's a loophole in the law, and criminals know how to exploit it. They go to gun shows. Last year there were more than 4,400 gun shows all across America. I come from a State where these shows are very popular. I have visited and enjoyed them over the years. I know they're the first place where many parents teach their children how to handle firearms safely.

But at the same time, at too many gun shows, criminals are buying guns with no questions asked. That's because the law permits some sellers -- one-quarter to one-half of the vendors at a typical gun show -- to skip the background checks required by Brady. That is a significant loophole. It's wide enough that criminals reach right through it, grabbing, collectively, thousands of firearms that disappear without a trace.

Last fall I asked the Secretary of the Treasury and the Attorney General to report on the problem and to come up with solutions. I now have their report. It is sensible and sobering. It shows conclusively that gun shows are a forum for gun traffickers, a cash-and-carry convenience store for weapons used to main



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and kill.

We must close this loophole. America cannot allow its gun shows to become illegal arms bazaars, where lawbreakers shop side-by-side with the law-abiding. That's why I strongly support the recommendations of Secretary Rubin and Attorney General Reno. We should extend Brady checks and gun-tracing records to any and all open markets where large numbers of firearms are sold. And we should vigorously and fairly enforce the rules. The gun lobby may not want to hear this, but clearly it's the right thing to do.

No background check, no gun. No exceptions.

To toughen enforcement of the existing law, my balanced budget includes new funds to hire more than 100 agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. These agents will help arrest violent criminals and gun traffickers, and will shut down illegal purchases of firearms. My budget also increases funding for firearms prosecutions and expands our successful efforts to keep guns out of the hands of violent youth.

In these efforts, I am thankful for the leadership of Senator Lautenberg, and Congressman Blagojevich, who will introduce legislation to make this gun show policy the law of the land. I'm joined today by Senator Lautenberg, along with Senator Dick Durbin from Illinois, and Congresswomen Julia Carson from Indiana, as well as Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder. I thank them all for their support.

I'm looking forward to working with members of both parties in the coming months, so that together we can strengthen the laws that serve us so well, and in doing so, build a stronger America for the 21st century.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 5:05 p.m. on February 5 in the Oval Office at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on February 6. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 5 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 21, 1999



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LEVEL 1 - 4 OF 7 DOCUMENTS

Public Papers of the Presidents

July 19, 1997

CITE: 33 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1107

LENGTH: 940 words

HEADLINE: The President's Radio Address

BODY:

Good morning. Today I want to talk about the important progress we're making in our efforts to get guns out of the hands of violent juveniles.

Our administration has put in place a tough, smart anticrime strategy, relying on more community police, stricter punishment, and better afterschool prevention efforts. This strategy is working. For 5 years in a row, we've seen serious crime drop nationwide. Last year, we saw the largest one-year decline in violent crime and murder in 35 years. Our most recent figures even show a slight decline in juvenile crime. But we all know that juvenile crime and violence are still significant problems in our country. We know that children are still killing children for shoes, for jackets, for turf. We know that too many of our young people are drawn to guns and violence as a way of life.

One fact stands out and demands our attention. Over the past decades, the number of gun murders by juveniles has skyrocketed by 300 percent. This is simply unacceptable. We know we must break this deadly trend. Some of our cities are beginning to do it. In Boston, thanks to a comprehensive effort by prosecutors, police, probation officers, community leaders, and ordinary citizens, not a single juvenile murder has been committed with a gun in 2 full years. Boston police commissioner Paul Evans should be commended for his leadership role in this outstanding effort, and I'm very glad that he's joined me here today.

A year ago, I looked at Boston's approach, and it was clear that tracing guns seized from young criminals was a key to the city's success. So I directed the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to launch a national initiative in 17 cities to replicate Boston's effort and trace all the guns used in crimes. A year later, the first results are in. Police departments in these 17 cities submitted for tracing nearly twice as many guns used in crimes as they did the year before. We found that almost half of all guns used in crimes came from young people. More importantly, for the first time, we know where the juveniles are getting these guns, how they are getting them, and what kinds of guns they are using.

One crucial fact is now clear, that guns are finding their way quickly from legitimate retail stores to black markets through a network of gun traffickers and corrupt gun dealers. Make no mistake: Gun traffickers are funneling guns to lawless youth. We know how they operate, and we intend to shut them down.

In Milwaukee, thanks to our youth gun-tracing initiative, police officers were able to find a pattern. Several guns used in driveby shootings and armed



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robberies had originally been purchased by one man, a security guard named Larry Shikes. Police investigators quickly discovered that Shikes was selling brand new semiautomatic weapons from the trunk of his car. Police swept in and arrested him in April. He pled guilty to trafficking charges, and he will be sentenced next month.

Our youth gun-tracing initiative has been so effective that I'm pleased to announce we will expand our efforts to 10 more cities, including Philadelphia and Los Angeles. I want to thank the ATF and all the people who have worked on this initiative, especially Under Secretary of Treasury Ray Kelly, who is also with me today. We will work with Congress to hire more ATF agents to work with local police officers and prosecutors to pursue traffickers based on the leads we're generating now every day.

We also have a chance to build on our progress by passing a smart, tough juvenile justice bill that cracks down on guns and gangs. We need to provide for more prosecutors, tougher penalties, and better after-school gang prevention programs. We should require that every new gun sold in America has a child safety lock. And we should prohibit violent teenagers from buying guns once they become adults.

Last week, I was disappointed that a Senate committee considering a juvenile crime bill voted against requiring Federal firearms dealers to provide child safety locks. I urge the full Senate to reconsider this action.

A juvenile crime bill must be comprehensive. Of course, it must get tough on violent juvenile offenders, but it also must cut off their access to guns. That's one big reason why Boston's program works. To keep guns away from crime-committing youth, we must also continue to perform background checks on gun-buying adults. The Brady law has already stopped more than 250,000 fugitives, felons, and stalkers from buying handguns. The Supreme Court recently struck down a portion of the Brady law that requires local officials to perform these checks. But in a meeting this week with law enforcement officials from around the country, Attorney General Reno and Treasury Secretary Rubin confirmed that the overwhelming majority of police departments are continuing to do the responsible thing, to perform these background checks voluntarily because they work.

Now that we're making every effort to keep criminals from getting guns through the front door of a gun shop, we're turning our attention to locking the back door, too. We have started to crack the code of the black market in illegal weapons. We are tracing the guns, targeting the traffickers, taking more of our children out of harm's way. Cities like Boston have shown us great results. And if we'll all work together, there is no reason why every community in America can't expect and achieve the same success.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:48 p.m. on July 18 in the Roosevelt Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on July 19.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: August 22, 1997



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The Washington Post, July 09, 1996

Pressed at news briefings to explain how Clinton's announcement was different from the earlier one, administration officials initially did not offer a direct answer.

Later, they said that the signed agreements with the 17 cities, as well as \$ 2 million in additional enforcement money, would help make the campaign ATF has underway more effective. "You can decide for yourself whether it's news," said White House press secretary Michael McCurry.

The campaign of presumptive Republican presidential nominee Robert J. Dole responded with sarcasm. "Maybe it was too far away from Election Day, Nov. 5, 1996, for Bill Clinton to focus on juvenile predators and guns, but the fact is this 'new' program was first announced by the ATF way back on Nov. 5, 1993," Dole campaign spokesman Nelson Warfield said in a statement. "Leave it to Bill Clinton to wait until four months before the election to embrace the idea."

Warfield said Dole thinks better gun tracing is a good idea, but that other measures, such as a national computer system to do criminal background checks on would-be gun purchasers, are needed.

Baltimore and Richmond are also among the 17 cities participating in the latest program, which administration officials said they hope will set an example for other cities around the nation.

ATF has been involved before in efforts to combat the District's crime problem. Last summer, the agency joined forces with Police Chief Larry D. Soulsby and U.S. Attorney Eric H. Holder Jr. to implement Operation Cease Fire, a program aimed at reducing the number of guns and related violence on District streets.

Soulsby dedicated 60 officers to the project. The ATF made it a routine practice to trace all weapons captured in the District. And the U.S. attorney's office stopped offering plea bargains, as a matter of course, to persons illegally carrying a gun.

Their efforts have resulted in 1,700 arrests for illegal possession of a firearm, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel Zachem.

GRAPHIC: Photo, rich lipski, President Clinton hands his pen to Joseph Chery of Boston after signing a crime-fighting directive in the White House East Room. Gunfire killed Chery's stepson.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 09, 1996



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LEVEL 1 - 5 OF 7 DOCUMENTS

Public Papers of the Presidents

July 12, 1996

CITE: 32 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1239

LENGTH: 480 words

HEADLINE: Checklist of White House Press Releases

HIGHLIGHT:

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of other White House Announcements.

BODY:

Released July 6

Transcript of a press briefing by OMB Director of Communications Larry Haas, Agriculture Secretary Daniel Glickman, and OMB Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs Sally Katzen on the meat and poultry inspection system

Released July 8

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Transcript of remarks by Vice President Albert Gore and Joseph Cheon the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms youth crime gun interdiction initiative

Transcript of a press briefing by Treasury Under Secretary Raymond Kelly on the youth crime gun interdiction initiative

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on the President's meeting with President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland

Released July 9

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Transcript of a press briefing by Secretary of Commerce Mickey Kantor on the Presidential economic and business development mission to Croatia and Bosnia

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on the appointment of Steven K. Pifer as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Russia, Ukraine, and Eurasian Affairs at the National Security Council

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on the appointment of Anthony J. Blinken as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Strategic Planning at the National Security Council



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Fact sheet on training and equipping the Bosnian Federation

Released July 10

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on the massacre of 80 civilians by Hutu rebels in Burundi

Released July 11

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Transcript of a press briefing by National Economic Adviser Laura D'Andrea Tyson and Deputy Assistant to the President for Economic Policy Gene Sperling on the President's school reconstruction initiative

Transcript of a press briefing by NSC Senior Director for Nonproliferation Dan Poneman on the agreement between North Korea and the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on interference by the regime of General Bare in the Nigerian elections

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on progress in implementation of the U.S.-North Korea Agreed Framework

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry announcing the President's letter to the women of Srebrenica on the anniversary of the fall of Srebrenica

Released July 12

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry announcing the commemoration of the second anniversary of the sinking of the "Thirteenth of March" vessel off the Cuban coast.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: August 27, 1996



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LEVEL 1 - 6 OF 7 DOCUMENTS

Public Papers of the Presidents

July 8, 1996

CITE: 32 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1204

LENGTH: 1085 words

HEADLINE: Remarks on the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative

BODY:

Thank you very much. Joseph and Tina Chery, your son must have been a remarkable young man to inspire such devotion and vision, and we thank you. We thank you for your work, and we thank you for your courage and heart in being here today. And we thank you, too, ma'am. Thank you very much.

Mr. Vice President, Secretary Rubin, Attorney General Reno, Under Secretary Kelly, thank you all for your good work. Senator Robb, thank you for being here today, sir, and for your leadership.

I thank the police chiefs, the prosecutors, the public officials from all across America who are here today, who know better than anyone that we will never be able to protect our children from violence or take our streets back for them and away from guns and drugs and gangs unless we all work together, as Mr. Chery said.

In the State of the Union Address I challenged our Nation to focus on this issue of youth violence. It is a supreme irony that we are living in an age of greater possibility for young people to live out their dreams than at any point in our history, but we are moving into the 21st century with youth violence on the rise, with too many of our children killing children, and too many others raising themselves on the street, and too many others simply vulnerable because they're going about their lives and they happen to be in the wrong place at the wrong time because we permitted those wrong places to develop and we permit them to continue to exist.

I'll never forget the young man I met in Long Beach, California, who was in a junior high school. He told me that his school had developed a school uniform policy because of the gangs in his neighborhood. And they figured if the all wore green clothes to school every day nobody would shoot them. And he said it was the first time in 3 years he'd gotten to walk to and from school without having to look over his shoulder.

There is no future for these young people unless we move to take it back for them. As the Vice President said, we have worked very hard with many of you and others to place a comprehensive strategy to take back our streets from guns and gangs and violence and drugs. Many of you have been a part of it; we thank you for that. And the strategy is beginning to work. We believe this will be the 4th year in a row when the crime rate will go down.

But we all know there is still way too much crime in America, and we know that while crime is going down in the country as a whole, youth violence is



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going up. While drug use has been going down and cocaine use has dropped dramatically, casual drug use by young people is going up. So we have to do more to focus our strategy on youth violence.

That's why we strengthened the safe and drug-free school law, why we instituted a policy of zero tolerance for guns in schools, why we're now encouraging communities more strongly than ever to enforce their truancy laws and to take steps ranging from school uniforms to community curfews.

The drug strategy announced this spring by General McCaffrey focuses on young people. We are mounting a nationwide crackdown on gangs. And this spring I sent to the Congress legislation to make it easier to prosecute gangs. This January, in the State of the Union Address I said that if a teenager commits a crime as an adult, he should be prosecuted as an adult, and that is a proposition that is gaining wider and wider agreement.

But as we take on this problem of youth violence, if we're serious about it we cannot avoid dealing with one of its most terrifying elements, teens with guns. This is an amazing fact; listen to this. The number of teenagers committing crimes without guns is the same today as it was in the 1970's, two decades ago. Let me say that again. The number of teenagers in the United States today committing crimes without guns is the same today as it was 20 years ago. The number of homicides by teens who have guns has tripled.

Today, if a gang member is caught committing a crime with a smoking gun in his hand, often as not, the gun is simply put in a police locker with little further investigation. Yet we know that gangs often buy in bulk from a single, shadowy supplier, a criminal network that channels an arsenal of weapons to young criminals or would-be criminals.

We need a national campaign to cut off the flow of guns to teens who commit crimes. Today I am directing the Department of the Treasury and the Department of Justice to work with local law enforcement in a new nationwide initiative.

In the 17 cities already mentioned, we will, for the first time, see that every time a gun is used in a crime and seized by law enforcement, it will be tracked through a national tracing system to find out where it came from. We will use that information to target those criminal gunrunning networks that are peddling guns to our teenagers.

Local and national prosecutors have agreed to work together to break up these criminal gangs. And the new data from these 17 cities will give us a much better idea of how the black market in guns actually operates and how to break it. Police on the beat, prosecutors in the courtroom, Federal investigators in the crime lab, they'll all work together in a genuine national team to take on the gunrunners.

Those who illegally peddle guns to our children will get a simple message: We will find you, we will prosecute you, and we will punish you. We owe that much to fine families like the Cherys, to the children they lost and the children they still have to give to this world and to our future.

We have to give the future back to all of our children. We cannot permit the United States to go into the 21st century the richest, the most powerful country in the world, with more opportunities available to more young people to live out



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their dreams than ever before, and keep allowing our young people to die before their dreams ever have a chance to take shape.

I thank the law enforcement personnel who are here and those who stand with you all across America. I thank the members of the administration who have worked on this. Most important, I thank the Cherys and all the families who have known the most unimaginable loss any human beings can know, for having the courage to stand with us and demand that we do better.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:45 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Joseph and Tina Chery, whose son was killed in gang crossfire in 1993.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: August 27, 1996



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LEVEL 1 - 7 OF 7 DOCUMENTS

Public Papers of the Presidents

July 8, 1996

CITE: 32 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1205

LENGTH: 466 words

HEADLINE: Memorandum on the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative

HIGHLIGHT:

Memorandum for the Secretary of the Treasury, the Attorney General

BODY:

Subject: Implementation of the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative

Firearms violence is a scourge on our society. Homicides committed by young people with firearms have nearly tripled since 1985, and other types of gun-related violence have been on the rise. Too many guns are in the hands of our Nation's children.

Through the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act and the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, we have reduced criminals' access to firearms, including military-style assault weapons. We are using the Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994 to take guns out of schools, making schools a safer learning environment for our children.

In addition, working in cooperation with State and local law enforcement in unprecedented fashion, Federal investigators and prosecutors have successfully disrupted numerous illicit gun markets across the country over the last 3 years. We need to strengthen our efforts to damp down on these illegal markets, especially those that provide crime guns to children.

The Department of the Treasury's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) has developed a pilot program that will trace all guns used in crime that are seized by Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers, and work with that trace information to help identify illegal gun traffickers. The project utilizes an innovative computer software system that examines crime gun trace information and provides law enforcement officers with crucial investigative leads about the sources of these guns. By analyzing patterns of gun trafficking that exist in an area, we are developing more effective, law enforcement strategies to target illegal gun traffickers for prosecution, particularly those who put guns into the hands of our Nation's young people.

✱ I am directing you to implement this project in 17 pilot cities: Atlanta, Georgia; Boston, Massachusetts; Baltimore, Maryland; Birmingham, Alabama; Bridgeport, Connecticut; Cleveland, Ohio; Inglewood, California; Jersey City, New Jersey; Memphis, Tennessee; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; New York, New York; Richmond, Virginia; Salinas, California; Seattle, Washington; San Antonio, Texas; St. Louis, Missouri; and Washington, D.C.

In addition, you should work with local, State, and Federal law enforcement



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in each of these cities to ensure that all crime guns seized in their cities are traced and to develop joint investigative and prosecutorial strategies to combat the problem of illegal gun trafficking. Your efforts should build upon existing partnership programs with State and local law enforcement officers, such as the Anti-Violent Crime Initiative.

You should jointly report to me in writing by August 8, 1997, on the first-year accomplishments of this project.

William J. Clinton

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: August 27, 1996



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November 6, 1993, Saturday, Final Edition

SECTION: FIRST SECTION; PAGE A3

LENGTH: 421 words

HEADLINE: ATF Pledges to Trace Guns Taken From Youths;
Project Will Try to Chart Flow of Firearms

SERIES: Occasional

BYLINE: Pierre Thomas, Washington Post Staff Writer

BODY:

Concerned about the rising tide of juvenile gun violence, federal firearms agents yesterday announced a new project to trace all weapons recovered from youths.

The goal is to find out how juveniles are obtaining firearms by tracing the guns back to their original owners.

"Everyday we hear our children are being killed or wounded by other children in our schools and in their neighborhoods," said John W. Magaw, acting director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms in a news conference. "This violence is a problem tearing at the very core of our society. We should not have to face a future permeated with lawless youths who become hard-core, violent adults offenders."

In 1992, 2,829 juveniles were arrested for murder in the United States -- 2 1/2 times the number recorded in 1984, ATF officials said. Most of the murder charges involved firearms.

ATF's efforts reflect the federal government's growing focus on violent crime, particularly offenses committed with firearms and those involving youths.

18-21 gun [Last month, President Clinton endorsed pending federal legislation to ban juveniles from purchasing or possessing handguns under most circumstances. The measure would make it a federal crime to sell or give a handgun to anyone under age 18.

Magaw said that the bureau wants to find out how many guns obtained by juveniles are stolen, traded for drugs or property or are provided by drug dealers.

"Once we can identify where these guns came from, perhaps we can stop the flow," Magaw said, noting that federal law enforcement has not traditionally



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The Washington Post, November 6, 1993

focused on juveniles. "We're going to change that."

Tracing guns recovered in violent crimes committed by juveniles and those recovered in school zones "will be the highest priority" for the bureau's National Tracing Center, Magaw said.

ATF now traces firearms if requested to do so by a law enforcement agency. The traces are done on the serial number found on the weapon.

Bureau officials then track the firearm from the manufacturer to the firearms dealer and eventually the last person that bought the weapon. The tracing can involve making telephone calls or reviewing microfiche or paper records for dealers that have gone out of business.

In fiscal 1992, ATF conducted more than 53,000 traces, which can take from a day to weeks, depending on the priority and cooperation of dealers.

ATF's action comes as Congress considers a handgun waiting period. Clinton also backs the so-called Brady bill and has endorsed a ban on assault weapons.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: November 5, 1993



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The Washington Post, July 14, 1996

to pay for it. Aides said the scope and cost of Clinton's plan was scaled back as it went through the policy process. And some questions, such as whether the tax credit should be paid to the college or to the individual student, are unanswered.

White House press secretary Michael McCurry said Clinton agrees that the tax credit proposal is in part political, but that it is appropriate for a president to offer new policies in an election year to highlight what he would do in a second term.

But Christina Martin, a spokeswoman for Dole, said Clinton is using the powers of incumbency on several fronts to unfair advantage. "Whether it's travel, events staging, 'war rooms' in the White House, or taxpayer funded policy experts being used for Bill Clinton's political gain, it is abusive and wrong," Martin said.

Mary Matalin, a veteran of Bush's campaign, said if Clinton thought the tax credit or other proposals were good ideas, he should have pushed them when Democrats had control of Congress two years ago.

But Martha Joynt Kumar, a Towson State University political scientist, said Clinton is shrewdly using the agenda-setting powers of the presidency. By announcing even a modest proposal, "He can immediately get on the news," and that public exposure gives him a chance "to define himself."

Staff writers Bill McAllister and Rick Weiss contributed to this report.

GRAPHIC: Photo, ap/ruth fremson, President Clinton, with daughter Chelsea, left, and wife Hillary, leaves for Camp David. Clinton uses agenda-setting power to "define himself."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 14, 1996



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July 09, 1996, Tuesday, Final Edition

SECTION: A SECTION; Pg. A04

LENGTH: 652 words

HEADLINE: Clinton Announces Push To Track Youths' Guns; New Campaign Reminiscent of 1993 ATF Program

BYLINE: John F. Harris; Robert Pierre, Washington Post Staff Writers

BODY:

President Clinton announced a new federal push yesterday to track down the source of guns used by juvenile crime suspects. But the initiative had an unintended consequence, highlighting how a campaign launched more than two years ago to combat the same problem has not worked as well as the administration hoped.

Law enforcement officials in 17 cities around the nation, including the District of Columbia, have signed agreements with the federal government to report to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms whenever they seize a gun from a juvenile during a crime. ATF will then use its computer system to track down the source of the weapon.

Nearly three years ago, the ATF said it was starting a vigorous new effort to track down the source of juvenile firearms. While that initiative has produced some results, officials said, it has been hampered by the fact that local law enforcers often don't bother to report to ATF when they seize a gun.

The voluntary reporting "was, quite frankly, spotty," said Treasury Undersecretary Raymond W. Kelly, who oversees ATF. Under the new arrangement announced by Clinton yesterday, local chiefs of police and prosecutors have signed memorandums of understanding pledging to report weapons taken from youths to ATF authorities.

Clinton's announcement came with a flourish in an East Room appearance, in which he was joined by law enforcers and the parents of a 15-year-old Boston boy killed in 1993 by a stray bullet. It was intended to advertise the administration's get-tough stance on youth crime, not the shortcomings of its previous efforts.

Some White House officials promoting the event as a major new initiative in the fight against youth violence confessed they were unaware that, in a highly publicized statement in November 1993, ATF had launched a campaign to encourage better tracking of how guns get into youths' hands.



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July 14, 1996, Sunday, Final Edition

SECTION: A SECTION; Pg. A01

LENGTH: 1612 words

HEADLINE: Clinton Merges Policy and Politics; In Bid for Reelection, Message Is the Initiative

BYLINE: John F. Harris, Washington Post Staff Writer

BODY:

At Dole for President headquarters on Capitol Hill, nine people help study and draft policies for the candidate. Across town at the White House, President Clinton has a decided advantage -- a campaign issues staff of 1.9 million.

It's not literally true, of course, that every civilian in the federal government has been enlisted in Clinton's reelection. But over the past several months, the White House has arranged a barely hidden marriage between the executive branch and the presidential campaign, aggressively using the first to advance the second, blurring the divide between politics and policy.

Cabinet departments and agencies have worked with the White House to churn out policy proposals, issues statements and presidential orders -- a blizzard of rhetoric, and some occasional substance, designed to help Clinton's message reach voters.

Clinton is not the first president to discover that the bureaucracy can be used to great advantage by a president seeking reelection. But campaign and government veterans say this White House has been unusually bold in orchestrating the work of agencies around the president's political needs.

At the behest of the White House and Clinton's campaign advisers, for instance, Education and Treasury department officials recently pulled all-nighters to crank out a \$ 1,500 tuition tax-credit proposal that Clinton is making a centerpiece of his campaign.

Alerted that the Department of Veterans Affairs wanted to expand benefits to people exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam, the White House quickly approved the proposal and Clinton scheduled a speech to announce the move. The real-world impact of these initiatives -- a sample of more than a dozen examples so far this year -- varies widely.

Six weeks after Clinton unveiled the education tax-credit proposal, for instance, the administration has yet to send a bill to Capitol Hill to implement the idea, and aides say they have yet to make some basic decisions about how the



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The Washington Post, July 14, 1996

tax credit would work. Even so, Clinton weaves mentions of the plan into almost every campaign speech.

The Agent Orange decision, by contrast, quickly disappeared from view after a round of headlines the day it was announced. The administration offered no precise cost estimates. But medical experts say the decision to compensate every Vietnam veteran who gets prostate cancer could eventually cost the federal government far more than \$ 1 billion, although the big bills won't come due until many years from now as veterans grow older.

The VA made its decision despite a lack of scientific evidence showing anything more than a possible link between Agent Orange exposure and prostate cancer, which more than 10 percent of all males will get regardless of whether they served in Vietnam.

The presidential campaign of former Senate majority leader Robert J. Dole accuses Clinton of politicizing the government and campaigning at taxpayer expense. But White House aides are unapologetic about their determination to merge government policy and campaign message, and claim they are practicing sensible incumbency politics.

Poor coordination between the White House and the reelection campaign contributed significantly to President George Bush's defeat in 1992 by making him vulnerable to the charge that he had no message or philosophy, Clinton aides contend. They are eager not to let Dole benefit the same way they did.

"We are determined to speak with one voice and not have a disconnect," said White House senior adviser George Stephanopoulos.

New examples keep springing forth, sometimes two or three a week.

This spring, with campaign polling showing that people want to get tough on wayward youths, the White House ordered the Justice Department to develop guidelines to be mailed to localities to encourage them to impose night curfews. The Education Department put together a similar manual on how schools can stop truancy.

Last month, the Health and Human Services Department came up with new rules requiring women to provide more information about who fathered their children before receiving welfare benefits. The move, White House officials said, would help show Clinton as a tough-minded innovator, and help blunt the GOP charge that by vetoing two Republican bills Clinton had reneged on his 1992 promise to "end welfare as we know it."

In March, Clinton announced that Housing and Urban Development Department aid to local housing authorities would be weighted in favor of projects that evict tenants accused of a single crime, even if the tenants have yet to be convicted. HUD and Justice Department officials helped draft the initiative, which a spokesman for the American Civil Liberties Union called "political grandstanding at the expense of the poor."

The next day, Clinton announced that the Food and Drug Administration was streamlining rules to bring anti-cancer drugs to market. Clinton said it was an example of how the administration's "reinventing government" campaign was



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The Washington Post, July 14, 1996

helping individuals. But it also responded to Republican complaints that the FDA is too slow and bureaucratic.

In April, Clinton answered consumer fears that gasoline prices were rising too high by ordering the Energy Department to sell some of the strategic petroleum reserve. The next day, he answered ranchers' fears that beef prices were falling too low by enlisting the Agriculture Department to speed up school lunch program purchases.

Sometimes, the effort to put Clinton forward with a campaign message of the day involves initiatives that amount to little. Last week's announcement of a program to track guns used in crimes by juveniles was largely a presidential restatement of something the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms announced more than two years ago.

But sometimes Clinton's pronouncements involve important policy. The Agriculture Department had been working for years on a compromise plan for more rigorous meat inspections. The final announcement was hastened by several days last week, administration officials said, in time for Clinton's weekly radio address, dominating the Sunday papers a week ago.

The relationship between the executive branch and Clinton's political advisers works in both directions. Sometimes the campaign takes advantage of an idea the bureaucracy had been working on. Other times, the political team orders the bureaucracy to work on a proposal that Clinton campaign consultant Dick Morris or some other adviser believes will prove popular.

In the Agent Orange decision last May, Clinton seized upon a policy decision that as a practical matter had already been made. Congress in 1991 passed legislation requiring the government to give the benefit of the doubt to veterans in cases where the scientific evidence is murky about whether Agent Orange causes a particular health problem. A scientific panel found there was "suggestive" but inconclusive evidence of a link between prostate cancer and exposure to the herbicide and recommended the disease be added to a list of others for which Vietnam veterans receive benefits.

Once the panel made its decision, according to interviews with officials at the White House and Department of Veterans Affairs, there was no serious discussion of the considerable costs in future years or any possibility that Clinton might not approve.

Instead, according to officials, there was considerable discussion of how Clinton should announce the decision. Some thought a Memorial Day address would be appropriate, but others thought that would look too political. Clinton made his announcement the day after the holiday, surrounded by veterans.

The education tax credit, by contrast, was conceived at the White House. Clinton, according to an aide, was eager for "a big idea" on education that would help "define what the second term would be about," and had long been intrigued by a Georgia program to subsidize the first two years of college.

The problem was meshing it with the realities of budgeting. Economic adviser Laura D'Andrea Tyson and one of her deputies, Clinton campaign veteran Gene Sperling, supervised a process of extended wrangling among the White House and Departments of Education and Treasury, over how big to make the credit, and how

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The Washington Post, July 14, 1996

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In the Agent Orange decision last May, Clinton seized upon a policy decision that as a practical matter had already been made. Congress in 1991 passed legislation requiring the government to give the benefit of the doubt to veterans in cases where the scientific evidence is murky about whether Agent Orange causes a particular health problem. A scientific panel found there was "suggestive" but inconclusive evidence of a link between prostate cancer and exposure to the herbicide and recommended the disease be added to a list of others for which Vietnam veterans receive benefits.

Once the panel made its decision, according to interviews with officials at the White House and Department of Veterans Affairs, there was no serious discussion of the considerable costs in future years or any possibility that Clinton might not approve.

Instead, according to officials, there was considerable discussion of how Clinton should announce the decision. Some thought a Memorial Day address would be appropriate, but others thought that would look too political. Clinton made his announcement the day after the holiday, surrounded by veterans.

The education tax credit, by contrast, was conceived at the White House. Clinton, according to an aide, was eager for "a big idea" on education that would help "define what the second term would be about," and had long been intrigued by a Georgia program to subsidize the first two years of college.

The problem was meshing it with the realities of budgeting. Economic adviser Laura D'Andrea Tyson and one of her deputies, Clinton campaign veteran Gene Sperling, supervised a process of extended wrangling among the White House and Departments of Education and Treasury, over how big to make the credit, and how

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to pay for it. Aides said the scope and cost of Clinton's plan was scaled back as it went through the policy process. And some questions, such as whether the tax credit should be paid to the college or to the individual student, are unanswered.

White House press secretary Michael McCurry said Clinton agrees that the tax credit proposal is in part political, but that it is appropriate for a president to offer new policies in an election year to highlight what he would do in a second term.

But Christina Martin, a spokeswoman for Dole, said Clinton is using the powers of incumbency on several fronts to unfair advantage. "Whether it's travel, events staging, 'war rooms' in the White House, or taxpayer funded policy experts being used for Bill Clinton's political gain, it is abusive and wrong," Martin said.

Mary Matalin, a veteran of Bush's campaign, said if Clinton thought the tax credit or other proposals were good ideas, he should have pushed them when Democrats had control of Congress two years ago.

But Martha Joynt Kumar, a Towson State University political scientist, said Clinton is shrewdly using the agenda-setting powers of the presidency. By announcing even a modest proposal, "He can immediately get on the news," and that public exposure gives him a chance "to define himself."

Staff writers Bill McAllister and Rick Weiss contributed to this report.

GRAPHIC: Photo, ap/ruth fremson, President Clinton, with daughter Chelsea, left, and wife Hillary, leaves for Camp David. Clinton uses agenda-setting power to "define himself."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 14, 1996



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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 11, 1993

August 11, 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

SUBJECT: Gun Dealer Licensing

A major problem facing the Nation today is the ease with which criminals, the mentally deranged, and even children can acquire firearms. The gruesome consequences of this ready availability of guns is found in the senseless violence occurring throughout the country with numbing regularity. While there is not one solution to the plague of gun-related violence, there is more than sufficient evidence indicating that a major part of the problem involves the present system of gun dealer licensing, which encourages a flourishing criminal market in guns.

The Gun Control Act of 1968 established a licensing system for persons engaged in businesses of manufacturing, importing, and dealing in firearms. These licensees are allowed to ship firearms in interstate commerce among themselves, and are required to abide by State laws and local ordinances in their sale of firearms to non-licensees. They are also prohibited from selling firearms to felons, certain other classes of persons, and generally to out of state persons. This Act also established a comprehensive record-keeping system and authorized the Secretary to conduct inspections to ensure compliance with the Act. The statutory qualifications for a licensee are that the applicant is at least 21 years of age, is not a felon or other person prohibited from possessing firearms, has not willfully violated the Gun Control Act, and has premises from which he intends to conduct business. The license fee for a basic dealer's license is only \$10 a year.

The minimal qualification standards of the statute, coupled with policies of neglect and opposition to legitimate regulatory efforts by past Administrations, leave us with a situation where in some ways we have made it easier to get a license to sell guns than it is to get and keep a driver's license. Today there are in excess of 287,000 Federal firearms licensees, and a great number of these persons probably should not be licensed. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) estimates that only about 30 percent of these are bona fide storefront gun dealers. ATF estimates that probably 40 percent of the licensees conduct no business at all, and are simply persons who use the license to obtain the benefits of trading interstate and buying guns at wholesale. The remaining 30 percent of licensees engage in a limited level of business, typically out of private residences. While the Federal statute creates no minimum level of business activity to qualify for a license, many of the licensees in this category operate in violation of State and local licensing, taxing, and other business-related laws. Since the overall purpose of the Gun Control Act was to assist State and local gun control efforts, at the very least we need to

coordinate the Federal licensing process with the appropriate State and local agencies.

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(OVER)

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This Administration is committed to doing more to prevent this criminal market in illegal guns from continuing to flourish. Since all new firearms used in crime have at some point passed through the legitimate distribution system, Federal firearms licenses represent the first line of defense in our efforts to keep guns out of the hands of criminals.

Accordingly, you have informed me that you will direct the Department of the Treasury and ATF to take whatever steps are necessary, to the extent permitted by law, to ensure compliance with present licensing requirements, such as:

- (a) improving the thoroughness and effectiveness of background checks in screening dealer license applicants;
- (b) revising the application process to require the applicant to supply all information relevant to establishing qualification for a license, and to require more reliable forms of identification of the applicant, such as fingerprinting, to assist in identifying an applicant's criminal or other disqualifying history;
- (c) making the "premises" requirement of the statute more meaningful by increasing field checks and the use of other procedures to verify compliance;
- (d) increasing the scrutiny of licensees' multiple handgun sales reports and providing automated access to multiple sales report information by serial number for firearms trace purposes;
- (e) requiring dealers to obtain more reliable identification from purchasers;
- (f) reviewing sanctioning policies to determine the feasibility and desirability of adding the option of license suspension for certain violations;
- (g) expanding the use of cooperative agreements with State and local law enforcement agencies to address licensing and trafficking problems;
- (h) expanding ATF's capabilities to utilize effectively the firearms transaction records of out-of-business licensees for tracing purposes through the use of automation and other technology.

Acting pursuant to your statutory authority, you shall make such determinations and issue orders, regulations and rulings, as appropriate, to achieve the objectives stated in this memorandum.

I further direct that you initiate these actions as soon as possible and report your progress implementing these and other measures consistent with the foregoing to me within 90 days and annually thereafter.

All Executive agencies shall, to the extent permitted by law, cooperate with and assist you in carrying out the objectives of this memorandum. You shall consult with the Attorney General, the Director of National Drug Control Policy, and other Executive agencies as necessary to coordinate and implement the objective of this memorandum. To the maximum extent possible, the Attorney General, through the Office of Justice

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Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance, will expand support to State and local agencies working with ATF on joint projects relating to licensing and trafficking in firearms. Nothing in this memorandum shall be construed to require actions contrary to applicable provisions of the law. You are hereby authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the Federal Register.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

#

★ President's final 1999 Crime Bill — Section on expanding Byrne Grant allowable use of funds to gun tracing

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE. -- The amendment made by this section shall take effect 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) Subsection (a) of section 20108 of Part A of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 13708(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS. -- There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this part \$2,753,100,000 for fiscal 2000 and such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2001 through 2005.”.

**SEC. 1006. REAUTHORIZATION OF BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE AND THE
BYRNE STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE
GRANT PROGRAMS.**

~~(a) Strike~~ paragraph (5) of subsection 1001(a) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as amended ((42 U.S.C. 3793(a)(5))), and insert the following new paragraph:

“(5) There are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2000 the sum of \$459,950,000 and for the fiscal years 2001 through and including 2005 such sums as may be necessary to carry out the programs under parts D and E (other than chapter B of subpart 2 of part E) of this title.”.

(b) Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3751(b)) is amended—

- (1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (25);
- (2) by striking the period and inserting “; and” at the end of paragraph (26); and
- (3) by adding at the end the following:



“(27) programs for the reduction of the illegal supply of firearms, especially to serious drug offenders, juveniles, felons, and other prohibited persons, including comprehensive tracing of firearms recovered by law enforcement officials, trace analysis, strategy development and enforcement operations.”

SEC. 1007. BODY ARMOR PENALTY ENHANCEMENT.

(a) FINDINGS AND SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.

The Congress finds that persons who commit serious criminal offenses while using or carrying body armor pose a special risk to all Americans. The Congress further finds, however, that the States, not the Federal Government, should regulate such conduct -- unless a person has otherwise committed an offense that may be prosecuted in a court of the United States. Accordingly, it is the sense of the Congress that officials of State and local governments should act quickly to enact penalty enhancements for the use or carriage of body armor that are at least as stringent as those provided for in the Body Armor Penalty Enhancement Act of 1998.

(b) Section 929(a)(1) of title 18, United States Code, is amended to read, as follows:

“(a)(1) Whoever, during and in relation to the commission of a crime of violence or drug trafficking crime (including a crime of violence or drug trafficking crime which provides for an enhanced punishment if committed by the use of a deadly or dangerous weapon or device) for which he may be prosecuted in a court of the United States, uses or carries a firearm and is in possession of armor piercing ammunition capable of being fired in that firearm, or who uses

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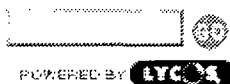
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Confessions of a gun trafficker

By Laura Parker, USA TODAY

OAKLAND - By the time Sean Twomey was 29, he was a high-living Lexus salesman with a money problem. His wife left him. His car was repossessed.

He happened to hold an expired federal gun dealer's license, which he acquired in 1993 to buy guns for himself wholesale.

He also was a computer whiz.

These circumstances converged, and in 1997 Twomey went into the gun trafficking business. The government didn't catch him until too late: In just eight months, Twomey put as many as 1,000 brand-new handguns, many of them cheap "Saturday night specials," on the streets.

The guns soon turned up in crimes all over the San Francisco Bay Area. They were used in drug dealing, drive-by shootings, a credit union robbery and at least three homicides.

Even Twomey is amazed that he got away with it for as long as he did.

"It was very easy," he says from a cell in the Alameda County Jail, where he is awaiting sentencing after pleading guilty to a half-dozen violations of federal gun laws. "I scanned my expired license into my computer. All I needed to do was zoom in on the expiration date, which was 1996, and copy the number 8 and paste it over the 6."

Twomey might not be the most audacious gun trafficker the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms has ever encountered. But his adventures in the lucrative illegal gun trade, which he detailed in an interview with USA TODAY, serve as a reminder of how easy it is for even a first-time trafficker to skirt all of the gun laws - federal, state and local - on the books.

Despite the rhetoric about how highly regulated the gun industry is, the system is in fact so loosely structured that Twomey's doctored license set off no alarms at two big wholesalers where he bought guns. It is so easy to slip through the cracks that the glib and personable salesman was able to order box after box of guns and have them shipped to his apartment by second-day air, no questions asked.

When it was all over, Twomey pleaded guilty this month to two

- ATF was immediately involved (3 agents - one was a hostage negotiator)

- The guns were all legal guns + obtained legally

- rejected from permit was because he had an altercation

with supervisor - + did a voluntary evict

so that dismissed permit

- still had gun to make OK

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When it was all over, Twomey pleaded guilty this month to two counts of making a false statement to buy guns, dealing firearms without a license, conspiring with three associates to do so, selling guns to a known felon and possessing guns with obliterated serial numbers.

Twomey was caught only because of a beefed-up campaign by the federal government to trace all guns used in crimes to their sellers. But there is no mechanism that might have stopped Twomey earlier.

'Disconnect' between sellers, regulators

Gun trafficking flourishes because the government does not have the ability to detect or follow unusual shipments of guns, and the industry is under no legal obligation to police itself.

Court documents in lawsuits filed by 29 cities against the gun manufacturers note that the makers of spray paint, a potentially harmful product if misused, keep a closer watch on the movements of their products than do the gun makers.

Twomey himself says his ordering patterns should have been a tip-off.

"I ordered something on a Monday, say, 30 or 40 pieces," Twomey says. "Here comes Thursday and I'm ordering another 30 or 40 pieces. OK, what's changed between Monday and Thursday?"

Twomey sees "a disconnect" between the gun wholesalers and the ATF, the federal agency that regulates the industry.

"How can you say we're going to stop putting guns on the streets when the wholesalers are in charge of this?" he asks. "They could care less how many guns I ordered."

Gun manufacturers are required to report the number of guns they make and pay taxes to the ATF, based on sales. They also are required by law to keep records of the guns they sell and receive, although they are not required to report those to the government.

Wholesalers are required, before selling to a dealer, to obtain a signed copy of a dealer's current license. But they are not required to verify its authenticity with the ATF. They also are required to keep records of guns they sell and receive, but like the manufacturers they are not obliged to give them to the ATF unless requested for a specific case.

ATF strapped for resources

The ATF's limitations are well-known. The agency, which is perennially under attack by the gun lobby, is small. Until this year, the ATF had added only nine agents to its workforce since 1973, when it employed 1,622 agents. By contrast, the number of agents working for the Drug Enforcement Administration more than tripled during that time, from 1,370 agents to 4,261.

The ATF's inspectors are prohibited by law from inspecting firearms

dealers more than once a year without permission or a warrant. The agency has been barred by Congress from establishing anything even resembling national gun registration.

One effort the ATF has been able to mount has been gun tracing. It is in that arena that agents are most hopeful they can slow the flow of guns into the hands of criminals.

Gun tracing has long been used to solve individual crimes. But tracing was not viewed in a more comprehensive way as a means of discovering trafficking patterns until recently.

Guns are traced by serial number and model type. When a gun is recovered from a crime scene, the ATF first contacts the manufacturer and then follows the paper trail each gun creates as it moves from the maker to the wholesaler to the retailer to the first customer.

The ATF's most vigorous tracing effort began in 1996, when the agency began tracing crime guns in 17 cities across the country as part of a study of youth and violence. As the study expanded to 37 cities, the ATF has amassed a huge database of information about guns used in crime.

Glenn Pierce, a researcher at Northeastern University in Boston who analyzed the ATF data, found a literal how-to guide to gun trafficking.

Pierce discovered that fewer than one-half of 1% of licensed gun dealers - 389 of 78,760 dealers - sold nearly half of the crime guns the ATF had traced. That finding allowed the ATF to narrow the search for shady dealers or dealers unwittingly selling to shady customers.

"It told us you could focus your law enforcement efforts," Pierce says. "You don't have to look at all 100,000 dealers."

Pierce also punctured a pair of law enforcement myths: that guns used in crimes tended to be stolen and that traffickers mostly moved guns from states with weak gun laws into states with tough gun laws. Instead, Pierce found preliminarily that almost half the crime guns were bought at retail stores and about the same percentage were used in crimes within 50 miles of the stores. And, the guns were less than 3 years old.

Twomey's guns moved much more quickly; at least one was used in a crime less than 10 days after he sold it.

'You get caught up in the money'

Twomey worked with three partners, who were also charged and are awaiting trial. One partner helped deliver the guns. The other two partners arranged the sales. The salesmen were convicted felons; they were not legally allowed to own guns.

"The way we worked, I would be the distributor. I would set the price," he says.

"It was a pretty bad time in my life. My wife left me. The whole family thing was gone. I don't make any excuses, but at that point, I was just doing this. I was just going to try to make as much money as I could."

He is remorseful. "It's extremely bad to put these firearms out on the street," he says. "There is no rational way to explain it. But you get caught up in the money."

He says he cleared \$20,000 during the eight months.

Twomey began his buying binge in March 1997. He ordered guns from Southern Ohio Guns International Inc. in Lebanon, Ohio, and Nationwide Sports Distributors in Southampton, Pa. From March through October of that year, according to his indictment, he received as many as six shipments a month.

Dan Stone, general manager at Southern Ohio Guns, declined to comment on the case. Nationwide has since closed and filed for bankruptcy, and its telephone has been disconnected. Neither company was charged with wrongdoing in this case.

Twomey says the sales clerks never asked about his orders.

"It was never 'why.' More of a 'Wow. You sure do order a lot of these units,' " he says. "I would say, 'Yeah, well, this is what we do.' "

On Sept. 3, 1997, the first of Twomey's guns turned up in a drug arrest in San Francisco; it was a Glock pistol.

The trace took longer than usual to complete because Twomey and one partner had ground off the serial numbers on this gun - and many others -- with an electric drill. "It took about a minute," he says.

What Twomey didn't anticipate was a new scientific technique that restored the serial numbers.

Eight days after the San Francisco arrest, the ATF lab technicians reported the serial numbers to the agency's tracing center in West Virginia. (In the meantime, Twomey had placed two more orders with Nationwide for another 68 guns.)

The next week, the tracing center learned that the Glock, originally bought by the Harford County Sheriff in Bel Air, Md., in 1996, had been subsequently sold and transferred through several distributors before it finally arrived at Southern Ohio Guns on July 11.

When the ATF telephoned Southern Ohio Guns, the company turned over the invoices of Twomey's purchases. The company also provided the ATF with copies of Twomey's firearms licenses, the one that expired in 1996 and the doctored license.

It was then that the ATF learned of the fraud.

On Oct. 21, 1997, ATF agents raided Twomey's apartment in Hayward, just south of Oakland, and seized the remaining 39 guns in

his stock.

Twomey and his partners were arrested last May. At the time of their indictment, U.S. Attorney Robert Mueller III described Twomey's operation as one of the largest gun-trafficking cases his office had ever prosecuted.

Twomey faces a maximum sentence of 45 years in prison, but under federal sentencing guidelines he will serve far less time, says his lawyer, Dan Horowitz.

Twomey decided to talk about his endeavor as a public means of accepting responsibility. He plans to meet with attorneys working on Oakland and San Francisco's suits against gun makers and says he'd like to testify before Congress to educate the public further.

"I do feel responsibility," Twomey says. "But I will say this: I wasn't the only one. There will always be a proliferation of people out there unless they do something to stop it. The people who bought from me could have gone to somebody else and gotten the same thing. I can say that because I would receive complaints about certain guns because other people were selling them cheaper."

Despite the ATF's success in Twomey's case, gun tracing has its limits. The agency is asked by local law enforcement agencies to trace just a fraction of the guns used in crimes. And, by its own count, the traces are successful just 52% of the time. More significantly, tracing is most useful in tracking new guns. It doesn't make a ripple in the vast pool of the estimated 220 million guns already in circulation.

"The vast majority of my cases, the trace comes back with a purchase 10 or 15 years ago. End of trace," says George Bevin, an assistant U.S. Attorney in San Francisco, who has been prosecuting gun cases for 10 years. "Tracing old firearms is useless. It never leads anywhere and does not lead to the trafficker."

Finally, tracing is always after the fact, usually tragically after the fact, as Twomey's case amply illustrates. ATF spokeswoman Tracy Hite says police will be recovering Twomey's guns a decade from now.

Plenty of chances to be caught

Oddly, Twomey himself seems incredulous that nobody stopped him in the act.

"It should be more strict that a person can call up a gun wholesaler, fabricate a license and order well over the number of guns we've talked about and put them on the street and the ATF doesn't even show up until a crime is involved," Twomey says. "We have the computing power to know who is doing this. The control should not rest at gun wholesalers. It should rest at the ATF."

"There are several times they could have caught me. Maybe they need more money. Maybe they need more help."

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LEVEL 2 - 19 OF 27 STORIES

Copyright 1994 The Washington Post
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February 5, 1994, Saturday, Final Edition

SECTION: FIRST SECTION; PAGE A3

LENGTH: 506 words

HEADLINE: Project Launched to Fight Crime in Public Housing

SERIES: Occasional

BYLINE: Guy Gugliotta, Washington Post Staff Writer

BODY:

Vice President Gore and Cabinet members yesterday announced a new initiative to fight violent crime in public housing and curb fraud and corruption in administering federally assisted low-income housing projects.

Gore said the program, called "Operation Safe Home," displayed "absolutely extraordinary, I believe unprecedented" cooperation among agencies whose relations, particularly in law enforcement, frequently are marked by friction and mistrust.

Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros said the Housing and Urban Development Department will use \$ 5 million in rent subsidies for public housing tenants who testify in trials and need to be relocated through the Justice Department's Witness Protection Program.

Cisneros also said HUD plans to support gun buyouts and prohibit gun dealers from doing business in public housing projects. He said the department also will explore ways to ban guns in projects.

Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen said the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms will step up efforts to trace guns used in crimes committed in housing projects and will ask the Secret Service to serve as security adviser for local housing authorities.

Attorney General Janet Reno said the Justice Department would work closely with HUD's inspector general and local law enforcement officials to curb "white-collar crime" at federally assisted housing. "Those people think they can thumb their nose at us while they cheat us," Reno said. "We're going after them."

Cisneros said HUD was allocating \$ 800 million to Operation Safe Home, by redirecting existing funds or through new money that will be requested in President Clinton's fiscal 1995 budget to be announced Monday. Gore said the budget proposal also had "made room" for spending proposed in the anticrime bill



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pending in Congress.

Gore, joined at a White House news conference by Cisneros, Bentsen, Reno and Office of National Drug Control Policy Director Lee P. Brown, described crime as "a problem that is life and death for the residents of public housing units."

"It is not right that we ask poor people to live in public housing so dangerous that the police will not even patrol there," Gore said. "It is not right that we ask children to come home from school to hallways and stairwells where they are completely at the whim of drug pushers with Uzi submachine guns."

Cisneros noted crime rates tend to be much higher in public housing developments than in surrounding communities, while available evidence shows most of the crime is committed by people who do not live in the projects.

He said the new initiative will apply to about 3,400 public housing authorities nationwide. In addition, law enforcement will monitor private, HUD-assisted projects to check for bribery, fraud and "equity skimming" by landlords who illegally divert resources from projects.

"Our message to those who would defraud taxpayers and prey on public housing residents for illegal gain is straightforward and simple," Cisneros said. "Don't even think about it."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 4, 1994



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July 23, 1996, Tuesday, Final Edition

SECTION: OP-ED; Pg. A17

LENGTH: 904 words

HEADLINE: A Campaign of Little Ideas

BYLINE: James K. Glassman

BODY:

When President Clinton said in his State of the Union address that "the era of big government is over," he wasn't kidding.

Big just isn't the White House style anymore. Little is the watchword. Instead of the sweeping ideas like health-care reform that dominated his early term, Clinton has now turned to notions that can only be classified as, well, small. It's not that the ideas are bad. (It's hard to quibble with better meat inspection.) They just aren't substantial or presidential.

In fact, in most cases, they aren't even federal. They are issues that should be left to local governments, or to businesses, individual Americans and charities.

National elections should be about Big Ideas. So far, this one is about practically nothing. Part of the blame lies with Bob Dole's sleepy campaign, but I expect that Dole will get around to larger ideas sooner or later. Clinton's Little Ideas, on the other hand, seem part of a master strategy to dominate the news with a flood of inoffensive mini-proposals, announced with great gravity.

The ideas come so fast and furious that the press and the Dole camp can't keep up with them. But the ideas give the impression that Clinton is vigorous and youthful, that he "cares," that he's doing something. So each week, he offers another of his Little Ideas to the public, including . . .

* The war on hooky: a \$ 10 million program to battle truancy by handing out grants to schools across the country.

* Cellular crime-fighting: free phones, provided by the industry at Clinton's urging, for neighborhood watch groups.

* Time off for PTA: an expansion of the 1993 Family and Medical Leave Act that would grant workers up to 24 hours of unpaid leave time to attend family events like parent-teacher conferences.

* Roof repairs: federal money to help local schools repair deteriorating



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buildings. (Funds would come from an auction of part of the broadcast spectrum -- money that's been "spent" over and over in other proposals.)

Plus: a plan to use software to **track guns** used in teen violence (first announced by the ATF three years ago), proposals for school uniforms and curfews, measures to discourage teenage smoking and church burning, etc., etc.

It's not unusual for Little Ideas to rule a presidential campaign. Candidates always maneuver to avoid issues that would risk alienating blocs of voters, and Big Ideas are inherently risky. Also, Big Ideas are often complicated, they're not necessarily good sloganeering material and they confuse the press.

But Big Ideas can change the way the government does business and have lasting effects on our lives. Here are four. Some of them may seem smallish, but they all have big consequences:

Welfare reform: This one may actually become law, with support from both Dole and Clinton (thus, defusing it as an issue). What's important is not just limiting benefits and requiring work -- an admission that good intentions can produce terrible results -- but devolving control back to the states.

If we can give welfare back to the states, Medicaid may be next. Then, perhaps, every program will be questioned with federalism in mind: Why should the citizens of Iowa pay to repair school roofs in Chicago? Why should Californians pay for cops on the beat in Louisiana?

Missile defense: Whatever its cause, the crash of TWA Flight 800 has made us worry that we're vulnerable to terrorist bombs on planes. Far worse, we're vulnerable to missile attacks on our cities -- even though the vast majority of Americans don't know it. We have no protection against an enemy bombardment. It's hardly a surprise, since we spend a smaller and smaller proportion of the federal budget on defense in general.

While many of Clinton's Little Ideas involve functions that are questionably national, there's no doubt about security: It's the number-one federal responsibility. While Clinton has effectivly squelched a missile defense and muffled debate, Dole has yet to talk much about it. He should.

Medical savings accounts: MSAs are health insurance policies with large deductibles, usually paid for by employers. Workers who don't spend their deductible get to keep and invest it. Studies by the RAND Corp. indicate that MSAs may cut health costs, but, far more important, they'll mark the first step in many years away from more government control of health care -- and toward less.

Flat tax for D.C. More important than the national tax cuts that the growth wing of the GOP is trying to urge on Dole is the proposal, by Democrat Eleanor Holmes Norton, to institute a flat 15 percent federal tax for residents of the District of Columbia -- plus a full exemption on the first \$ 30,000 of income for married couples and no capital gains on profits earned on D.C. assets.

This sort of taxation could make D.C. another Hong Kong. It might even raise more tax revenues than the current system by increasing business activity and population, in the meantime revitalizing the city.



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The Washington Post, July 23, 1996

But saving the District isn't the main benefit. A flat tax would be a pilot program that could prove lower, simpler tax rates work. Seeing the success, politicians would demand the same for their own states; it's the most efficient route to federal tax reform.

So there's no dearth of Big Ideas, only a dearth of candidates willing to engage them. It's a shame they'd rather declare war on hooky.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 23, 1996



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LEVEL 4 - 1 OF 37 STORIES

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The Advocate (Baton Rouge, LA.)

February 22, 1999, Monday METRO EDITION

SECTION: News; Pg. 4-A

LENGTH: 433 words

HEADLINE: Study boosts plan to **trace gun** sales

BODY:

WASHINGTON - The **Clinton** administration wants to bring more cities under a program that **traces guns** used by young criminals.

The move comes in light of a report that shows a third to half of such **guns** were passed on to young criminals illegally after being purchased from licensed dealers by "straw" buyers.

The federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms released an analysis Sunday of its **Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative**. The program **traced guns** used in 76,260 crimes in 27 cities over the past three years.

President Clinton is asking Congress in his new budget proposal for money to pay for expanding the initiative to 10 more cities across the country, including New Orleans.

Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms found large numbers of the **traced guns** were purchased from licensed dealers by people acting as intermediaries for the real owners and that 35 percent were stolen. The remainder had been obtained from private sellers not required to obtain identification or subject their customers to background checks.

The agency said new **guns** reaching the hands of young criminals from "straw" purchasers made up between 25 percent and 36 percent of all firearms recovered from juveniles over the past three years, and between 32 percent and 49 percent of firearms recovered from offenders aged 18-24.

In a statement, **Clinton** said the figures go a long way toward helping authorities find and punish those responsible for putting **guns** in the hands of the young.

"With more police on the streets and tougher **gun** laws on the books, crime has dropped to its lowest level in a generation. But we must do more," **Clinton** said. "Tracing crime **guns** to their source, and putting **gun** traffickers out of business for good, will make our streets even safer." Denise Dunleavy, an attorney for seven families who won a \$4 million negligence verdict against **gun** manufacturers in a Brooklyn court last week, said, "If the manufacturers took more rigorous precautions up front, you wouldn't have the **guns** being trafficked." The Brooklyn case, brought in 1995 by a mother whose son was shot to death two years earlier, is being watched closely by cities anxious to sue manufacturers to recover costs from **gun** violence. Sunday's report, Dunleavy said, "proves our evidence was



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certainly on the right track. If the manufacturers don't get it after we won the trial and don't get it today after the ATF report, they never will," she said.

That 25 percent of the **guns** moved quickly from sale to recovery by police indicates they were bought legally, then resold, Treasury officials said.

LOAD-DATE: March 4, 1999



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LEVEL 4 - 5 OF 37 STORIES

Copyright 1999 The Houston Chronicle Publishing Company
The Houston Chronicle

February 22, 1999, Monday 3 STAR EDITION

SECTION: A; Pg. 17 Metfront

LENGTH: 579 words

HEADLINE: Houston tops study on **guns**, juvenile crimes;
Rate of in-state firearms use highest among 27 U.S. cities

SOURCE: Staff

BYLINE: RON NISSIMOV

BODY:

Last year, Houston had the highest percentage of **guns** originating from within state and used in crimes and the highest percentage of semiautomatic **guns** used in crimes, according to a national report issued Sunday on how juveniles obtain illegal **guns** in 27 cities.

This was the second consecutive year the U.S. Department of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms released statistics on **guns** used in juvenile crimes. The report, called "President Clinton's Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative," seeks to curb access to illegal **guns** among juveniles.

Twenty-seven cities participated in this year's study by sending 76,000 **guns** to the ATF for tracing. Although the initiative was spurred by the three-fold increase in the juvenile homicides from the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s, it also compiles statistics on illegal **guns** used in adult crimes.

"With more police on the streets and tougher **gun** laws on the books, crime has dropped to its lowest level in a generation," President Clinton said in a news release. "But, we must do more. Today's (Sunday's) report shows that tracing crime **guns** to their source and putting **gun** traffickers out of business for good will make our streets safer."

According to the ATF, the initiative has had success since its inception in July 1996. It has led to more than 640 juvenile- (17 and under) and/or young-adult-related (18 to 24) trafficking investigations involving almost 27,000 illegally trafficked firearms, including 350 investigations in the 27 cities in fiscal year 1998.

The program is providing funding for hiring 162 additional ATF agents to follow up on trafficking leads.

Clinton is seeking to increase the program's budget by \$ 11.2 million this year to add 10 more cities.



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"Through this program, we have been able to provide law enforcement with new tools to identify, investigate and incarcerate the criminal behind the criminal - the illegal **gun** trafficker," said James E. Johnson, undersecretary for enforcement.

Nationwide, some of the findings of the report include:

At least 25 percent of **guns** recovered by law enforcement in the 27 cities are moving rapidly (in less than three years) from retail sale to point of recovery by law enforcement. ATF investigative experience shows that such fast "time-to-crime" **guns** are likely to have been trafficked.

Juveniles accounted for 11 percent of **guns** used in crimes, and youths accounted for 32 percent of such **guns**.

Houston submitted 2,809 **guns** for tracing, but the age of the possessor was identified for only 17 percent of the **guns**. Of these, 7 percent were owned by juveniles and 28 percent were owned by young adults.

Semiautomatic pistols constituted 52 percent of all **guns** traced in the report. This type of **gun** accounted for 78 percent of all crimes in Houston.

More than one-third of the traffickers involved in the illegal trafficking investigations had prior felony convictions.

In eight of the 27 cities an average of 11.4 percent of traced handguns had obliterated serial numbers, showing awareness of ATF firearms trafficking enforcement programs. (Houston did not provide complete data on this statistic.)

More than 70 percent of juvenile- and young- adult-related trafficking involved **guns** originating from in-state, or "intrastate trafficking."

In Houston, intrastate trafficking accounted for 79 percent of **gun**-related crimes by juveniles, 73 percent of **gun**-related young adult crimes and 81 percent of total **gun**-related crimes.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 23, 1999



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LEVEL 4 - 6 OF 37 STORIES

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Portland Press Herald

February 22, 1999, Monday, CITY EDITION

SECTION: FRONT, Pg. 3A

LENGTH: 622 words

HEADLINE: MORE CITIES MAY BE ADDED TO **GUN** PROGRAM;
A REPORT TRACKING SALES TO JUVENILES IN 27 CITIES FINDS OVER HALF THE
TRANSACTIONS ARE ILLEGAL.

BYLINE: The Associated Press

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

The **Clinton** administration wants to bring more cities under a program that **traces guns** used by juvenile criminals in light of a report that showed at least half the **guns** were bought illegally from licensed dealers.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms released an analysis Sunday of its **Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative**. The program **traced guns** used in 76,260 crimes in 27 cities over the past three years.

President Clinton is asking Congress in his new budget proposal for money to pay for expanding the initiative to 10 more cities across the country.

Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms found 51 percent of the **traced guns** were purchased from licensed dealers by people acting as "straw" intermediaries for the real owners, and only 35 percent were stolen. The remainder came from private sellers not required to obtain identification or subject their customers to background checks.

In a statement, **Clinton** said the figures go a long way toward helping authorities find and punish those responsible for putting **guns** in the hands of the young.

"With more police on the streets and tougher **gun** laws on the books, crime has dropped to its lowest level in a generation. But we must do more," **Clinton** said. "Tracing crime **guns** to their source, and putting **gun** traffickers out of business for good, will make our streets even safer."

Denise Dunleavy, an attorney for seven families who won a \$ 4 million negligence verdict against **gun** manufacturers in a Brooklyn court last week, said, "If the manufacturers took more rigorous precautions up front, you wouldn't have the **guns** being trafficked."

The Brooklyn case, brought in 1995 by a mother whose son was shot to death two years earlier, is being watched closely by cities anxious to sue manufacturers to recover costs from **gun** violence. Sunday's report, Dunleavy



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said, "proves our evidence was certainly on the right track."

"If the manufacturers don't get it after we won the trial and don't get it today after the ATF report, they never will," she said.

That 25 percent of the **guns** moved quickly from sale to recovery by police indicates they were bought legally, then resold, Treasury officials said. Semiautomatic pistols were the most commonly recovered weapon in each city, making up 52 percent of all trace requests.

As a result of the traces, 397 people have been referred to state and federal courts over the past year for prosecution as **gun** traffickers, the report said.

"We can't stop them from buying the **guns**, but as soon as they turn those **guns** over to felons, we can prosecute that," said ATF director John Magaw.

The report identified five types of semiautomatic pistols that move rapidly from dealers to young offenders: the Lorcin 9 mm, the .40-caliber Smith & Wesson, the Bryco 9 mm, the Hi-Point 9 mm and the .40-caliber Glock.

It said 11.3 percent of the offenders involved were under 17 years old, and 32 percent were between 18 and 24. Thirty-one percent of the **guns** were used in drug offenses and 28 percent in assaults, 18 percent each in homicides and robberies.

The 27 cities in the report are Atlanta; Baltimore; Birmingham, Ala.; Boston; Bridgeport, Conn.; Chicago; Cincinnati; Cleveland; Detroit; Gary, Ind.; Houston; Inglewood, Calif.; Jersey City, N.J.; Los Angeles; Memphis, Tenn.; Miami; Milwaukee; Minneapolis; New York; Philadelphia; Richmond, Va.; Salinas, Calif.; San Antonio; St. Louis; Seattle; Tucson, Ariz.; and Washington.

Clinton's budget request for fiscal 2000 includes an additional \$ 11.2 million to expand the tracing program to 10 additional cities: Charlotte, N.C.; Dallas; Denver; Louisville, Ky.; New Orleans; Oakland, Calif.; Omaha, Neb.; Phoenix; Portland, Ore.; and Tampa, Fla.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 22, 1999



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