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FOLDER TITLE:

Youth Violence - BR [Bruce Reed] Materials

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RESTRICTION CODES

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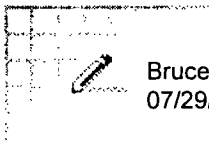
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BR. M. L. L. L.

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Bruce N. Reed
07/29/99 04:20:40 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Eric P. Liu/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject:

Online Cos. Join Parental Web Plan

Thursday, July 29, 1999; 2:47 p.m. EDT

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Some of the Internet's most visited sites are putting their rivalry aside for a project to help parents keep their children away from pornography and drug or alcohol Web pages.

America Online, Lycos Inc., The Walt Disney Co., Microsoft Corp., Yahoo! and others launched a Web site Thursday that includes details about more than 80 commercial software programs parents can use to block Web sites inappropriate for children. It also has collections of recommended sites safe for children of different ages.

Companies in the campaign, which claim almost 95 percent of the Internet's traffic flows through their sites, will offer prominent connections to the site, www.getnetwise.org, or recompile the information and present it themselves. That's partly a concession to ultra-competitive high-tech companies, which struggle to keep consumers from spending time at Web sites not under their control.

Vice President Al Gore and Commerce Secretary William Daley joined company executives at a news conference to unveil the \$1 million site.

"There is so much out there that's good on the Internet, it would be a pity for a parent to tell a child not to go on the Internet because they were afraid," said David Baker, a vice president at MindSpring Enterprises Inc., one of the largest Internet providers nationwide.

Although some companies that design Internet filtering software helped pay for the site, details about all such technology tools are listed.

Ernie Allen, chief executive officer for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, said organizers sought to design the Web site for parents anxious about what children might find online.

"It's an incredible resource, but it's scary," Allen said. "Your kids know more about it than you do."

Participation in the campaign was so broad that it brought together

otherwise bitter rivals: Microsoft and AOL -- currently feuding over software that lets consumers send electronic "instant messages" -- as well as AT&T and the nation's Internet providers, which are battling over the future of high-speed Web access over cable-television lines.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 10, 1999

PRESS BRIEFING BY
BRUCE REED, PRESIDENT'S DOMESTIC POLICY ADVISOR

The Briefing Room

3:10 P.M. EDT

MR. REED: Good afternoon. I'm Bruce Reed, the President's Domestic Policy Advisor, and I thought I would give you a readout from this meeting we just held in the East Room. The meeting went on for about three hours. There were 60 participants, 50 of who spoke. And we were able to secure real, lasting commitments to move forward in this effort to reduce youth violence.

Let me just run through a few of them. First, there was an extraordinary exchange between the representatives of the gun manufacturers and Sarah Brady, a leading gun control advocate, on the importance of finding common ground. We have, in fact, found common ground in five areas in which the President had laid out two weeks ago here at the White House.

The gun industry agreed in principle to support legislation to raise the handgun ban from 18 years to 21 years of age; close the gun show loophole by requiring background checks at gun shows; pass juvenile Brady legislation to ban violent juveniles from buying a gun for life; hold parents criminally responsible for recklessly giving access to a gun later used to commit injury or cause death; and finally, to expand gun tracing, which is a leading law-enforcement tool to track down guns used in crimes, and to stop illegal gun trafficking.

Bob Ricker, who's the head of the lobbying arm of the gun industry, said, we can make progress if we're all big enough to step forward. Sarah Brady said that this is not about being pro-gun or anti-gun; it's not Republican or Democrat, liberal or conservative; it's about safety. And other representatives of the gun industry all said, we want to be part of the solution, and said that their involvement here at today's session grew out of a meeting here at the White House a year and a half ago, where they stepped forward to offer voluntary compliance in providing child safety devices with the guns that they sell.

Second, there was an exchange between the Vice President, Steve Case, and Doug Lowenstein, who represents the trade association for video game manufacturers. The Vice President asked Doug Lowenstein if his industry would be willing to commit to developing an on-line rating system for video games. Currently, there's a rating system for video games that you purchase in stores, but there's a big loophole for video games on line. And Doug Lowenstein, on behalf of the video game industry, and Steve Case, on behalf of AOL, agreed to work together to find a way to plug that loophole on-line.

Steve Case also announced that AOL is building on the efforts that were announced here last week, of creating a parents' protection page. They're also doing something they call PACT, which is a pledge that parents and children can make together when they go on-line to commit to store guns in a safe place if they own guns, to talk to one another, and so on. And we have copies of what they put out here.

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Steve Case also talked at some length about how important -- what an important moment this is for the Internet. He mentioned that when cars and televisions first emerged on the horizon, everyone thought that they would be good for the country -- and they have proved to be good for the country, but there have been some consequences that weren't anticipated then from sprawl to violence on TV; and that it's very important to look now at how the Internet is developing in its infancy, to make sure that 50 years from now people will believe that the Internet has been a development that brought us closer together and not pushed us further apart.

As the President announced in his pool spray, the Kaiser Foundation, in partnership with the Ad Council, is going to be launching an ad campaign of public service announcements to encourage parents to talk with their kids about tough issues. The Kaiser Foundation is also stepping up parental education on the V-chip with a new national education campaign on that. As you may know, by July 1st, half the television sets sold in this country will contain the V-chip. The FCC announced today that it will put in place a V-chip task force to make sure that by the beginning of next year, there are V-chips in every new set sold in America, and to do more to educate parents on how they work and encourage them to use them.

And there was, I think, considerable interest in the V-chip model. The Vice President talked about how important this will be in changing market signals, that once parents have the ability to screen out violent programming, advertisers will take note; that, as the Vice President said, even if only three percent of parents block out a particular program, that will make an enormous difference in the marketplace, and send a signal to advertisers and to networks that violent programming is less desirable.

There was good support from the television industry for the voluntary ratings system and for doing more with the V-chip. Bob Iger from ABC and Les Moonves from CBS were both there to commit to do whatever they can to make sure that the V-chip is used and well-known. Bob Iger talked about how many people in the entertainment industry are hypocritical about this issue, that whenever the finger is being pointed at them about violence, they say that their medium has no influence, but when they go out and talk to advertisers, they say that the audience is listening and taking note. And he said that everyone in the entertainment industry does need to recognize that their work has a real influence.

And then finally there were several commitments made to help launch this grass-roots campaign. As the First Lady announced in the Rose Garden, we will be forming a non-profit organization to carry out the work of this effort, modeled after the national campaign to prevent teen pregnancy, as well as the welfare to work partnership that we've created over the last couple of years.

Let me tell you a few of the best moments from the discussion. I think one young man stole the show, Eric Heydenberk, from Quakertown, Pennsylvania, who is starting a web page to counsel other kids on what to do about being bullied, about conflict resolution and about how to talk to one another. He also brought a copy of his latest CD from his jazz band, which he gave to the President. And I was sitting next to Steve Case, who was ready to offer him a job. He's 12 years old, he's about this tall. And Jack Valenti said to all the kids who spoke at

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the meeting that if they wanted to run for Congress some day he would gladly get behind them.

There were some interesting moments between parents and kids. Sandy Feldman, head of the ATF, talked at some length about what needs to be done in the schools. But she also made the point that we need to help parents understand that it's all right for them to snoop on their children. And some of young people who were there, including Simonna Woodson, one of the students, said that she actually might get in trouble with her peers back home for saying it, but she thought that was a great idea, that she very much welcomes her parents meddling in her life because it shows that they have an interest and because it gives them a chance to talk.

And then, finally, I think there were several people, from the President on down, who challenged the media to consider the consequences of what they produce. The President told in the meeting the story that he told out in the Rose Garden about how there was a time when Hollywood tried to make movies that were consistent with the messages parents were trying to send and that made us larger as a nation, and that lots of things have changed over the last 30 years and culture is one of them. And we'd be kidding ourselves to believe otherwise.

So the overall tone of the meeting was extraordinarily constructive, no finger-pointing, a lot of people stepping up to the plate to take responsibility. Not a bit of politics in the room. Both Senator Brownback and Congresswoman Dunn spoke very thoughtfully about what they feel we can do as a nation to come together.

Q Was the NRA conciliatory as well as the other gun manufacturers?

MR. REED: Congressman Brewster, who was there -- former Congressman Bill Brewster, and NRA board member, was very constructive and supportive of what we're doing. And just in general, I think everyone there was struck by how conciliatory and apolitical the tone that was set.

Q Bruce, the NRA was not satisfied with your invitation to Congressman Brewster and complained this morning that none of their executive were invited to this meeting, even though they had offered their attendance. Why didn't you invite Charleton Heston or Wayne LaPierre or some of the people actually controlling the NRA?

MR. REED: We wanted to have a constructive meeting; we did have a constructive meeting. There was a wide range of views in that room. Not everybody agreed on everything, but we were able to find common ground because the gun manufacturers and the representatives of sportsmen, as well as the advocates of gun measures, were able to reach agreement. So I think that a vast array of views were represented, including the interests of hunters and sportsmen, and we should all be pleased that were making progress.

Q -- it wouldn't have been a constructive meeting then if the NRA had a seat at the table?

MR. REED: As I said, the NRA had a representative at the table, an old friend of the President, an old hunting buddy of the President. And he was very constructive, as were the representatives of the industry.

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Q Do you think that Charleton Heston would have been destructive? Then why wasn't he invited?

MR. REED: I haven't had a chance, since I was in the meeting, to hear what the NRA said at its press conference today. Perhaps some of you --

Q Do you think that Charleton Heston would have been destructive, Bruce?

MR. REED: I'm not saying that. I'm saying we had a good meeting --

Q What are you saying? He wasn't invited, he would have come.

MR. REED: There are lots of people who weren't invited to this meeting. We only had 60 spots and --

Q He wasn't important enough?

MR. REED: I didn't say that either.

Q The foundation you're talking about, is there -- do you have first amendment concerns with that, the idea of a government-engendered group scrutinizing the media and telling them what to do about violence?

MR. REED: Well, this is not a media monitoring organization. This is an organization to shepherd commitments from people in all walks of life to make a difference on youth violence. That may well include challenging the media and involving the media and involving entertainers. In fact, Gloria Estefan was very good in the meeting at talking about how each of us has a responsibility to do our part. And Andrew Shue, who was also there, talked about the work of his foundation. So I think there's a strong role for representatives of the entertainment industry, and entertainers.

But the goal of this group, the work of this group, will be to study what's working around the country; try to help them spread successful ideas from one place to another; work with the media to make sure it's sending the right message.

Q The New York Times reported today that the conference was originally supposed to be about the link between media violence and youth behavior. But the New York Times said that you guys got sharp protests from Hollywood and Internet lobbies, saying that you shouldn't do that, you should look at a more broader look. I was going to ask you two questions. Is that true? And, did you talk with Internet people before this came about?

MR. REED: Well, first off, if you go back and look at the President's comments, the First Lady's comments, the Vice President's comments over the last six years, as well as over the last two weeks, you'll see that they've been completely consistent. From the beginning we've said this is not about pointing fingers, this is about taking responsibility. That was the purpose of the session.

As I said, the President and several others challenged the entertainment industry to take responsibility. But this was exactly the kind of meeting we had hoped for from the beginning -- a constructive effort to move forward in all walks of life.

Q In his Rose Garden comments, the President said, it's all right if some of this violent stuff is produced, it's just that it should at least not be marketed to children. And I was wondering if the White House supports some of the efforts on the Hill, for instance, to investigate is some of this violent stuff being specifically marketed to kids, kind of along the lines of the tobacco industry? And if that's found to be the case, then should there be more restrictions placed upon the marketing? Does the White House support that?

MR. REED: Well, I think, first off, the point the President was making, he did not say it's all right to produce this kind of material, but he was saying that, first, consider the consequences of what you make; if you're still going to make this stuff, at least make sure you don't market it to kids.

And I think we're all concerned about the glorification of violence, the effort to try to use violence to lure kids in. An I think there are lots of things that the entertainment industry can do.

The Vice President brought up another one at the meeting, which is that theater owners ought to enforce the under 17 requirements much more strictly than they do. I think getting violence out of the ads for movies and out of the previews for movies is a good step forward, and we can look further into what practices the industry may have. But I think all you have to do is go to the movies to see it.

Q Bruce, what the President said this morning --

Q Since you're talking about the movies, none of the movie studio heads themselves were here. Jack Valenti was here, but no one from specific studios. Can you explain why that was? And can you address the quotes we've seen in articles in recent days saying that some of those people feared that the White House was going to sandbag them and try to hold them responsible, maybe, for specific films that had come out?

MR. REED: Well, I don't want to speak for them. We were very encouraged that we were able to get the heads of ABC and CBS here, and I think that we saw encouraging signs from the entertainers who were there, who said how moved they have been since Littleton to try to galvanize efforts in their community. Jack Valenti said that in Hollywood right now, there are private meetings going on to talk about what the industry can do. And we certainly hope that's the case.

Q Can you tell us specifically, were any of those people invited and they just decided not to come, or they said they weren't willing to do this right now?

MR. REED: The only mogul I know of being invited and not coming is Edgar Bronfman, Jr., who had a scheduling conflict because his company is announcing a major theme park in Orlando today, and everyone in his company is there.

Q How about educating the parents and the kids --

MR. REED: There was a lot of talk about that. Several parents and representatives of parents' groups talked about that. And some people talked about the importance of media literacy, teaching kids how they're being manipulated by movies, by what they see on the screen, so that they understand how to deal with those kind of signals.

Q Bruce, what the NRA did say in their press conference this morning was that whatever gun control legislation the administration puts forward is a sham because it won't be enforced anyway. And the statistic that they like to use is, of

the 250,000 people who have been turned away because of Brady Bill waiting periods and background checks, only -- they said, I can't back this up -- but only 11 have ever been prosecuted for actually trying to violate federal gun laws. And they're saying that there's no effort by the Clinton Justice Department to actually enforce the laws that are on the books. Do you have a response to that?

MR. REED: Yes. It's just not true that we're not enforcing these laws. We work very closely with state and local law enforcement and, in fact, I believe overall prosecutions of those kinds of cases are up 25 percent since we took office. And we have stronger partnerships between state and federal law enforcement to make that happen. And prosecutions of the most serious offenses, those which carry a sentence of five years or longer, are up 30 percent since we took office.

And we're consistently battling with Congress to get more money for ATF to do enforcement, to do gun tracing. And some in the gun lobby have not been helpful to that effort over the years.

Q So you're saying the big lobbyists are the problem?

Q The President spent about three times as much time talking about the entertainment industry this afternoon as he did the gun industry. Does that reflect his view, his focus on how to deal with the problem -- looking more at the entertainment industry than to the weapons manufacturers?

MR. REED: No, I don't think so. I think that one of the reasons that we wanted to have people from all walks of life here is that we think that there's not a simple answer to this -- that it's important for parents to take more responsibility, for the entertainment industry to take more responsibility, for gun manufacturers to take more responsibility, for us in government to take more responsibility and pass legislation that will keep guns out of the hands of kids and criminals. So he spoke in the morning, he spoke in the afternoon, addressed all of those issues, and I think they're all important.

Q Bruce, did the Vice President single out any television network for particular criticism?

MR. REED: Yes. In fact, he praised ABC and CBS and most cable stations, cable networks, for participating in the ratings system, and chided NBC for not taking part in that effort.

Q Why aren't they?

MR. REED: NBC has refused to participate in the voluntary ratings system.

Q Why? Did they give a reason?

MR. REED: Well, let them speak for themselves. They don't want to.

Q What did the Vice President say?

Q -- exclusive interviews with the President. What is this? Mr. Brokaw, Ms. Couric, I mean --

MR. REED: The Vice President raised this issue with

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Mr. Brokaw the last time they had a town hall.

Q One on one, right?

Q What did he say today? I'm told it was heated.

MR. REED: Yes, I can check my notes to see exactly what the Vice President said. It was along those lines.

Q While you're looking, on Friday you were saying that this new foundation was supposed to work with the media and others to make sure that they're sending the right signals about youth violence. My question is, how do they do that?

MR. REED: Well, one of the models for this campaign is the teen pregnancy campaign, which has worked with the networks to make sure that they're sending the right signals in their programming, to tell them how to talk about teen pregnancy, to get them to run public service announcements, for example. So there's a lot that can be done. But it's not meant as a monitoring organization.

What the Vice President said was that CBS and ABC have stepped up to the plate. The cable networks and the satellite industry have as well. NBC has not.

Q Bruce, I want to make sure I understand. You mentioned the Case-Lowenstein agreement. Are we talking about video games that are purchased on line or that are played on line?

MR. REED: Played on line. And "Doom" came up a couple of times as one example of that.

Q Bruce, what was the format of this meeting? Did the President act as MC?

MR. REED: Yes. The President moderated the meeting. It was -- well, you saw, those of you who were in there saw how it was arranged. It was a square table like the NGA meetings. The President and First Lady at the head of the table, the Vice President and Mrs. Gore on east and west ends. And the President moderated the discussion. The First Lady, the Vice President and Mrs. Gore jumped in several times to contribute.

The President started by calling on the kids who all told powerful stories of their own experience. And then the discussion went on from there into talking about parents. There were experts there who talked about their view of what needs to be done; educators there who talked about other possible solutions. There were a lot of other ideas that came up. Several people talked about the need for smaller schools as a solution, as a way to find a sense of community. A lot of talk about making sure that we have tools for parents to deal with the forces that they're up against. There were some religious leaders there who talked about the importance of involving faith-based institutions in providing solutions.

Q Bruce, the Vice President talked, said that he thought the meeting was better because it wasn't televised or reported or transcribed. Were there any particular bouts of candor you would direct us to that you think were more susceptible to happening because it was not a press coverable event?

MR. REED: Well, I think that the kids set the tone.

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They were very honest about their experience. And there was, in fact, one young woman there from T.C. Williams -- Maria Montiel I believe is her name -- who told the story of a good friend of hers who has come to school on a number of occasions with slashed wrists, just as a way to get attention from her friends and from her parents because she doesn't get enough time with her parents. So I think that that kind of openness is easier in a closed meeting than on C-SPAN.

Q Don't you think schools are supposed to be the best place for kids to learn good things? So what is wrong with the schools and do you think the gun lobby and all these interests, do you think they are more powerful than the schools?

MR. REED: Well, I think that there are a lot of things that we need to do to arm kids and parents with ways to deal with the forces that they're up against. Several people talked about how they don't -- several of the kids talked about how they don't get enough time with their parents. One girl said that really what she needs is to be able to talk to her teachers, because she's at school seven hours a day and she sleeps a lot when she gets home and there just isn't that much time to be with a parent. So it's important to have other kids to talk to, but it's also important to have teachers who show interest in the kids' lives.

Q Was there any discussion of the gun legislation that's coming up in the Senate?

MR. REED: Not specifically the congressional debate. There was, as I said, we talked about five areas of common ground which are likely to be included in that legislation.

Q What about discussion about regulating Internet through high schools, and different schools around the country? And when should we be looking for regulation of on-line video games available to teenagers, and other kids?

MR. REED: I don't know how long it will take Doug Lowenstein and the Internet providers to close that loophole, on on-line ratings. I'm sure that they are eager to get going on it, because they have been criticized on the issue. And I don't believe there was any direct discussion of the topic of Internet regulation. But the President did ask the Vice President to explain how the parents' protection page works, and how important it will be for parents to be able to look back at what their kids have been watching on the Internet.

Q Is that going to be -- is that looking at being regulated, Internet access through schools? Is that going to be stricter regulated through --

MR. REED: We'll see.

Anything else?

Q Bruce, how long did it last?

MR. REED: It was about three hours. It started just before 11:00 a.m., ended about 2:00 p.m.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 10, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT,
THE FIRST LADY,
THE VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. GORE
AFTER WHITE HOUSE STRATEGY SESSION
ON CHILDREN, VIOLENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY

The Rose Garden

2:06 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Please be seated, everyone. We're getting our group up here, you see. It's a little slow -- it's a large and, as you can see, diverse and distinguished group. We just had a wonderful meeting in the East Room of the White House. We had not only the Vice President and Tipper and Hillary and I, but many members of our administration and four members of Congress -- Senator Brownback and Senator Reid, and Leader Gephardt and Representative Jennifer Dunn were there.

And we listened to several hours of discussions; over 40 people spoke, many of them already heavily involved in the efforts to give our children a safe childhood and protect them from violence.

This was exactly the kind of session I had hoped for, where everyone was talking about the problems and the opportunities; everyone was talking about what could be done to accept responsibility. No one was pointing the finger of blame.

In the weeks and months ahead, as we launch our national campaign to prevent youth violence, we will build on the strong foundation of this day, and on many of the things which have been said and many of the people who have said them.

I want to say a special word of appreciation to the young people who are here today and who are working in their own communities to try to help their fellow students have a safe and wholesome life.

As the national campaign gets underway, we know we'll have to overcome the old ways of doing business. We've seen some of that today as well, in the remarkable support that gun manufacturers have given to many of our common-sense gun proposals. We see in the efforts of networks like ABC and CBS, and private family foundations like Kaiser, and agencies like the FCC, all of whom have supported the television rating systems, and giving parents the tool of the V-chip to protect children from excessively violent programming.

We know that there is more for each of us to do at home and at school, in Hollywood and in the heartland and here in Washington. Every parent, every teacher, every leader has something more to do.

First and most fundamentally, we must do more to help parents fulfill their most important responsibilities, those to their children. Challenging parents to turn off the television when they don't like what they see; to use the new tools the Vice President announced recently to keep an eye on the computer screen; to refuse to buy products that glorify violence. If no

one consumes these products, people will stop producing them. They will not build it if you don't come.

To the media and entertainment industries, I also say we need your wholehearted participation in this cause. There are many changes which have occurred over the last generation in our society. It is true that we've had a lot of breakdowns in families, schools and communities. It is true that we have had a rise in the availability of weapons. It is also true that there has been a coarsening of the culture in many ways. And those who influence it must be sensitive to that.

I mentioned today that not very long ago there was a fascinating story on the birth of Hollywood, the virtual creation of Hollywood by immigrants, on one of our cable channels. And the story really graphically demonstrated how these immigrants -- who came to the United States, faced initial discrimination, went to California to make a new life -- created an image of America, and an image of the American Dream and an image of American life in the movies that they made that had a very positive impact on the culture of America for decades.

We cannot pretend that there is no impact on our culture and our children that is adverse if there is too much violence coming out of what they see and experience. And so, we have to ask people who produce things to consider the consequences of them -- whether it's a violent movie, a CD, a video game. If they are made, they at least they should not be marketed to children.

Finally, I urge Congress to join in this campaign by passing the legislation necessary to keep guns out of the hands of children. As a group of gun manufacturers and sportsmen made clear today, these are common-sense measures that they support.

There are also other things that we can do that I hope we will do -- to provide more support for counseling services, for mental health services, for other things which will help to improve our efforts.

Again, let me say, I want to thank the Vice President and Tipper Gore for the work they have done on these issues for years. I want them to come forward and speak. But first, I want to ask the First Lady to speak -- and acknowledge that she has to go to a school as soon as she finishes talking here.

She had the idea for us to call this national conference and to try to organize a national grass-roots campaign. It was a good idea and it looks like a lot better idea after today's meeting. So I want to thank Hillary for everything she's done and ask her to come forward and say a few words. (Applause.)

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you, all. I think everyone who participated in the meeting this morning came away with the positive feeling that there isn't any problem that we face when it comes to our young people, that if we're honest enough to talk about it we can come up with ideas about how to address it, and we can better empower all parts of our society to be part of the solution.

To that end, the President mentioned that we want to have a national campaign to prevent youth violence. It's modeled on the national campaign against teenage pregnancy, the national campaign that was launched to convince employers to hire people coming off of welfare to go to work. It's in the greatest of American traditions of the kind of public-private partnership that is unique to our country.

And in the next weeks that campaign will be put

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together. It will be a not-for-profit, 501-C3 effort that will bring together many of the people around the table today in the East Room and many others. It will come forward, we hope, with very specific suggestions about what parents can do, what schools can do, what community groups can do, what the media can do, what gun manufacturers can do, what all of us can do.

You probably know that I really do think it takes a village; but my book had a subtitle, and that was, it takes a village to raise a child and other lessons children teach us. And the most important lesson I think all of us are learning, once again because of the tragedy in Littleton and the consequences that flow from that, are that we have to do a better job doing our most important job, and that is helping to raise our children and create a climate in our country that is good for children.

We have to battle a lot of attitudes and cynicism and skepticism and hopelessness and helplessness, and a sense by many people that the forces that are arrayed against families and children are just too big to try to deal with, and maybe the only thing we can do is just shut the doors of our own home and try to deal with what goes on there. But we have to do that as well.

So I'm very encouraged by the conversation that we had this morning, and I'm very excited about the prospects for this national campaign. And I hope that everyone, everyone in America, will realize that there's a role for each of us in trying to prevent youth violence. And more than that -- trying to reach out and listen to our children so that we can provide the kind of support that they need.

And someone who has known that and done it in her own life, and done it in our public life for many years, who has continually addressed the issue of mental health and particularly how it affects children -- someone who I admire greatly and who will be chairing the first ever White House Conference on Mental Health on June 7 -- and that is Tipper Gore. (Applause.)

MRS. GORE: Thank you very much, Mrs. Clinton. And to everyone that participated in the strategy session today, we want to thank you. We want to thank members of the media for being here, because certainly in some of the things that we heard we would like to ask the media to help get the word out to the parents, to all members of the community, that we are all part of a solution to helping better support our kids.

We heard loudly and clearly that every member of the community -- whether it was the entertainment industry, the gun industry, businesses giving more flexibility, time to their employees so that they could strengthen their families by spending more time with their children whenever that was necessary -- we really heard that children need to spend more time with adults. Children themselves, the kids involved in the strategy session said that they need to have more involvement from adults, parents, in their lives. And that's a call to action that we've got to answer.

Something else that we heard loudly and clearly is that, yes, while Littleton was symbolic for so many of us and such a tragedy and a wake-up call, that there have been little massacres going on in our society for years. And many people have been very, very concerned about that, and we continue to be. But we all come together now, around the table -- just as I hope all Americans will come around their tables, in their own homes, in their own neighborhoods, in their own communities, to say, how

can we better support children?

One way we clearly can is by providing more counselors in schools, more access to mental health support and mental health help. When we hear children talk to us about other kids who are headed toward violence either against others or against themselves -- since suicide is the second leading cause of death among teenagers -- we have to have adults in place in all parts of the community that will listen, but especially in the schools.

So that is something that I wanted to mention, and that I would like to ask also for the media's help in our coverage of these issues very specifically, in the first-ever White House Conference on Mental Health, which will happen on June the 7th, with some 1,000 downlinks all around the country. And it will be at Howard University.

You can do a great deal to help us talk to kids, and tell children in America that we are willing and ready to listen to them, as well as -- I'd like to ask for people in the media, themselves, the programmers and others, if they will consider the effect they have in reporting the news on kids, the effect that they may have, and the way that they portray people with a mental illness in their programming. They can go a long way -- all of us can -- if we just join our hands and hearts together in a very positive way, and ask a central question: Is what we are doing good enough to help our kids mature into healthy adults? Because that's in the interest of all of us, for all Americans.

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

And now I'd like to present someone who has even more to say on this subject, in particular, about giving parents tools to use in order to do their job more effectively, the Vice President, Al Gore. (Applause.)

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you, Tipper. And, Mr. President, I want to thank you and congratulate you and the First Lady for taking the initiative to pull this rather extraordinary strategy session together that we just had. I know that I speak for all of the men and women and children who participated in this session in saying it was quite a useful, even inspiring, certainly encouraging, session.

And just to try to briefly capture the spirit of it for those of you who were not there -- and, incidentally, I'm sure it would not have been as good if it was open to the press. (Laughter.) Even you, Sam. (Laughter.) But people who have had differing points of view on contentious issues for years and years spoke directly to one another about how they wanted to reconsider some of the assumptions they have held in the past, how they wanted to have an open mind about new approaches to solving problems that obviously have not been solved up until now. It was really an occasion for quite a bit of reconciliation.

So I want to thank you, Mr. President and the First Lady. I want to thank Tipper for being my inspiration and source of education on these issues for a long time now. Twenty-two years ago, she formed a citizens group on violence in the media, and as others have mentioned, the White House Conference on Mental Health Care is coming up.

I want to thank Leader Dick Gephardt, and Jennifer Dunn, Harry Reid and Sam Brownback, all of my colleagues in the Cabinet, and all of the leaders from the various sectors of

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industry and society, who were present here today.

One of the other very impressive things about this gathering was that it didn't just point fingers, and it didn't try to simplistically settle on one particular cause of a very complex problem. And I think it's a sign of maturation in our society that people from all different sectors could come together and really see this issue in all of its complexity.

Obviously, better parenting is the main and most important solution. But some of the participants raised new aspects of that that haven't been always talked about in connection with this issue. Let's look at the prevalence of domestic violence in our society, and realize that the painful real-life lessons that children learn from seeing domestic violence, as common as it is -- even if it's seldom reported to the extent that it occurs -- those lessons are far more powerful, in the impact on those children than the imagery they see in the media.

Obviously, all of the adults in this nation have to take more responsibility for becoming involved in the lives of all children. Dr. Maya Angelou talked about the epidemic of rage and cynicism that can only be cured if adults become more involved and more constructively involved with children.

We talked about the importance of early childhood education and after-school care -- both areas where communities can help parents by filling in the times of the day when it's so difficult for some families to do the job they need to do. Of course, we talked about the problems in schools, how some of them are too big, how we need smaller schools, or at least smaller schools within large schools; more teachers; more guidance counselors.

We talked about how to heal communities that foster a feeling of alienation and isolation, that hurts the ability to establish a sense of connectedness that is so important for children to learn. Of course, we talked about how to limit the availability of guns to children and to criminals and to those who are obviously unsuitable to have guns.

And we talked about the role of the media. And I want to commend ABC and CBS and most of the cable networks and satellite networks for participating in the V-chip system that is going to hold the promise of dramatically improving the ability of parents to protect their children against images they feel their children are not capable of handling.

We talked about the Internet. Steve Case and others described the new safeguards that are going into effect in just a couple of months, and video games. And a new breakthrough occurred right in the meeting with an agreement between the video game industry and the Internet industry to plug a loophole that now makes it possible for children to get unrated and violent video games over the Internet, where it's impossible for them to buy them in stores.

We talked about self-restraint and a movement starting within the entertainment industry to recognize that, obviously, since billions of dollars is spent on advertising because it affects behavior, the plague of ultra-violent images that are planted like seeds in the minds of children bear bitter fruit in some vulnerable children. Most can handle it; they've been given the strength to do so by their families and by their faith and by their communities. But it was so encouraging to hear the

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entertainment industry describe the steps already taken, others in prospect, and the movement within the industry.

And, of course, the need for more mental health services and early detection and an ability to intervene early because, as someone said, a 1st grade teacher can often tell you within a couple of weeks after the start of the school year that one or two children in her or his new class is going to be vulnerable to trouble if there's not intervention. But there are waiting lines and not enough services.

Finally, we talked about the faith dimension of this and the need to -- with all, of course, due respect and utmost observance of the principle of separating government from religion -- of making it easier to reconnect faith communities with some of the efforts that are now underway.

In closing, as the President mentioned, this is just the beginning of an important new partnership. And he mentioned -- excuse me -- the First Lady mentioned that this was modeled after the campaign against teen pregnancy. Secretary Shalala has played a big role in that one. And I had the privilege of announcing the success, the new figures that show success in that -- where, again, it was recognized there's not a single cause, there has to be a community-wide effort to address all of the factors that go into that. And it's succeeding.

So I'm encouraged. And, Mr. President, I want to thank you again for the kind of leadership that has made this possible. And I know that all of the people who joined us here would like to join with Tipper and me in thanking you for convening this session. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you.
(Applause.)

Q -- forces? Is that good enough?

Q Mr. President, are you encouraged by word of a Serb withdrawal?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I'm encouraged by any good word, but I think that the conditions that we set out are the minimal ones to make this work. I don't think that the -- after all the Serbs -- after all the buildup, and the hundreds of thousands of Kosovars have been driven out, many, many killed, I don't think they'll come back with that. So I think we have to do better.

But any little daylight, any little progress is -- it's better than it was the day before. We just have to bear down and keep working, and we'll work through it.

But I think that forces have got to be withdrawn. There has to be an international security force there. Otherwise, they won't come home. And that's the important thing.

Thank you.

Q Mr. President, as a high-schooler, how can I reconcile these images we see on the news?

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 10, 1999

OPENING REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN WHITE HOUSE STRATEGY MEETING ON
CHILDREN, VIOLENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY

The East Room

10:43 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Before I make my opening remarks, I would like to begin by saying a word about the tragic bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade. I have already expressed our apology and our condolences to President Jiang and to the Chinese people. And I have reaffirmed my commitment to strengthen our relationship with China.

But I think it's very important to remember that this was an isolated, tragic event, while the ethnic cleansing of Kosovo, which has led to the killing of thousands of people and the relocation of hundreds of thousands, is a deliberate and systematic crime. Until NATO's simple conditions are met, therefore, the military campaign will continue.

But again, I want to say to the Chinese people and to the leaders of China, I apologize; I regret this. But I think it is very important to draw a clear distinction between a tragic mistake and a deliberate act of ethnic cleansing. And the United States will continue to make that distinction.

Now, let me say, as I look around this room today, I want to say on behalf of the Vice President and Mrs. Gore, and Hillary and myself, first, we appreciate all of you coming. This is a very diverse and distinguished group of Americans. We have leaders of Congress from both parties here; leaders of the faith community; we have activists among parents and students, and educators and people in music, and people in the entertainment communities; people who represent the gun manufacturers of our country. This is a truly impressive and diverse array of Americans.

Obviously, we have asked you to come here to see what we can do together to give our children safer childhoods. The four of us, both individually and together, have worked on many of the matters that will be discussed here today for years. We have made particular efforts to give our children safe streets and safe schools.

But I think that we, and the members of the Cabinet and the administration who are here -- like all Americans -- were profoundly affected by the events in Littleton, Colorado, coming as they did after so many tragic incidents in our schools last year. And we were determined to see what we could do to bring the American people together, to get beyond the divisions that often attend many of the subjects here -- which is not to say that we shouldn't have a serious discussion today -- and to try to move forward on something really big that can make a difference.

Last Friday I announced, therefore, that we would

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launch a national campaign to prevent youth violence, a grass-roots effort that would involve all Americans, from every community and all walks of life. I expect the ideas and recommendations generated here today in our discussion to lay the groundwork, the common groundwork, for that campaign. We are not here to place blame, but to shoulder responsibility.

In the weeks to come, I will work with Congress to pass legislation that makes our schools and streets safer, and keeps guns out of the wrong hands, because that's part of our responsibility. And again I want to say how very much I appreciate the representatives of the gun manufacturers for being here today, and supporting some of the specific legislative proposals that have already been publicized.

Today, I'm also directing the Surgeon General to prepare the first report in more than a decade on youth violence and its causes. This report will infuse our efforts with new understanding and new urgency.

Let me just briefly say that, with representatives of the manufacturers of guns today, I want to say to the press and to the public that we have found common ground on some common sense measures -- banning violent juveniles from buying guns, raising the age for handgun ownership from 18 to 21, closing the gun show loophole, holding reckless parents responsible for giving children access to guns, reducing illegal gun trafficking by helping law enforcement trace weapons used in crimes. Again, I commend the gun manufacturers here today for taking that kind of responsibility. Others have agreed to do their part.

A few years ago, through the Vice President's leadership, we were able to put in place a voluntary rating system for television. Les Moonves, the head of CBS, and Bob Iger, the head of ABC, have led the way by putting their networks behind this effort. They are here today and they went to some considerable trouble to change their schedules to do so, and I appreciate their presence.

This year, half the new TV sets sold in America will contain the V-chip, which parents can use to protect their children from violent programming. Today, the FCC is announcing a V-chip task force to make sure that next year every new set contains the V-chip. And the Kaiser Family Foundation is announcing a massive new public education campaign to make sure parents know about it and know how to use it. Also, following this meeting, Kaiser and the Ad Council, also represented here, will produce a campaign of antiviolent ads called "Talking With Kids About Tough Issues."

Last week, the Vice President also announced a voluntary agreement by 95 percent of the Internet service providers to offer parents a new tool to assure that they are only one click away from the resources they need to protect their children. And I thank the representatives of the Internet for being here today.

Let me also say that we know that profoundly important efforts are being made in our schools and our communities in efforts to involve parents in increasing their capacity to prevent their children from drifting into violence, to engage the early warning signs, to get the necessary counseling and mental health services. I know that Mrs. Gore and Hillary have both been heavily involved in a lot of these issues for a long time.

And I want to say a special word of appreciation to the

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parents who are here, to the teachers who are here, and to the students who are here, because I believe that they may have more to say to us about what the rest of us should do than we can imagine.

So to all of you, thank you for coming. Let's leave here today resolved to be, all of us, a part of this national campaign, and I want us to have a good conversation about where we go from here.

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

END

10:50 A.M. EDT

STRATEGY SESSION ON CHILDREN, VIOLENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY

Monday, May 10, 1999 - 10:00 am
White House - Business - East Appointments Gate
(60 Total Participants)

Bruce,
Here are my recommendations
for calls. There are 13
but some aren't
that necessary
-Beera

Italic = NEW as of May 9, 1999 (5:48pm)

THE PRESIDENT AND FIRST LADY

THE VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. GORE

- Dr. Drew Altman; President & CEO, The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation — additional support?
- Dr. Maya Angelou; Professor and Poet
- Mr. Decker Anstrom; President, National Cable Television Association
- Mr. Jonathan Barnett; Professor of City and Regional Planning, University of Pennsylvania*
- Dr. Carl Bell; President & CEO, The Community Mental Health Council and
Professor of Psychiatry and Public Health, University of Illinois, Chicago
- Hon. Sharon Sayles Belton; Mayor of the City of Minneapolis
- Mrs. Sarah Brady; Chair, Handgun Control, Inc. and The Center to Prevent Handgun Violence — knows all the grass roots organizations + Bob Walker committed to help
- Hon. Bill Brewster; President, R. Duffy Wall & Associates
- Hon. (Sen.) Sam Brownback; R/Kansas
- Ms. Shane Cambronero; City Year Staff Member and Former Americorps Member
- Mr. Steve Case; Chairman and CEO, America Online
- Mr. Robert Chase; President, National Education Association — didn't make commitment but have done + are doing a ton of announcements for mental health
- Dr. Nancy Wilson Dickey; President, American Medical Association — made a commitment to help the campaign
- Hon. (Rep.) Jennifer Dunn; R/Washington
- Mrs. Pamela Eakes; President and Founder, Mothers Against Violence in America
- Ms. Gloria Estefan; Recording Artist
- Ms. Sandy Feldman; President, American Federation of Teachers — made commitment before the meeting to help w/ campaign
- Mr. Abraham H. Foxman; National Director, Anti-Defamation League
- Mr. Eddie Fritts; President & CEO, National Association of Broadcasters
- Dr. James Garbarino; Co-Director, Family Life Development Center, Cornell University — I've talked to him he's working on some work on what works. You might want to call him, but you don't need to.
- Hon. (Rep.) Richard Gephardt; D/Missouri
- Mr. Terrence Gray; Student/Peer Mediator, T.C. Williams High School, Alexandria, VA
- Mr. Eric Heydenberk; Student, Strayer Middle School, Quakertown, PA
- Mr. Robert A. Iger; Chairman, ABC Group and President, Walt Disney International
- Mr. Paul Jannuzzo; Vice President and General Counsel, GLOCK, Inc.

- Hon. William Kennard; Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
- Mr. Douglas Lowenstein; President, Interactive Digital Software Association
- Ms. Ginny Markell; President-Elect, National PTA
- Dr. Prema Mathai-Davis; CEO, YWCA of the U.S.A. - *Committed her organization to help the campaign*
- Ms. Mary Ellen Maxwell; President, National School Boards Association
- Gen. Barry McCaffrey; Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy
- Monsignor Thomas McDade; Secretary of Education, United States Catholic Conference
- Mr. Leslie Moonves; President and CEO, CBS Corporation
- Ms. Maria Montell; Student/Peer Mediator, T.C. Williams High School, Alexandria, VA
- Ms. Georgia Nichols; Vice President and General Counsel, O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc.
- Hon. Alan C. Page; Associate Justice, Minnesota Supreme Court
- Hon. John Podesta; Chief of Staff to the President
- Dr. Robert S. Pynoos; Professor of Psychiatry, Neuropsychiatric Institute and
Director, UCLA Trauma Psychiatry Service
- Hon. Bruce Reed; Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy
- Hon. (Sen.) Harry Reid; D/Nevada
- Hon. Janet Reno; Attorney General, United States
- Mr. Robert A. Ricker; Executive Director, American Shooting Sports Council - *maybe he could do something more?*
- Hon. Richard W. Riley; Secretary of Education
- Rev. Eugene F. Rivers III; Co-Chair, National Ten Point Leadership Foundation - *actually does grass-roots work + committed to help w/ campaign*
- Gov. Roy Romer; Chairman, Policy Advisory Committee, The Advertising Council, Inc.
- Ms. Hilary B. Rosen; President and CEO, Recording Industry Association of America - *offered to have Ad Council partner w/ nat'l camp.*
- Hon. Kenneth L. Salazar; Attorney General, State of Colorado
- Dr. Samuel G. Sava; Executive Director, National Association of Elementary School Principals - *Resources*
- Hon. Eli J. Segal; President and CEO, Welfare to Work Partnership
- Hon. Donna E. Shalala; Secretary of Health and Human Services
- Mr. Andrew Shue; Founder, Do Something Foundation - *Pres. liked him*
- Mr. Ed Shultz; President and CEO, Smith and Wesson
- Ms. Roxanne Spillett; President, Boys & Girls Clubs of America - *I never talked to her ahead of time but her organization is an ideal partner.*
- Hon. Jack Valenti; Chairman and CEO, Motion Picture Association
- Ms. Simonna Woodson; Student/Peer Mediator, Arsenal Tech High School
- Lt. Steve Young; National Vice President, Fraternal Order of Police

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001. list	White House Strategy Session on Children, Violence and Responsibility, Participant list [partial] (1 page)	05/221999	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Domestic Policy Council
Eric Liu
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FOLDER TITLE:

Youth Violence - BR [Bruce Reed] Materials

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RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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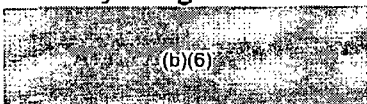
b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

**White House Strategy Session on
Children, Violence and Responsibility
May 10, 1999**

Addresses and Phone Numbers of Participants

Drew Altman, President and CEO
Kaiser Foundation
2400 Sand Hill Road
Sand Hill, CA 94025
(650) 854-9400

Dr. Maya Angelou



Decker Anstrom, President
National Cable Television Association
1724 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 775-3550

Jonathan Barnett
2800 University Terrace, N.W.
Washington, DC 20016
(202) 244-6158

Carl Bell, M.D.
The Community Health Council
8704 South Constance
Chicago, IL 60617
(773) 734-4033 ext. 204

Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton
350 South 5th Street
331 City Hall
Minneapolis, MN 55415

(612) 673-2100

Sarah Brady
Handgun Control, Inc.
1225 I Street
Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 289-5773

Bill Brewster, Former Rep.
601 13th Street, N.W.
Suite 410 South
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 737-0100

Senator Sam Brownback
SH-303 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-6521
(202) 228-1265 (fax)

Shane Cambroner
City Year National
285 Columbus Avenue
Boston, MA 02116
(202) 822-1180 x214

Steve Case, CEO
America On-line
2200 AOL Way
Dullus, VA 20166
(703) 448-8700

Bob Chase, President
National Education Association
1201 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 822-7140

Nancy Dickey, President
American Medical Association
515 North State Street
Chicago, IL 60610
(312) 543-7943

Representative Jennifer Dunn
432 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-7761
(202) 225-8673 (fax)

Pam Eakes
Mothers Against Violence
105 14th Avenue
Suite 2A
Seattle, WA 98122
(206) 323-2303
(206) 323-2132 (fax)

Gloria Estefan
Estefan Enterprises Inc.
555 Jefferson Avenue
Miami, FL 33139
(305) 534-4330

Sandra Feldman, President
American Federation of Teachers
555 New Jersey Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 879-4440

Abraham Foxman, National Director
Anti-Defamation League
823 United Nations Plaza
New York City, NY 10017
(212) 885-7707

Edward Fritts, President
National Association of Broadcasters

1771 N Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 429-5300
(202) 429-5343 (fax)

James Garbarino
Co-Director Family Life Development Center
N-213MVR
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853
(607) 255-4704

Representative Richard A. Gephardt
1226 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-2671

Terrence Gray
420 East Custis Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22301
(703) 836-1069

Eric Heydenberk
Strayer Middle School
1059 West Sawmall Road
Quakertown, PA 18951
(215) 538-2682

Bob Iger, Chairman
77 West 66th Street
New York City, NY 10023
(212) 456-6400
(310) 712-5018 (fax)

Paul Jannuzzo, VP & general counsel
Glock USA
6000 Highlands Parkway
Smyrna, GA 30082
(770) 432-1202 ext.778

William E Kennard, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554
(202) 418-1000
(202) 418-2801 (fax)

Doug Lowenstein, President
Interactive Digital Software Association
1775 I Street #420
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 833-4372

Ginny Markill, President-Elect
Parents-Teachers Association
14650 S.E. Smith Spring Court
Clackamas, OR 97015
(503) 658-2896

Dr. Prema Mathai-Davis, CEO
YWCA of USA
350 5th Avenue
Suite 301
New York City, NY 10118
(212) 273-7800

Mary Ellen Maxwell, President
National School Board Association
1680 Duke Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 838-6722
(703) 683-7590 (fax)

General Barry McCaffrey, Director
Office of National Drug Control Policy
750 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 395-6700
(202) 395-6708 (fax)

Monsignor Thomas McDade, Secretary of Education
3211 4th Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20017
(202) 541-3130

Maria Montiel
6300 Stevenson Avenue
Apt. 603
Alexandria, VA 22304
(703) 370-9828

Leslie Moonves, President and CEO
CBS Television
7800 Beverly Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90036
(212) 975-4545

Georgia Nichols, Vice-President
O.F. Mossberg and Sons

Judge Alan Page, Associate Justice
Minnesota Supreme Court
423 Minnesota Judicial Center
25 Constitution Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55155
(651) 296-6615

John Podesta, Chief of Staff to the President
Office of the Chief of Staff
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500
(202) 456-6798
(202) 456-1907 (fax)

Dr. Robert Pynoos
UCLA/NPI
300 UCLA Medical Plaza
Suite 2235

Los Angeles, CA 90095
(310) 206-8973

Bruce Reed, Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy and Director
Domestic Policy Council
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500
(202) 456-2216
(202) 456-2530 (fax)

Senator Harry Reid
SH-528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3542
(202) 224-7327 (fax)

Janet Reno, Attorney General
Department of Justice
Tenth Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20530
(202) 514-2001
(202) 514-4371 (fax)

Robert Ricker, Executive Director
American Shooting Sports Foundation
101 D Street, S.E.
Washington, DC 20003
(202) 544-1610

Richard W Riley, Secretary of Education
Department of Education
600 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20202
(202) 401-3000
(202) 401-0596 (fax)

Reverend Eugene Rivers
Ella J. Baker House
411 Washington Street
Rochester, MA 02124

(617) 282-6704

Governor Roy Romer

Hillary Rosen, President
Recording Industry Association of America
1330 Connecticut Avenue
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 775-0101

Ken Salazar
Office of the Attorney General
1525 Sherman Street
Denver, CO 80203
(303) 866-3557

Dr. Samuel Sava, Executive Director
National Association of Elementary School Principles
1615 Duke Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 684-3345

Eli Segal, President and CEO
Welfare to Work Partnership
1250 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Suite 610
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 955-3005

Donna E Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201
(202) 690-7000
(202) 650-7595 (fax)

Andrew Shuc, Founder
Do Something Foundation

L. E. Schultz, President and CEO
Smith and Wesson
2100 Roosevelt Avenue
Springfield, MA 01102
(413) 747-3643

Roxanne Spillett, President
Boys & Girls Clubs of America
1230 West Peachtree Street, N.W.
Atlanta, GA 30309
(404) 815-5711

Jack Valenti, President
Motion Pictures Association
1600 I Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 293-1966

Simonna Woodson
Arsenal Tech High School
3035 Ralston
Indianapolis, IN 46218
(317) 924-2189

Steve Young, National Vice President
Fraternal Order of Police

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PACT

Parents And Children Together
To Stop Violence

Pledge to Make a Difference

Since the tragedy at Columbine High School, AOL's chat rooms, message boards and polls have reflected sadness, as well as a determination to make a difference. The recent school shooting in Georgia has made all of us even more concerned about violence in our schools and communities.

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[For Adults](#) | [For Teenagers](#) | [For Kids](#)



An AOL Initiative

Who Has Signed?

Among the 169,708 people who have taken the pledge are:

Britney Spears

Hootie and the Blowfish

Collective Soul

Taran Smith
Actor Mark Taylor
on Home Improvement

Steve Case
AOL Chairman and CEO

Ted Leonsis
Owner Washington Capitals

And many more.

AOL.COM



Parents And Children Together To Stop Violence

(To return to the previous page, use your browser's back button.)

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Britney Spears

Hootie and the Blowfish

Collective Soul

Taran Smith

Actor, Mark Taylor on Home Improvement

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AOL Chairman and CEO

Ted Leonsis

Owner, Washington Capitals

Eddie Jones

Guard-Forward, Charlotte Hornets

Bob Kerrey

U.S. Senator, D-Neb.

John Ashcroft

U.S. Senator, R-Mo

Sam Brownback

U.S. Senator, R-Kan

Steven Curtis Chapman

Christian singer and songwriter

Gerry Laybourne

CEO of Oxygen Media

Russ Leatherman

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Screenwriter, director, actor

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Parents And Children Together To Stop Violence

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- I will, in my words and actions, condemn violence as a way to resolve conflict, anger or frustration.
- I will get more involved in my community and our schools
- If I own a gun, I will make sure that children can't get their hands on it.

Email or AOL Screen Name:

First Name:

Age:

Zip Code:

Sign the PACT

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PACT

Parents And Children Together To Stop Violence

For Teenagers (Scroll down to sign the PACT)

- I will not put other kids down by labeling them with names or doing anything else that creates hurt feelings.
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- I will do everything I can to resolve trouble without violence --- and when I can't, I will walk (or run) away.
- If I see or hear other kids talking about hurting people, or doing things that could harm others, I will tell an adult as soon as I can.
- I understand that violence is real and has permanent consequences. I will do everything I can to stay safe.

Email or AOL Screen Name:

First Name

Age:

- Select your age - 

Zip Code:

Sign the PACT

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PACT

Parents And Children Together To Stop Violence

For Kids Only (Scroll down to sign the PACT)

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(Your Name)

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Chair or co-chairs, may serve on Board

(See America's Promise model)

Staffed by Board staff

Mission: Seek and publicize Best Practices

Develop leaders in each field

Hold regional meetings to discuss /call for suggestions

Note: not all meetings open ?

3. Need to set up 501c3 organization

Can begin as spin off existing c3

Funding: From foundations , corporations , perhaps individuals

For info on Foundations: Melanne, Shirley, Ellen

Ellen Chesler

Corporate support: Life Insurance Co ?

(had talked contribution to Elementary School Principals)

4. Possible Steering Committee :

1. Drew Altman, Kaiser
2. Steve Case, AOL
3. Emanuel Sava, Elementary Principals
4. Pam Eakes , MAVIA
5. Sandy Feldman/Bob Chase
6. Ginny Markell, PTA
7. ~~Bob Iger, ABC CBS~~
8. Andrew Shue
9. Gloria Estefan
10. Robert Ricker, Shooting Sports Council
11. Carl Bell, U of Ill
12. Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton
13. Maria Monteil
14. Eli Segal
15. Susan Baker

(invited 5/10 -could not attend)

File

5-18youth

Silicon Valley
Entertainment
Wall St
Foundations

BOARD

CASE
ALTMAN
SHUE

Eakes
Segal

NEULIGER
ISCOLL
SAVA
H-P

Bob Rubin
EBB
Zoe Baird
Pat Claherty
Gloria Estefan

→ Ask Lieberman
→ RAHM Bishop Dixon
→ Conf. on Philanthropy list
Former Ambassadors
Sewanee Hunt

Garry LaBarre
Oprah Winfrey
Maggie Johnson
Michael Jordan
Bill Cosby
Robert Johnson, BET

P/FL - NORTH SIDE

Roxanne Spillett B&G Clubs of America ✓
 Doug Lowenstein Interactive Software ✓
 Harry Reid D/NV ✓
 John Podesta ✓
 Bill Brewster R. Duffy Wall & Assoc. ✓
 William Kennard FCC ✓
 Sen. Sam Brownback R/KS ✓
 Barry McCaffrey ONDCP ✓
 Ed Shultz Smith & Wesson ✓
 Georgia Nichols O.F. Mossberg ✓
 Donna Shalala ✓
 Abraham Foxman ADL ✓

Jonathan Barnett
University of Pennsylvania ✓

Hilary Rosen
RIAA

Dr. Samuel Sava
NAESP ✓

Eddie Fritts
NAB

Drew Altman
Kaiser Foundation ✓

Thomas McDade
U.S. Catholic Conf. ✓

Maya Angelou
Poet ✓

Nancy Wilson Dickey
AMA ✓

Shane Cambronero
City Year/Americorps ✓

MEG ✓

Les Moonves
CBS ✓

Sandy Feldman
AFT ✓

Alan Page
Minnesota Supreme Ct. ✓

Dr. Robert Pynoos
UCLA ✓

Jack Valenti
MPAA ✓

Maria Monteil
T.C. Williams HS ✓

Andrew Shue
Do Something ✓

Decker Anstrom
NCTA ✓

Rep. Jennifer Dunn
R/WA ✓

Mayor Sharon Sayles-Beltor
Minneapolis, MN ✓

Gov. Roy Romer ✓

Paul Jannuzzo
GLOCK, Inc. ✓

Attorney General Reno

Dr. James Garbarino
Cornell University ✓

Ginny Markell
National PTA ✓

Kenneth Salazar
Attorney General, State of Colorado ✓

THE VICE PRESIDENT ✓

Robert Ricker
American Shooting Sports Council ✓

Eric Heydenberk
Strayer Middle School ✓

Gloria Estefan
Recording Artist ✓

Richard Gephardt
DMO

Terrence Gray
T.C. Williams H.S. ✓

Robert Chase
National Education Association ✓

Mary Ellen Maxwell
National School Board Assn. ✓

Sec. Richard Riley

Prema Mathai-Davis
YWCA ✓

Pamela
Eakes
MAD ✓

Lt. Steve
Young
FOP ✓

Carl
Bell
Univ.
of Illinois ✓

Bruce
Reed

Steve
Case
AOL ✓

FLOTUS ✓

POTUS ✓

Simonna
Woodson
Arsenal Tech
High School ✓

Eli
Seegal
Seegal
Seegal ✓

Sarah
Brady
Handgun
Control ✓

Robert
Iger
Seegal
Seegal ✓

Eugene
Rivers ✓



Michele Cavataio

Senior Director

22000 AOL Way • Dulles, VA 20166-9323

Phone: 703.265.3351 • Fax: 703.265.2135 • CavataioM@aol.com

www.aolfoundation.org



Jill A. Lesser

*Vice President
Domestic Public Policy*

*Public Policy
1101 Connecticut Ave, NW
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20036*

*202/530-7878 main
202/530-7882 direct
202/530-7879 fax*

jillless@aol.com



Kimberly McCreery

AOL Spokesperson

22000 AOL Way
Dulles, VA 20166

tel: 703-265-0059
fax: 703-265-3239
pager: 800-225-0256 pin 0354729

email: KaMcCreery@aol.com
www.aol.com

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

① KIDS - Eric - web page
Sitona - wanted parents
to take respons + snoop
on her life

③ ~~2~~ RESPONSIBILITY: Estevan:
Each of us has
to take respons
- CASE
- ONLINE RATINGS
- GUN INDUSTRY
- TV

④ ~~2~~ CAMPAIGN
- ~~50~~ 6 MOS. FROM NOW
- lots of support for
- grass roots campaign like MADD
- NONPROFIT

② ~~CULTURE~~ WHAT'S DIFF. SINCE
WE GREW UP
- ① GUNS + ② CULTURE
- AME STORY

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PACT

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- If I own a gun, I will make sure that children can't get their hands on it.

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First Name:

Age:

- Select your age - 

Zip Code:

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- Select your age - ☒

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- Post your thoughts on how to stop violence.
- AOL Members: Build a free Web page to memorialize your promises. It takes just a few minutes on AOL Hometown.
- **Talk to your children.** They can sign their own version of the pact.
- **Tell your friends.** They can visit AOL Keyword: PACT or AOL.com to add their signature to yours.

Resources For Parents

APA: Raising Children to Resist Violence: What You Can Do

FEN: Coping with Violence

National PTA: Violence Kids Crisis: What you can do

Resources For Teachers and Schools

FEN: Rejection and Rage Increasingly Turn Into Violence

National School Safety Center

US Dept. Of Education: Early Warning, Timely Response: A Guide to Safe Schools

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Steve Case

has signed the PACT, promising to
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An AOL Initiative



...about violence.

Talking With Kids About Tough Issues

A National Campaign to Support Parents by the Kaiser Family Foundation and Children Now

The Campaign

Talking With Kids About Tough Issues is a national initiative by Children Now and the Kaiser Family Foundation to encourage parents to talk with their children earlier and more often about tough issues like sex, HIV/AIDS, violence, alcohol and drug abuse.

The campaign includes public service messages that have appeared in major media outlets from *The New York Times* to network television broadcasts such as NBC's *Today Show*, corporate and media partners, and event sponsorship through organizations such as the Boys & Girls Clubs and PTAs. The campaign provides free resources for parents, including the *Talking With Kids* guide and Web site, which includes listings of national and local parent resources.

Special thanks to the following individuals for their invaluable advice and support:

Dr. Arthur Elster, American Medical Association
Dr. Richard Gallagher, NYU Medical School
Dr. Jonathan Klein, University of Rochester Medical School
Dr. William Pollack, Harvard Medical School
Dr. Alvin Poussaint, Harvard Medical School
Dr. Barbara Stagers, Oakland Children's Hospital



CHILDREN NOW

1212 Broadway, Fifth Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
Tel: (510) 763-2444
Fax: (510) 763-1974
www.childrennow.org



KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION

2400 Sand Hill Road
Menlo Park, CA 94025
Tel: (650) 854-9400
Fax: (650) 854-4800
www.kff.org

VISIT THE WEB SITE:
www.talkingwithkids.org

FOR A FREE BOOKLET ON TALKING WITH KIDS CALL:
1-800-CHILD44

Honorary Committee

Linda Ellerbee (Chair)
President, Lucky Duck Productions

Kobe Bryant
The Los Angeles Lakers

Dr. James Comer
*Maurice Falk Professor of Child Psychiatry,
Yale Child Study Center*

Lynne S. Dumas
*Author of "Talking with Your Child About
a Troubled World"*

Dr. Richard Gallagher
*Director of the Parenting Institute Child
Study Center, NYU Medical School*

Kevin Leyden
Manager of Children Services, IBM

Rosie O'Donnell
Talk Show Host

Dr. Drew Pinsky
Talk Show Host of MTV's "Loveline"

Dr. Alvin Poussaint
*Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical
School*

Hilary B. Rosen
*President & CEO, Recording Industry
Association of America*

Herb Scannell
President, Nickelodeon/Nick at Nite

Susan Ungaro
Editor-in-Chief, Family Circle Magazine

National Endorsers

American Academy of Pediatrics
Boys & Girls Clubs of America
Girls Incorporated
National PTA
National Association of Elementary
School Principals
National Association of Secondary
Principals
National Council of Churches
National Council of La Raza

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Screenwriter, director, actor

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To Stop Violence**

Pledge to Make a Difference

Since the tragic shootings in Littleton, Colorado, we've seen an outpouring of emotion. AOL's chat rooms, message boards and polls reflect sadness and confusion, as well as a determination to make sure nothing like this happens again.

We all want to make a difference. So, after hearing from parents, teachers, teens, and children who want to stop violence, we worked with experts to create PACT (Parents And Children Together).

While this is just one small step, we're asking you to join other Americans in taking this pledge. We hope you'll use it in a way that's meaningful to you -- print it as a reminder of what you can do each day, ask your friends to sign or start a family or classroom discussion. After you've signed, you'll find resources that can help to build safer and stronger families, schools and communities.

To participate, click on the appropriate link below.

[For Adults](#) | [For Teenagers](#) | [For Kids](#)



An AOL Initiative

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Parents And Children Together To Stop Violence

For Adults (Scroll down to sign the PACT)

- I will talk with my children and the children I know, and listen to the issues they think are important.
- I will take a greater interest in my children's free time and their friends.
- I will, in my words and actions, condemn violence as a way to resolve conflict, anger or frustration.
- I will get more involved in my community and our schools.
- If I own a gun, I will make sure that children can't get their hands on it.

Email or AOL Screen Name:

First Name:

Age:

Zip Code:

Sign the PACT

The information collected above will be used only to compile aggregate, anonymous demographic data. You will receive no email. For more information, please see our [privacy policy](#)

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PACT

Parents And Children Together To Stop Violence

For Teenagers (Scroll down to sign the PACT)

- I will not put other kids down by labeling them with names or doing anything else that creates hurt feelings.
- I will talk to my parents, teachers or an adult I trust about problems at school, with friends, or anything else that makes me feel bad.
- I will do everything I can to resolve trouble without violence --- and when I can't, I will walk (or run) away.
- If I see or hear other kids talking about hurting people, or doing things that could harm others, I will tell an adult as soon as I can.
- I understand that violence is real and has permanent consequences. I will do everything I can to stay safe.

Email or AOL Screen Name:

First Name:

Age:

Zip Code:

Sign the Pact

The information collected above will be used only to compile aggregate, anonymous demographic data. The information

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Parents And Children Together To Stop Violence

For Kids Only (Scroll down to sign the PACT)

- I understand that not all kids are the same, and that everyone wants to be liked and accepted.
- I will tell my parents or another adult I trust when I'm upset or angry about school, friends or anything else that makes me feel bad.
- I will look for ways to settle disagreements without violence.
- If I see or hear other kids talking about hurting people, or doing things that could harm others, I will tell an adult as soon as I can.

First Name:

Zip Code:

The information collected above will be used only to compile aggregate, anonymous demographic data. The information will not be rented or sold; you will not receive any promotional offers based on this data. You will receive no email

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To print this certificate, click on your browser's File menu and select Print.

To return to the previous page, click the back button on your browser.



(Your Name)

has signed the PACT, promising to
take action to stop violence.

- I will talk with my children and the children I know,
and listen to the issues they think are important.
- I will take a greater interest in my children's free time
and their friends.
- I will, in my words and actions, condemn violence as
a way to resolve conflict, anger or frustration.
- I will get more involved in my community and our
schools.
- If I own a gun, I will make sure that children can't get
their hands on it.



An AOL Initiative

SUGGESTED PROGRAM SEQUENCE

Opening:

YOU will be announced into the East Room, accompanied by the Vice President, The First Lady and Mrs. Gore.

YOU will be seated and will make brief opening remarks from your seat with the press present, after which the press will depart.

There will be a brief interval while the press depart.

Note: **YOU** will moderate the roundtable discussion. The Vice President, the First Lady and Mrs. Gore should participate in the discussion and questioning as appropriate. To organize the discussion and maximize involvement of the 56 other participants, we recommend dividing the discussion into the following categories.

Talking with Students (15-20 minutes):

YOU should begin by calling on the **students** present to describe the problem. **YOU** may call on one or both of the following:

Terrence Gray, Peer Mediator, T.C. Williams High (you met him at roundtable)

Simonna Woodson, Peer Mediator, Arsenal Tech High School, Indianapolis

Other students available for comment:

Shane Cambronero, City Year staffer, former Americorp member

Eric Heydenberk, Conflict Resolution Program, Strayer Middle School, Quakertown, PA

Maria Monteil, Peer Mediator, T.C. Williams High

At this point, **YOU** may want to call on **Colorado AG Ken Salazar** for comment.

YOU should ask **James Garbarino**, Ph.D., Co-Director, Family Life Development Center, Cornell University and author of *Lost Boys*, to discuss briefly what we know about which factors contribute to youth violence.

Other experts available:

Carl Bell, M.D., President and CEO, The Community Health Council and Professor of Psychiatry, University of Illinois

Robert Pynoos, M.D., Director, UCLA Trauma Psychiatry Service, Professor of Psychiatry, Neuropsychiatric Institute

Jonathan Barnett, Professor of City and Regional Planning, Univ. of Pennsylvania

The Responsibility of Gun Manufacturers and Those Who Use Guns (15-20 minutes):

Next **YOU** should steer the discussion towards the responsibilities of gun manufacturers and those who use guns.

YOU should call on **Bob Ricker**, Executive Director, American Shooting Sports Council: ask him to discuss their agreement with elements of your latest gun proposals. He may ask **Georgia Nichols**, VP & General Counsel, O F Mossberg (largest shotgun manuf.) and **Ed Shultz**, President and CEO, Smith and Wesson to comment.

Sarah Brady: ask her to comment.

Others available to comment: Attorney General Janet Reno

Gun Industry:

Paul Jannuzzo, VP & General Counsel, Glock Inc.

Honorable Bill Brewster, President, R. Duffy Wall & Associates

Law Enforcement:

Steve Young, National Vice-President, Fraternal Order of Police (FOP)

Judge Alan Page, Associate Justice, Minnesota Supreme Court

Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton

The Responsibility of the Entertainment and Internet Communities (40 minutes):

Next **YOU** should steer the discussion towards the responsibilities of the entertainment and internet communities. **YOU should** call on each of the following:

Internet:

Steve Case, Chairman and CEO, America On-Line: ask him to describe AOL's new efforts to empower parents.

Eric Heydenberk, Conflict Resolution Program, Strayer Middle School, Quakertown, PA: Ask him to describe the conflict resolution web site he is building.

Television/V chip:

Leslie ("Les") Moonves, President, CBS Television: praise him and Iger for voluntary ratings system.

Bob Iger, Chairman, ABC Group and President, Walt Disney International

William Kennard, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission: ask him to describe the FCC's V-Chip project.

Drew Altman, President and CEO, Kaiser Foundation: ask him to describe their v-chip project.

YOU may also call on one or more of the following:

Motion Pictures:

Jack Valenti, President, Motion Picture Association of America

Andrew Shue, Actor, Founder, Do Something Foundation

Also available for comment:

Decker Anstrom, President, National Cable Television Association

Edward Fritts, President, National Association of Broadcasters

Video Games:

Doug Lowenstein, President, Interactive Digital Software Association

Music:

Gloria Estefan, Recording Artist

Also available for comment:

Hilary Rosen, President and CEO, Recording Industry Artists Association

At this point, you may want to parents to respond: Call on either **Ginny Markell**, President-Elect of the Parents-Teacher Association or **Pam Eakes**, President and Founder, Mothers Against Violence

And a faith leader: **Monsignor Thomas McDade**, Secretary of Education, US Catholic Conference

Other faith-based leaders available:

Dr. Prema Mathai-Davis, CEO, YWCA of the USA

Abraham Foxman, Director, Anti-Defamation League

Reverend Eugene Rivers, Co-Chair, National Ten Point Leadership Foundation

Call on **Congressman Gephardt** and **Senator Brownback** to respond.

The National Campaign (with 30 minutes remaining):

YOU should ask **Eli Segal** to describe how the Welfare to Work Partnership was formed and how it has worked successfully.

YOU should ask participants for suggestion or ideas about how a national campaign against youth violence could work and what they might contribute. **YOU** may call on several of the following:

Roxanne Spillett, President, Boys & Girls Clubs of America
Sandra Feldman, President, American Federation of Teachers
Bob Chase, President, National Education Association
Mary Ellen Maxwell, President, National School Board Association
Nancy Dickey, President, American Medical Association
Sam Saba, Executive Director, National Assoc. of Elementary School Principals

Dr. Prema Mathai-Davis, CEO, YWCA of the USA
Abraham Foxman, Director, Anti-Defamation League
Reverend Eugene Rivers, Co-Chair, National Ten Point Leadership Foundation

You may at this point want to ask **Maya Angelou** for her views.

Governor Roy Romer, Chairman, Policy Advisory Comm., The Ad Council, Inc.: ask him about the Ad Council's new campaign on youth violence.

Closing:

YOU should thank participants and invite them to stand with you in the Rose Garden during your brief remarks to the press immediately following the discussion.

Rose Garden Statements:

YOU will be announced into the Rose Garden, accompanied by the Vice President, The First Lady and Mrs. Gore. Participants will be on stage behind you.

YOU will make brief remarks, followed by the First Lady, Mrs. Gore and last, the Vice President, who will close.

P/FL - NORTH SIDE

Roxanne Spillet B&G Clubs of America	Doug Lowenstein Interactive Software	Harry Reid D/NV	John Podesta	Bill Brewster R. Duffy Wall & Assoc.	William Kennard FCC	Sen. Sam Brownback R/KS	Barry McCaffrey ONDCP	Ed Shultz Smith & Wesson	Georgia Nichols O.F. Mossberg	Donna Shalala	Abraham Foxman ADL
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Jonathan Barnett
University of Pennsylvania

Hilary Rosen
RIAA

Dr. Samuel Sava
NAESP

Eddie Fritts
NAB

Drew Altman
Kaiser Foundation

Thomas McDade
U.S. Catholic Conf.

Maya Angelou
Poet

Nancy Wilson Dickey
AMA

Shane Cambronero
City Year/Americorps

MEG

Les Moonves
CBS

Sandy Feldman
AFT

Alan Page
Minnesota Supreme Ct.

Dr. Robert Pynoos
UCLA

Jack Valenti
MPAA

Maria Montell
T.C. Williams HS

Andrew Shue
Do Something

Decker Anstrom
NCTA

Rep. Jennifer Dunn
RWA

Mayor Sharon Sayles-Belton
Minneapolis, MN

Gov. Roy Romer

Paul Jannuzzo
GLOCK, Inc.

Attorney General Reno

Dr. James Garbarino
Cornell University

Ginny Markell
National PTA

Kenneth Salazar
Attorney General, State of Colorado

THE VICE PRESIDENT

Robert Ricker
American Shooting Sports Council

Eric Heydenberk
Strayer Middle School

Gloria Estefan
Recording Artist

Richard Gephardt
D/MO

Terrence Gray
T.C. Williams H.S.

Robert Chase
National Education Association

Mary Ellen Maxwell
National School Board Assn.

Sec. Richard Riley

Prema Mathai-Davis
YWCA

Pamela
Eakes
MAD

Lt. Steve
Young
FOP

Carl
Bell
Univ.
of Illinois

Bruce
Reed

Steve
Case
AOL

FLOTUS

POTUS

Simonna
Woodson
Arsenal Tech
High School

Robert
Iger
ABC

Sarah
Brady
Handgun
Control

Eli
Segal

Eugene
Rivers

Final 05/09/99 6:45pm
Jeff Shesol

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
OPENING REMARKS
AT THE WHITE HOUSE STRATEGY SESSION
ON CHILDREN, VIOLENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY
THE EAST ROOM
May 10, 1999**

I want to welcome everyone here to the White House, and to thank you for coming to our Strategy Session on Children, Violence, and Responsibility. This is a diverse and impressive group: parents and children, teachers and religious leaders, law enforcement and government officials, gun manufacturers and sportsmen, and representatives of the entertainment industry. The Vice President, Tipper, Hillary and I wanted to bring together so many sectors of society for a simple reason: because America's children deserve safe childhoods.

On Friday, I announced that we would launch a national campaign to prevent youth violence -- a grass-roots effort to involve all Americans, from every community and all walks of life, in protecting our children from violence. I hope the ideas generated here will lay the groundwork for that campaign, and help us to find common ground and concrete solutions.

We're not here to debate who takes the blame, but to show who takes responsibility. I want to be sure that the government continues to do its part. In the weeks to come, I hope to work with Congress to pass legislation that makes our schools and streets safer, and keeps guns out of the wrong hands. Today, I am also directing the Surgeon General to conduct a ground-breaking study -- the first report in more than a decade on youth violence and its causes. This report will infuse our efforts with a new urgency and understanding.

Many of you are already stepping forward and stepping up to your responsibility. I am pleased, first of all, that the gun manufacturers represented here today have expressed support for several important gun measures we proposed here at the White House two weeks ago. Together, we have found common ground on some common-sense measures: banning violent juveniles from buying guns for life; raising the age for handgun ownership from 18 to 21; closing the gun show loophole so criminals can't buy guns; holding reckless parents responsible for giving children access to guns; and reducing illegal gun trafficking by helping law enforcement trace weapons used in crimes. I commend the gun manufacturers here today for taking responsibility.

Others have agreed to do their part. A few years ago, through the Vice President's leadership, we were able to put in place a voluntary ratings system for television. Les Moonves, the head of CBS, and Bob Iger, the head of ABC, have led the way by putting their networks behind this effort; and they are here today. This year, half the new TV sets sold in America will contain the V-Chip, which parents can use to protect their children from violent programming. Today, the FCC is announcing a V-Chip Task Force to make sure that next year, every new set

contains the V-Chip; and the Kaiser Family Foundation is announcing a massive new public education campaign to make sure parents know about it and how to use it. Also, following this meeting, Kaiser and the Ad Council will produce a campaign of anti-violent ads called "Talking with Kids About Tough Issues."

I am encouraged by all these efforts; and I hope everyone here will talk about the ways we can, together, live up to our responsibility to create a safe future for our children. I'm looking forward to hearing your ideas. I'm especially interested to hear what these young people have to say.

Final 05/09/99 6:45pm
Jeff Shesol

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

Date: 5/9/99 ACTION / CONCURRENCE / COMMENT DUE BY: ASAPSubject: CHILDREN + VIOLENCE CLOSING REMARKS

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☒	☐	MOORE	☒	☐
PODESTA	☒	☐	NASH	☐	☐
ECHAVESTE	☒	☐	REED	☒	☐
RICCHETTI	☒	☐	RUFF	☐	☐
LEW	☐	☐	SOSNIK	☒	☐
BERGER	☐	☐	SPERLING	☐	☐
BLUMENTHAL	☒	☐	STEIN	☒	☐
CAHILL	☒	☐	STERN	☐	☐
FRAMPTON	☐	☐	STRETT	☐	☐
IBARRA	☐	☐	TRAMONTANO	☒	☐
JOHNSON	☐	☐	UCELLI	☒	☐
KLAIN	☒	☐	VERVEER	☒	☐
LANE	☐	☐	WALDMAN	☒	☐
LEWIS	☒	☐	YELLEN	☐	☐
LINDSEY	☐	☐	<u>Scorides, R.</u>	☒	☐
LOCKHART	☐	☒	<u>Kagan, E.</u>	☒	☐
MARSHALL	☐	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS:

Comments to Jeff Shesol (x62796)

RESPONSE:

Final 05/09/99 6:45pm
Jeff Shesol

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
CLOSING REMARKS
AT THE WHITE HOUSE STRATEGY SESSION
ON CHILDREN, VIOLENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY
THE ROSE GARDEN
May 10, 1999**

We have just concluded a very productive strategy session in the East Room here at the White House. I'm encouraged by the many good ideas I heard. . . by the many ways Americans are already working together to reduce youth violence. . . and by our resolve to redouble those efforts.

When I first called upon this group of Americans, representing all sectors of society, I had hoped for this sort of session. Earlier this morning, I said we wouldn't be asking who takes the blame, but who takes responsibility. And today, the answer these leaders have given is a powerful one: they've said, we're all in this together. We may not agree on every issue, but we do agree on this plain and simple truth: a civilized society keeps its children safe.

In the weeks and months ahead, as we launch our national campaign to prevent youth violence, we will build on this strong foundation. And we will draw upon the ideas and experiences shared at this morning's session. I know we will all think of the children who spoke today with such bravery and maturity. We'll remember the religious leaders, the educators and, especially, the parents struggling to give their children strong values -- struggling, at the same time, against a swelling tide of images and ideas, sweeping into their homes and threatening to submerge those values.

As our national campaign gets underway, we know that we can overcome the challenges we face by challenging ourselves to do better, to overcome old ways of thinking and of doing business. We have seen some of that resolve already, in the support that the gun manufacturers here today have given to our common-sense gun measures. And we have seen it in the efforts of networks like ABC and CBS, and private family foundations like Kaiser, and agencies like the FCC, to give parents tools like the V-Chip to protect children from violent programming.

We know there is more that each of us can and must do. At home and at school, in Hollywood and in the heartland, and here in Washington, we must challenge every parent, every teacher, and every leader to step up to our responsibility.

First, and most fundamentally, we must remember that the most important influence in a child's life is a parent. I challenge parents to turn off the television when they don't like what they see, keep an eye on the computer screen, and refuse to buy products that glorify violence. If

no one consumes these products, no one will produce them. Simply put, they won't build it if you won't come.

To the media and entertainment industries, I say this: enlist wholeheartedly in our cause, in our national campaign. You have enormous power -- not just to entertain our children, but to educate them. I challenge you to embrace that responsibility. Ask yourselves whether it is really necessary to assault the eyes and ears of youth with what degrades and destroys. Consider the consequences of what you produce. And let me say this to anyone who makes a violent movie, CD, or video game: if you make it, at least don't market it to children.

Finally, I urge the Congress: Step up to your responsibility. I have introduced legislation to keep guns out of the hands of both criminals and children. As this group of gun manufacturers and sportsmen has made clear, these are common-sense measures. So I challenge Congress: pass these gun proposals now. Give America's children the safe childhoods they deserve.

If Americans meet these challenges, coming together from all walks of life to seek and share solutions, then we can truly put an end to the culture of violence -- and build in its place a culture of values we would all be proud to pass along to our children. Thank you.

May 9, 1999

**WHITE HOUSE STRATEGY SESSION ON
CHILDREN, VIOLENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY**

DATE:	Monday, May 10, 1999
LOCATION:	East Room (Meeting) Rose Garden (Statement)
BRIEFING TIME:	9:30am – 10:00am
MEET & GREET:	10:00am – 10:20am
MEETING:	10:30am – 12:45pm
STATEMENT:	1:00pm – 1:30pm
FROM:	Bruce Reed

I. PURPOSE

To convene parents and children, teachers and religious leaders, law enforcement and government officials, gun manufacturers and sportsmen, and representatives of the entertainment industry, to discuss the problem of youth violence and develop a strategy for a national campaign to address this problem.

II. BACKGROUND

At today's strategy session, you will announce several initiatives to address the problem of youth violence including a Surgeon General's Report on Youth Violence, gun industry support for gun legislation in five important areas, and public and private commitments to ensure the effective implementation of the V-Chip.

SURGEON GENERAL'S REPORT ON YOUTH VIOLENCE

Today, you will announce that you are asking the nation's Surgeon General, Dr. David Satcher, to prepare a landmark report on youth violence -- the first such study on this subject in more than a decade. This report will bring together leading experts to review and evaluate existing research, and build on the findings of the 1972 Surgeon General Report on Television and Violence, as well as the 1985 Surgeon General's Workshop on Violence. Much is already known about how to reduce and prevent youth violence, but this report will add to the nation's understanding in this field. It also will address media that have emerged since previous reports, such as the Internet and video games.

GUN INDUSTRY SHOWS SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATION IN FIVE KEY AREAS

Today, leaders in the firearms industry announced their support for working out legislation in five areas. Specifically, the American Shooting Sports Council (ASSC), the gun industry's trade association in Washington, which represents 350 firearms manufacturers and distributors around the country, released a statement supporting legislation in five areas:

- **Closing the gun show loophole on Brady background checks.** The Treasury Department estimates that 25-50 percent of the sellers at gun shows are unlicensed and sell guns without the benefit of a background check. As a result, gun shows can provide a forum for illegal firearms sales and gun trafficking. You have proposed background checks, based on the existing Brady law, for firearms transferred at gun shows.
- **Extending the Brady Law to violent juveniles.** Although violent youth convicted in adult courts are barred from owning firearms as adults, the same is not true for youth convicted of serious violent crimes in juvenile court. You have proposed permanently banning all violent juveniles from buying guns -- so that they cannot purchase a gun on their 21st birthday.
- **Raising the age of the youth handgun ban to 21 years of age.** Federal law generally bans the possession of handguns by juveniles under the age of 18, and prohibits federal gun dealers from selling firearms to anyone under 21 years of age. However, it is perfectly legal for 18-20 year-olds to possess handguns or to buy them from unlicensed sellers -- even though law enforcement trace more crime guns to 18 and 19 year-olds than all other age groups. You have proposed raising the legal age of handgun ownership from 18 to 21 years, while maintaining current exemptions for employment, hunting, target shooting, ranching and military service.
- **Holding adults responsible for child access to guns.** Child Access Prevention (CAP) laws promote gun safety and responsibility by holding adults responsible if they allow children easy access to firearms and ammunition. You have proposed imposing felony penalties on adults who knowingly or recklessly allow a child to have access to a gun that is later used to cause death or injury.
- **Helping law enforcement to trace more firearms used in crimes.** Over the past 2 years, you have expanded comprehensive crime gun tracing to 37 cities -- helping them to trace all crime guns to their source, to identify illegal gun markets, and to crack down on gun traffickers. Last year, ATF initiated over 300 investigations in these cities, which involved over 3,300 illegally trafficked firearms. You have proposed expanding comprehensive tracing nationwide, starting by doubling the program to 75 cities.

MAKING THE V-CHIP WORK

The V-Chip is a device that allows parents to block television programming they consider inappropriate for their children. You and the Vice President led the successful fight for legislation that requires the V-Chip be installed in all new television sets sold beginning January 1, 2000. At today's strategy session you will announce two new initiatives to make sure the V-Chip becomes a useful tool for parents.

- **V-Chip Task Force.** To ensure that the V-Chip law is implemented effectively, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will establish a V-Chip Task Force. The Task Force will: (1) ensure the V-Chip requirement is enforced promptly and comprehensively; (2) promote parental awareness about the V-Chip and work closely with organizations sharing this goal; (3) encourage adoption of a standard label identifying television sets that contain the V-Chip and; (4) study the use of the V-Chip and evaluate the effectiveness of the industry's ratings system. FCC Chairman William Kennard has appointed Commissioner Gloria Tristani to chair the Task Force.
- **The V-Chip Survey and Education Project.** According to a survey released today by the Kaiser Foundation, while many parents (77%) say they want to use the V-Chip, less than four out of ten parents (39%) has ever seen information on how the system works. The Kaiser Foundation and the Center for Media Education announced today a major national effort to educate parents about the V-Chip TV ratings system. The educational campaign will include free booklets for parents on how the V-chip TV ratings system works. The free parent information will be available through a toll-free telephone number and will be promoted through partnerships with TV manufacturers, retailers, parents' organizations, newspapers, and television stations.

I. PARTICIPANTS

Briefing Participants:

John Podesta
Maria Echaveste
Bruce Reed
Loretta Ucelli
Larry Stein
Audrey Tayes-Haynes
Richard Socarides
Neera Tanden
Jeff Shesol
Trooper Sanders

Meeting Participants:

See attached list.

II. PRESS PLAN

Meeting: Pool Press (at the top)
Statement: Open Press

III. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- YOU** will greet meeting participants in the State Dining Room.
- YOU** will proceed to the Blue Room for a brief hold.
- YOU** will be announced, accompanied by the Vice President, the First Lady, and Mrs. Gore, into the East Room, and will proceed to your seat at the table.
- YOU** will make a brief statement, after which the press will depart.
- YOU** will begin the discussion.
- Upon conclusion of the discussion, **YOU** will proceed to the Map Room for a brief hold.
- YOU** will be announced, accompanied by the Vice President, the First Lady, and Mrs. Gore, into the Rose Garden.
- **YOU** will make remarks and introduce the First Lady.
- The First Lady will make remarks and introduce Mrs. Gore.
- Mrs. Gore will make remarks and introduce the Vice President.
- The Vice President will make remarks.
- Upon conclusion of the Vice President's remarks, **YOU** will depart.

I. REMARKS

To be provided by speechwriting.

II. ATTACHMENTS

- Participants List
- Suggested Discussion Format
- Administration Accomplishments

**PRESIDENT AND MRS. CLINTON, VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. GORE
HOST STRATEGY SESSION ON
CHILDREN, VIOLENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY
Monday, May 10, 1999**

Today, the President led a strategy meeting to discuss the problem of youth violence and develop a strategy for a national campaign to address this problem. The meeting included a broad cross-section of Americans including parents and children, teachers and religious leaders, law enforcement and government officials, gun manufacturers and sportsmen, and representatives of the entertainment industry. The President announced several initiatives to address the problem of youth violence including a Surgeon General's Report on Youth Violence, gun industry support for gun legislation in five important areas, and public and private commitments to ensure the effective implementation of the V-Chip.

SURGEON GENERAL'S REPORT ON YOUTH VIOLENCE

Today, the President announced that he is asking the nation's Surgeon General, Dr. David Satcher, to prepare a landmark report on youth violence -- the first such study on this subject in more than a decade. This report will bring together leading experts to review and evaluate existing research, and build on the findings of the 1972 Surgeon General Report on Television and Violence, as well as the 1985 Surgeon General's Workshop on Violence. Much is already known about how to reduce and prevent youth violence, but this report will add to the nation's understanding in this field. It also will address media that have emerged since previous reports, such as the Internet and video games.

GUN INDUSTRY SHOWS SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATION IN FIVE KEY AREAS

Today, leaders in the firearms industry announced their support for working out legislation in five areas. Specifically, the American Shooting Sports Council (ASSC), the gun industry's trade association in Washington, which represents 350 firearms manufacturers and distributors around the country, released a statement supporting legislation in five areas:

- **Closing the gun show loophole on Brady background checks.** The Treasury Department estimates that 25-50 percent of the sellers at gun shows are unlicensed and sell guns without the benefit of a background check. As a result, gun shows can provide a forum for illegal firearms sales and gun trafficking. The President has proposed background checks, based on the existing Brady law, for firearms transferred at gun shows.
- **Extending the Brady Law to violent juveniles.** Although violent youth convicted in adult courts are barred from owning firearms as adults, the same is not true for youth convicted of serious violent crimes in juvenile court. The President has proposed permanently banning all violent juveniles from buying guns -- so that they cannot purchase a gun on their 21st birthday.
- **Raising the age of the youth handgun ban to 21 years of age.** Federal law generally bans the possession of handguns by juveniles under the age of 18, and prohibits federal

gun dealers from selling firearms to anyone under 21 years of age. However, it is perfectly legal for 18-20 year-olds to possess handguns or to buy them from unlicensed sellers -- even though law enforcement trace more crime guns to 18 and 19 year-olds than all other age groups. The President has proposed raising the legal age of handgun ownership from 18 to 21 years, while maintaining current exemptions for employment, hunting, target shooting, ranching and military service.

- **Holding adults responsible for child access to guns.** Child Access Prevention (CAP) laws promote gun safety and responsibility by holding adults responsible if they allow children easy access to firearms and ammunition. The President has proposed imposing felony penalties on adults who knowingly or recklessly allow a child to have access to a gun that is later used to cause death or injury.
- **Helping law enforcement to trace more firearms used in crimes.** Over the past 2 years, the President has expanded comprehensive crime gun tracing to 37 cities -- helping them to trace all crime guns to their source, to identify illegal gun markets, and to crack down on gun traffickers. Last year, ATF initiated over 300 investigations in these cities, which involved over 3,300 illegally trafficked firearms. The President has proposed expanding comprehensive tracing nationwide, starting by doubling the program to 75 cities.

MAKING THE V-CHIP WORK

The V-Chip is a device that allows parents to block television programming they consider inappropriate for their children. President Clinton and Vice President Gore led the successful fight for legislation that requires the V-Chip be installed in all new television sets sold beginning January 1, 2000. At today's strategy session the President announced two new initiatives to make sure the V-Chip becomes a useful tool for parents.

- **V-Chip Task Force.** To ensure that the V-Chip law is implemented effectively, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will establish a V-Chip Task Force. The Task Force will: (1) ensure the V-Chip requirement is enforced promptly and comprehensively; (2) promote parental awareness about the V-Chip and work closely with organizations sharing this goal; (3) encourage adoption of a standard label identifying television sets that contain the V-Chip and; (4) study the use of the V-Chip and evaluate the effectiveness of the industry's ratings system. FCC Chairman William Kennard has appointed Commissioner Gloria Tristani to chair the Task Force.
- **The V-Chip Survey and Education Project.** According to a survey released today by the Kaiser Foundation, while many parents (77%) say they want to use the V-Chip, less than four out of ten parents (39%) has ever seen information on how the system works. The Kaiser Foundation and the Center for Media Education announced today a major national effort to educate parents about the V-Chip TV ratings system. The educational campaign will include free booklets for parents on how the V-chip TV ratings system works. The free parent information will be available through a toll-free telephone number and will be promoted through partnerships with TV manufacturers, retailers, parents' organizations, newspapers, and television stations.

A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT YOUTH VIOLENCE

Recognizing that youth violence is a problem that government cannot solve alone, the President, the First Lady, the Vice President and Mrs. Gore called for a national campaign to reduce youth violence. This campaign will work with all sectors of our society – the media, education groups, parents, religious leaders, and young people – to focus on this problem, find what's working, spread it to new communities, while also helping to ensure that the media sends the right message to our children.

This campaign is modeled after two extremely successful efforts launched by the Clinton Administration. Four years ago, the President asked for a national campaign to reduce teen pregnancy. Today, under the leadership of Governor Tom Kean, former governor of New Jersey, and now the President of Drew University, that campaign is playing an important role in reducing teen pregnancy rates nationwide. Two years ago, the President called for a national effort by businesses to hire people off welfare, to make sure the welfare reform effort would work. Today, under the leadership of Eli Segal, the Welfare to Work Partnership has grown to 10,000 companies that have helped move more than 40,000 people from the welfare rolls to the job rolls.

CHILDREN, VIOLENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY

--The Clinton-Gore Administration Record --

GIVING PARENTS THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO PROTECT THEIR CHILDREN

Giving Families A New Tool -- A Content-Based Television Ratings System. Striving to protect children from violence and adult content on television, the President and Vice President garnered a breakthrough agreement from the television industry to create a content-based voluntary ratings system. The new system went into effect October 1, 1997, giving parents the information they need to determine if TV shows are appropriate for viewing by their children and to identify which programs they may want to block from their homes through screening technology (the V-chip). The voluntary rating system includes age- and content-based ratings.

Helping Parents Control What Comes Into Their Living Room with the V-Chip. Four years ago, the President and the Vice President used the Family Policy Conference in Nashville to call for V-chip legislation -- to give parents new tools to help them screen out television programs that are not fit for their kids. Under strong leadership from the White House, the following year saw Congress enact the Telecommunications Act of 1996 which included V-chip legislation. Now, by January 2000, all new televisions are scheduled to include this screening technology.

Hosting the White House Conference on Children's Television. In July 1996, the President and Vice President convened the White House Conference on Children's Television to improve and expand educational television for children. Conference participants included parents, industry representatives, advocates, experts and advertisers. At the Conference, the television industry joined with the President and agreed to air more educational and instructional children's shows.

Encouraging More Educational Television. At the President's urging, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted clear and concrete rules to encourage the development and promotion of TV programming that would be both welcomed by parents and watched by children. The rules require three hours of regularly scheduled, half-hour weekly educational and instructional programming as a requirement for license renewal.

Promoting a "Family Friendly" Internet. The President and Vice President have worked to make cyberspace a safe place for children. The Administration has enlisted the assistance of numerous stakeholders, including industry leaders, teachers, parents, Internet users and librarians to work towards the creation of a "family friendly" Internet. The Administration's three part strategy includes: (1) industry commitments to provide blocking, filtering and labeling technology for use by parents and teachers using the 'Net; 2) effective enforcement of existing laws; and 3) increased parental awareness and involvement. This strategy is designed to give parents and teachers the tools they need to prevent children from getting access to inappropriate material on the Internet, and to guide them towards high-quality educational resources.

Keeping Children Safe on the Internet with the Parents' Protection Page. Recently, the Vice President announced the parents' protection page, an important new commitment by 15 of the country's premier Internet companies to give parents the resources they need to protect their children from inappropriate material on the Internet. The parents' protection page, which will be available for use by July 1999, will provide parents with the tools and knowledge to supervise and guide their children's online activities. In addition to giving parents blocking, filtering and monitoring tools, this page includes information for parents, teachers and children on how to report crime or other troubling activity online. The parents' protection page also can serve as a guide to finding the vast array of high quality educational materials online.

PROMOTING SCHOOL SAFETY

Creating a New Federal Response for Violent Deaths in Schools. President Clinton has proposed \$12 million in his FY 2000 budget for School Emergency Response to Violence -- or Project SERV -- to help schools and local communities respond to school-related violent deaths, such as those that occurred last school year in Jonesboro, Arkansas; Paducah, Kentucky; Pearl, Mississippi; and Springfield, Oregon. Developed with input from local officials and educators in these and other communities, Project SERV will enable the Federal government to assist local communities in much the same way that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assists in response to natural disasters.

Hiring School Resource Officers, Targeting Assistance to Schools with Serious Crime Problems. To help give schools with crime problems the tools they need to put the security of our children first, at the White House Conference on School Safety, the President announced a new \$65 million initiative to hire up to 2,000 community police and School Resource Officers to work in schools -- and to train police, educators and other members of the community to help recognize the early warning signs of violence. The President recently announced the first installment of the initiative; this funding will allow an additional 600 School Resource Officers to serve in 336 communities across the country.

Forging School-Based Partnerships Between Schools and Law Enforcement. Under the School-Based Partnerships grant program, the Clinton Administration released \$16.4 million in grants to 155 law enforcement agencies in September 1998. The School-Based Partnerships grants will be used by policing agencies to work with schools and community-based organizations to address crime at and around schools. This initiative emphasizes using principles of community policing and problem-solving methods to address the causes of school-related crime. The grants will help forge or strengthen partnerships between local law enforcement and schools to focus on school crime, drug use and discipline problems.

Launching a Community-Wide Response to School Safety and Youth Violence. To help communities throughout the country promote a coordinated, comprehensive response to school safety, the President launched a new Safe Schools/Healthy Students initiative designed to help 50 cities develop and implement community-wide school safety plans. In April 1999, the Departments of Justice, Education, and Health and Human Services announced that they will provide over \$180 million this year, and a total of \$380 million over three years through the Initiative for communities to fund comprehensive school safety plans that include anti-truancy initiatives, mentoring, mental health services, conflict resolution programs, school resource officers, and more -- helping to promote healthy development and to prevent youth violence before it occurs. Communities will have until June 1, 1999 to apply for the funds.

Helping to Make All Schools Safe, Disciplined and Drug-Free. In 1994, President Clinton expanded the Drug-Free Schools Act into the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act, making violence prevention a key part of this program. Safe and Drug-Free Schools currently provides support for violence and drug prevention programs to 97 percent of the nation's school districts. At the White House Conference on School Safety, President Clinton announced his plan for a significant overhaul of this nearly \$600 million Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Program. Under the President's proposal, schools will be required to adopt rigorous, comprehensive school safety plans that include: tough, but fair, discipline policies; safe passage to and from schools; effective drug and violence policies and programs; annual school safety and drug use report cards; links to after school programs; efforts to involve parents; and crisis management plans.

Responding to the Early Warning Signs of Troubled Youth. President Clinton directed the Secretary of Education and the Attorney General to develop a guide to help teachers and principals identify and respond to the early warning signs of troubled youth that can lead to school violence. In August 1998, the Departments of Justice and Education released *Early Warning, Timely Response: A Guide to Safe Schools*. This guide provides schools and communities with information on how to identify the early warning signs and take action

steps to prevent and respond to school violence. More than 200,000 copies of the guide have been distributed, and additional copies may be obtained through the websites of the Departments of Education and Justice.

Providing Safe After-School Opportunities for More than a Million Children a Year. Last year (FY98), the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program was expanded to \$200 million. This funding is already supporting hundreds of school-based after-school programs in rural and urban schools in 44 states and the District of Columbia, including weekend and summer programs. This year, the President proposed to triple this initiative -- to \$600 million -- to provide safe and educational after-school opportunities for up to 1.1 million school-age children in communities across the country. In addition, the Education Department released a report in June 1998, titled *Safe and Smart: Making the After-School Hours Work for Kid*. This report shows that after-school programs can lower juvenile crime and improve academic performance. *Safe and Smart* was sent to every school district in the country.

Targeting Young People with a National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign. In July 1998, President Clinton launched the national expansion of the Anti-Drug Media Campaign first proposed in the 1997 national drug control strategy. The 5-year, \$2 billion campaign (which includes private sector matching contributions) is designed to let teens know -- when they turn on the television, listen to the radio, or surf the 'Net -- that drugs are dangerous, wrong and can kill you.

KEEPING GUNS AWAY FROM YOUTH

Won Passage of the Brady Bill. Since taking effect in 1994, the Brady Law has helped to prevent over a quarter of a million felons, fugitives, stalkers, and other prohibited purchasers from buying handguns. In November 1998, the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) took effect under the Brady Law, allowing access to a fuller set of records that law enforcement officials can use to conduct checks of all prospective gun purchases -- not just for handguns. To date, NICS has conducted over 3.4 million background checks on gun purchasers, and the FBI has stopped over 36,000 illegal gun sales.

Banned the Manufacture and Importation of 19 of the Deadliest Assault Weapons. The 1994 Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act banned 19 of the deadliest assault weapons and their copies, while specifically protecting more than 50 legitimate sporting weapons. Cop-killing assault weapons, like the Uzi, are the weapons of choice for drug dealers and gangs -- not hunters and sportsmen. A recent Justice Department study found that the 1994 assault weapon ban contributed to a decrease in criminal use of the banned guns and a reduction in the overall gun murder rate.

Cracking Down on Illegal Gun Trafficking with the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative. In 1996, President Clinton launched the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (YCGII) in 17 cities to help trace crime guns to their source, as well as identify and arrest the adults who traffic firearms to children. Over the past two years, the President has expanded the YCGII initiative to 37 cities ATF agents have conducted more than 200,000 crime gun traces for local law enforcement. Last year alone, ATF initiated over 300 investigations in these cities, which involved over 3,300 illegally trafficked firearms. Additionally, over the last two years the President has proposed hiring more than 280 new Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) agents and more than 40 new Federal prosecutors to arrest gun traffickers and violent criminals, and crack down on illegal gun sales.

Requiring Child Safety Locks for Handguns. Child safety locks and other safety devices can reduce the unauthorized use of handguns, by a child at play or a teen looking to commit a crime. Many youth have to look no further than their own home to get their hands on a gun: an estimated one-third of all privately-owned handguns are left both loaded and unlocked. In March 1997, the President signed a directive

to every Federal agency, requiring child safety locking devices with all handguns issued to Federal law enforcement officers. And, in an historic agreement, eight major gun manufacturers followed the President's lead and have voluntarily agreed to provide child safety locking devices with all their handguns.

Signed into Law the Youth Handgun Safety Act. In 1994, President Clinton signed into law the Youth Handgun Safety Act, which generally banned the possession of handguns or handgun ammunition by juveniles under the age of 18, and made it a Federal offense for adults to transfer handguns to juveniles, with limited exceptions. In 1997, the President directed the Treasury Department to require that signs be posted on the premises of Federal firearms licensees and that written notification be issued with each handgun sold to non-licensees to help ensure compliance with the Youth Handgun Safety Act.

Enforcing Zero Tolerance for Guns and Other Weapons in Schools. In October 1994, President Clinton signed into law the Gun-Free Schools Act, requiring school districts to expel students who bring guns to school. The President issued a Presidential Directive later that month to enforce the "zero tolerance" policy for guns in schools, consistent with the Gun-Free Schools Act. In school year 1996-97, the U.S. Department of Education estimates that, under zero tolerance policies, 6,093 students were expelled from public schools for bringing a firearm to school.

Introduced the Youth Gun Crime Enforcement Act. The President recently announced new legislation to strengthen the Brady Law and the assault weapons ban, restrict access to guns by our youth and crack down on illegal gun traffickers. The President's proposed bill will: (1) raise the age of the youth handgun ban from 18 to 21 years of age; (2) ban youth possession of semi-automatic assault rifles; (3) prohibit violent juveniles from ever owning guns; (4) require child safety locking devices for guns; (5) reduce illegal gun running by limiting the purchase of handguns to no more than one per month; (6) halt the importation of large capacity ammunition magazines; (7) require Brady background checks for the purchase of explosives and at gun shows; and (8) help law enforcement trace more crime guns to their source.

5/99

White House Strategy Session on Children, Violence and Responsibility May 10, 1999

Participants

Administration

Honorable Janet Reno, Attorney General
Honorable Donna Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services
Honorable Richard Riley, Secretary of Education
General Barry McCaffrey, Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy
Honorable John Podesta, Chief of Staff to the President
Honorable Bruce Reed, Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy and Director, Domestic Policy Council
Honorable William Kennard, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission

Students

Shane Cambronero, City Year Staff member and former Americorp member
Terrence Gray, Peer Mediator, T.C. Williams High
Eric Heydenberk, Conflict Resolution Program, Strayer Middle School
Maria Montiel, Peer Mediator, T.C. Williams High
Simonna Woodson, Peer Mediator, Arsenal Tech High School

Gun Manufacturers and Gun Owners

Honorable Bill Brewster, President, R. Duffy Wall & Associates; NRA Board Member
Paul Jannuzzo, VP & General Counsel, Glock Inc.
Georgia Nichols, Vice-President and General Counsel, O.F. Mossberg and Sons
Robert Ricker, Executive Director, American Shooting Sports Council
Ed Shultz, President and CEO, Smith and Wesson

Law Enforcement

Judge Alan Page, Associate Justice, Minnesota Supreme Court
Steve Young, National Vice-President, Fraternal Order of Police

Television/Motion Pictures

Leslie Moonves, President and CEO, CBS Television
Bob Iger, Chairman, ABC Group and President, Walt Disney International
Jack Valenti, President, Motion Picture Association of America
Decker Anstrom, President, National Cable Television Association
Edward Fritts, President, National Association of Broadcasters
Andrew Shue, Actor, Founder, Do Something Foundation

Internet/Video Games

Steve Case, Chairman and CEO, America On-Line
Doug Lowenstein, President, Interactive Digital Software Association

Music

Gloria Estefan, Recording Artist
Hilary Rosen, President and CEO, Recording Industry Association of America

Teachers/Parents/Mentors

Bob Chase, President, National Education Association
Pam Eakes, President and Founder, Mothers Against Violence
Sandra Feldman, President, American Federation of Teachers
Ginny Markell, President-Elect of the Parents-Teacher Association
Mary Ellen Maxwell, President, National School Board Association
Dr. Samuel Sava, Executive Director, National Association of Elementary School Principals
Roxanne Spillett, President, Boys & Girls Clubs of America

Faith-based Leaders

Abraham Foxman, National Director, Anti-Defamation League
Dr. Prema Mathai-Davis, CEO, YWCA of the USA
Monsignor Thomas McDade, Secretary of Education, US Catholic Conference
Reverend Eugene Rivers, Co-Chair, National Ten Point Leadership Foundation

Experts

Dr. Maya Angelou, Professor and Poet
Jonathan Barnett, Professor of City and Regional Planning, University of Pennsylvania
Carl Bell, M.D., President and CEO, The Community Health Council and Professor of Psychiatry, University of Illinois
James Garbarino, Ph.D., Co-Director, Family Life Development Center, Cornell University
Robert Pynoos, M.D., Director, UCLA Trauma Psychiatry Service, Professor of Psychiatry, Neuropsychiatric Institute

Foundations/Non-profits

Drew Altman, President and CEO, Kaiser Foundation
Sarah Brady, Handgun Control, Inc.
Nancy Dickey, President, American Medical Association
Governor Roy Romer, Chairman, Policy Advisory Committee, The Advertising Council, Inc.
Honorable Eli Segal, President and CEO, Welfare to Work Partnership

Elected Officials

Honorable Ken Salazar, Attorney General, Colorado
Honorable Sharon Sayles Belton, Mayor of Minneapolis

Members of Congress

Honorable (Rep.) Richard Gephardt, D-Missouri
Honorable (Senator) Harry Reid, D-Nevada
Honorable (Senator) Sam Brownback, R-Kansas
Honorable (Rep.) Jennifer Dunn, R-Washington

TOTAL (56)

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
OPENING REMARKS
AT THE WHITE HOUSE STRATEGY SESSION
ON CHILDREN, VIOLENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY
THE EAST ROOM
May 10, 1999**

I want to welcome everyone here to the White House, and to thank you for coming to our Strategy Session on Children, Violence, and Responsibility. This is a diverse and impressive group: parents and children, teachers and religious leaders, law enforcement and government officials, gun manufacturers and sportsmen, and representatives of the entertainment industry. The Vice President, Tipper, Hillary and I wanted to bring together so many sectors of society for a simple reason: because America's children deserve safe childhoods.

On Friday, I announced that we would launch a national campaign to prevent youth violence -- a grass-roots effort to involve all Americans, from every community and all walks of life, in protecting our children from violence. I hope the ideas generated here will lay the groundwork for that campaign, and help us to find common ground and concrete solutions.

We're not here to debate who takes the blame, but to show who takes responsibility. I want to be sure that the government continues to do its part. In the weeks to come, I hope to work with Congress to pass legislation that makes our schools and streets safer, and keeps guns out of the wrong hands. Today, I am also directing the Surgeon General to conduct a groundbreaking study -- the first report in more than a decade on youth violence and its causes. This report will infuse our efforts with a new urgency and understanding.

Many of you are already stepping forward and stepping up to your responsibility. I am pleased, first of all, that the gun manufacturers represented here today have expressed support for several important gun measures we proposed here at the White House two weeks ago. Together, we have found common ground on some common-sense measures: banning violent juveniles from buying guns for life; raising the age for handgun ownership from 18 to 21; closing the gun show loophole so criminals can't buy guns; holding reckless parents responsible for giving children access to guns; and reducing illegal gun trafficking by helping law enforcement trace weapons used in crimes. I commend the gun manufacturers here today for taking responsibility.

Others have agreed to do their part. A few years ago, through the Vice President's leadership, we were able to put in place a voluntary ratings system for television. Les Moonves, the head of CBS, and Bob Iger, the head of ABC, have led the way by putting their networks behind this effort; and they are here today. This year, half the new TV sets sold in America will contain the V-Chip, which parents can use to protect their children from violent programming.

Today, the FCC is announcing a V-Chip Task Force to make sure that next year, every new set contains the V-Chip; and the Kaiser Family Foundation is announcing a massive new public education campaign to make sure parents know about it and how to use it. Also, following this meeting, Kaiser and the Ad Council will produce a campaign of anti-violent ads called "Talking with Kids About Tough Issues."

I am encouraged by all these efforts; and I hope everyone here will talk about the ways we can, together, live up to our responsibility to create a safe future for our children. I'm looking forward to hearing your ideas. I'm especially interested to hear what these young people have to say.

P/FL - NORTH SIDE

Roxanne Spillett B&G Clubs of America	Doug Lowenstein Interactive Software	Harry Reid D/NV	John Podesta	Bill Brewster R. Duffy Wall & Assoc.	William Kennard FCC	Sen. Sam Brownback R/KS	Barry McCaffrey ONDCP	Ed Shultz Smith & Wesson	Georgia Nichols O.F. Mossberg	Donna Shalala	Abraham Foxman ADL
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Jonathan Barnett
University of Pennsylvania

Hilary Rosen
RIAA

Dr. Samuel Sava
NAESP

Eddie Fritts
NAB

Drew Altman
Kaiser Foundation

Thomas McDade
U.S. Catholic Conf.

Maya Angelou
Poet

Nancy Wilson Dickey
AMA

Shane Cambronero
City Year/Americorps

MEG

Les Moonves
CBS

Sandy Feldman
AFT

Alan Page
Minnesota Supreme Ct.

Dr. Robert Pynoos
UCLA

Jack Valenti
MPAA

Maria Montell
T.C. Williams HS

Andrew Shue
Do Something

Decker Anstrom
NCTA

Rep. Jennifer Dunn
R/WA

Mayor Sharon Sayles-Belton
Minneapolis, MN

Gov. Roy Romer

Paul Jannuzzo
GLOCK, Inc.

Attorney General Reno

Dr. James Garbarino
Cornell University

Ginny Markell
National PTA

Kenneth Salazar
Attorney General, State of Colorado

THE VICE PRESIDENT

Robert Ricker
American Shooting Sports Council

Eric Heydenberk
Strayer Middle School

Gloria Estefan
Recording Artist

Richard Gephardt
D/MO

Terrence Gray
T.C. Williams H.S.

Robert Chase
National Education Association

Mary Ellen Maxwell
National School Board Assn.

Sec. Richard Riley

Prema Mathai-Davis
YWCA

Pamela Eakes MAD	Lt. Steve Young FOP	Carl Bell Univ. of Illinois	Bruce Reed	Steve Case AOL	FLOTUS	POTUS	Simonna Woodson Arsenal Tech High School	Robert Iger ABC	Sarah Brady Handgun Control	Eli Segal	Eugene Rivers
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