

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

▶ **Jordan Tamagni**
09/09/99 06:54:33 PM
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Record Type: Record

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

cc:

Subject: Radio Final

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Tamagni

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**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
RADIO ADDRESS ON SCHOOL SAFETY GRANTS
THE WHITE HOUSE
September 11, 1999**

Good morning. Across America, the new school year is underway, as millions of children return to class. It is a time of hope and excitement for students, parents, and teachers alike. But in many communities, it is also a time of concern -- concern that when our children walk through the schoolhouse door, they will not be safe from the threat of violence.

We know that the vast majority of America's schools are safe, but we cannot forget that many communities -- in cities, suburbs, and rural areas -- have a serious problem with school violence. And even one incident of school violence is one too many. The tragic school shootings of the past two years were a wake-up call -- an urgent reminder that to protect our children from violence, we need nothing less than a national campaign that draws on all our resources and demands all of our commitment -- with all of us taking responsibility.

For more than six years, my administration has worked hard to do our part. We have strengthened and expanded our Safe and Drug-free Schools program, which helps school districts to provide counseling, after-school activities, and violence mediation, among other things. We enacted a national Zero Tolerance policy for guns in schools -- helping to expel 4,000 students for carrying guns to school last year alone. We announced a grassroots National Campaign Against Youth Violence. And we have fought to keep guns out of the hands of children and criminals.

At the first-ever White House School Safety Conference and, after the tragedy in Littleton, at a White House Strategy Session on Youth Violence, we launched new actions -- 2,000 more school resource officers in our schools ... an anti-violence media campaign you may already have seen on television ... and a new plan to help schools respond to deadly violence.

These steps have made our schools safer, more disciplined, learning environments. But when it comes to protecting our children from violence, we must do more.

We know that the best solutions to the problem of youth violence come when everyone at the local level works together – students, parents, teachers, police officers, local judges, and counselors. That's why I asked the Departments of Justice, Education, and Health and Human Services to develop the Safe-Schools Healthy-Students initiative, to help communities co-ordinate their efforts to identify troubled young people, prevent them from acting violently, and respond when violence does occur.

As part of this new program, we launched a national competition to find the best ideas to reduce youth violence and hundreds of communities applied. Today, I am pleased to announce that 54 communities with the best plans will receive a total of nearly \$100 million in Safe Schools grants. These communities will use these funds in a variety of ways proven to reduce youth violence: From hiring more school resource officers, to improving mental health services, to modernizing school security systems, to expanding after-school and mentoring programs. Best of all, they engage the entire community to meet the challenge of building safer schools.

I am especially glad that two of these grants are going to Jonesboro, Arkansas – whose plan includes in-home counseling for at-risk families, and Springfield, Oregon – who will build on the strong partnership it developed with law enforcement after the tragic shooting last year. In the face of unspeakable loss, the people of these towns have pulled together to protect their children – they are an inspiration for us all.

All over America, people are doing their part to fight youth violence. But there are some things only Congress can do. I have called repeatedly on Congress to pass a common-sense juvenile crime bill to prevent youth violence and keep guns out of the wrong hands. For months now, I have waited – and the American people have waited – for Congress to act. Meanwhile, our children are returning to school in ever-greater numbers. So I say again, it should not take another tragedy to make this a priority. It is time for Congress to put politics aside and send me a bill that puts our children's safety first. Let's make this school year the safest yet.

Thanks for listening.

Message Sent To:

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▶ **Jordan Tamagni**
09/09/99 04:44:56 PM
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To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: Radio Draft

Draft 9/9/99 5:00pm

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
RADIO ADDRESS ON SCHOOL SAFETY GRANTS
THE WHITE HOUSE
September 11, 1999

Good morning. Across America, the new school year is underway, as millions of children return to class. It is a time of hope and excitement for students, parents, and teachers alike. But in many communities, it is also a time of concern -- concern that when our children walk through the schoolhouse door, they will not be safe from the threat of violence.

Now, we know that the vast majority of America's schools are safe -- but even one incident of school violence is one too many. The tragic school shootings of the past two years were a wake-up call -- an urgent reminder that to protect our children from violence, we need nothing less than a national campaign that draws on all our resources and demands all of our commitment -- with all of us taking responsibility.

For more than six years, my administration has worked hard to do our part. We have strengthened and expanded our Safe and Drug-free Schools program, which helps school districts hire drug counselors and violence mediators, among other things. We enacted a national Zero Tolerance policy for guns in schools -- helping to expell 6,000 students for carrying guns to school last year alone. And we have fought to keep guns out of the hands of children and criminals.

At the first-ever White House School Safety Conference and, after the tragedy in Littleton, a Strategy Session on Youth Violence, we launched new actions -- 2,000 more school resource officers in our schools ... an anti-violence media campaign you may already have seen on television ... and a new plan to help schools respond to deadly violence.

These steps have made our schools safer, healthier environments. But when it comes to protecting our children from violence, we must do more.

We know that the best solutions to the problem of youth violence come when everyone

we cannot do that.

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depends like a tiger - Our kids have been kids on
also*

Community
at the local level works together – students, parents, teachers, police officers, local judges, and counselors. That's why I asked the Departments of Justice, Education, and Health and Human Services to develop the Safe-Schools Healthy-Students initiative, to help communities co-ordinate their efforts to identify troubled young people, prevent them from acting violently, and respond when violence does occur.

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COPS*
We received thousands of applications. Today, I am pleased to announce that 54 communities – the ones that submitted the best plans -- will receive a total of more than \$100 million in Safe Schools grants. These communities will use these funds in a variety of ways proven to reduce youth violence: From hiring more school resource officers, to improving mental health services, to modernizing school security systems, to expanding after-school and mentoring programs. Best of all, they engage the entire community to meet the challenge of building safer schools.

qualified
I am especially pleased that two of these grants are going to Jonesboro, Arkansas – whose plan includes in-home counseling for at-risk families, and Springfield, Oregon – who will build on the strong partnership it developed with law enforcement after the tragic shooting last year. In the face of unspeakable loss, the people of these towns have pulled together to protect their children – they are an inspiration for us all.

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To help every community in America organize their own anti-violence, we must ensure that our own federal agencies are doing everything they can to help. To that end, I am directing Bruce Reed, my domestic policy advisor, to head a new White House Youth Violence Council. This council will establish a citizen's information hub to link communities and parents to the most effective anti-violence programs. It will co-ordinate national research on the problem of youth violence. And it will develop cutting edge solutions that communities can use.

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All over America, we are doing our part to fight youth violence. But there are some things only Congress can do. I have called repeatedly on Congress to pass a common-sense juvenile crime bill to prevent youth violence and keep guns out of the wrong hands. For months now, I have waited – and the American people have waited – for Congress to act. Meanwhile, our children are returning to school in ever-greater numbers. So I say again, it should not take another tragedy to make this a priority. It is time for Congress to put politics aside and send me a bill that puts our children's safety first. Let's make this school year the safest yet.

Thanks for listening.

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Draft 9/9/99

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
RADIO ADDRESS ON SCHOOL SAFETY GRANTS
THE WHITE HOUSE
September 11, 1999

Good morning. Across America, the new school year is underway, as millions of children return to class. It is a time of hope and excitement for students, parents, and teachers alike. But in many communities, it is also a time of concern -- concern that when our children walk through the schoolhouse door, they will not be safe from the threat of violence. Today, I want to talk about two steps we are taking to ensure that our nation's schools are safer than ever.

We know that the vast majority of America's schools are safe, but even one incident of school violence is one too many. The tragic school shootings of the past two years were a wake-up call -- an urgent reminder that to protect our children from violence, we need nothing less than a national campaign that draws on all our resources and demands all of our commitment -- with all of us taking responsibility.

2 { For more than six years, my administration has worked hard to do our part. We have strengthened and expanded our Safe and Drug-free Schools program, enacted a national Zero Tolerance policy for guns in schools, and fought to keep guns out of the hands of children and criminals. These steps have made our schools safer, healthier environments. But when it comes to protecting our children from violence, we know we must do more.

That is why we held the first-ever White House School Safety Conference and -- after the tragedy in Littleton -- a Strategy Session on Youth Violence. These meetings brought together young people and parents, teachers and school officials, law enforcement and youth advocates, community and religious leaders, entertainment industry representatives, even gun manufacturers. From those many voices, a powerful message emerged: We must meet the deadly force of youth violence with a force of our own -- a highly unified, tightly coordinated effort that engages every sector of society.

My Admin
Last year, I proposed a comprehensive strategy to meet that challenge -- from new resources to put 2,000 school safety officers in our schools, to a plan to help schools respond to deadly violence, to an *anti-violence* media campaign. At the center of our strategy is the Safe Schools-Healthy Students initiative: a groundbreaking new program launched by the Departments of Justice, Education, and Health and Human Services to enlist entire communities -- families, schools, law enforcement, and mental health agencies -- to keep our children safe.

Today, I am pleased to announce that 54 communities across America will receive a total of more than \$100 million in Safe Schools grants to fund comprehensive, coordinated anti-violence plans, tailored to their local needs -- from hiring more school resource officers, to improving mental health services, to modernizing school security systems, to expanding after-school and mentoring programs. Above all, these grants will help

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I am especially pleased that two of these grants are going to Jonesboro, Arkansas, and Springfield, Oregon. In the face of unspeakable loss, the people of these towns committed themselves to ensuring that no community has to go through what they endured. They are a model for us all.

still to write
To help every community in America organize their own anti-violence efforts, we must ensure that our own federal efforts are highly coordinated. Today, I am directing Bruce Reed, my ~~domestic-policy advisor~~, to head a new White House Youth Violence Council. *At this moment - but it will make sense...* Among other things, this council will establish a citizen's information hub to link communities to government programs and resources etc.

With this step, we will help etc.

So, as I say, on the way to do it.
^ But there are some things only Congress can do. I have called repeatedly on Congress to pass a common-sense juvenile crime bill to prevent youth violence and keep guns out of the wrong hands. For months now, I have waited – and the American people have waited – for Congress to act. Meanwhile, our children are returning to school in ever-greater numbers. So I say again, it should not take another tragedy to make this a priority. It is time for Congress to put politics aside and send me a bill that puts our children's safety first. Let's make this school year the safest yet.

Thanks for listening.

PRESIDENT CLINTON UNVEILS INITIATIVES TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES FROM GUN VIOLENCE

September 9, 1999

Joined by Mayors and Police Chiefs from across the nation, President Clinton today urged Congress to help keep our communities safe from gun violence by quickly passing common sense gun legislation. The President also unveiled: (1) new reports from the Justice and Treasury Departments showing the effectiveness and importance of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS); (2) a \$15 million gun buyback initiative sponsored by the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and (3) \$147 million in COPS grants to help communities hire 1,600 additional officers, including 750 officers for schools.

KEEPING GUNS OUT OF THE WRONG HANDS. Today, the Justice and Treasury Departments released reports from the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms that underscore the importance of the Brady Background Checks and enforcement of our gun laws.

National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) Report. In its first seven months of operation (November 1998-June 1999), the NICS conducted over 4.7 million background checks and blocked an estimated 100,000 prohibited gun sales – bringing the total number of sales stopped to felons, fugitives, and other prohibited persons to over 400,000 since the Brady Law took effect. Key findings of the report:

- Vast majority of checks completed swiftly. Over 75 percent of NICS checks are completed within 30 seconds; 95 percent, within 2 hours. When a check cannot be completed within 24 hours, the individual being checked is nearly 20 times more likely to be a felon or other prohibited buyer than the average purchaser.
- Most denied sales to felons. Of sales denied by the FBI, 76 percent were based on a felony conviction; 11 percent for domestic violence misdemeanors or restraining orders.
- High costs of shorter background check timeframes. If the FBI had only 24 hours to do a background check, instead of 3 business days under current law, 20,000 prohibited purchasers – over 41 percent of FBI denials – would have received guns.

ATF Enforcement Report. This report details the way the ATF, FBI and local law enforcement work together to ensure effective and thorough enforcement of the Brady Law. Although the vast majority of NICS checks are completed within three business days, in some limited instances this may not be sufficient time. In following up on incomplete checks, the NICS may discover that a gun has been transferred to a prohibited person. In such an instance, the FBI immediately contacts ATF, which handles these cases as a top enforcement priority. Treasury has added 60 additional federal law enforcement agents to assist ATF in investigating and recovering weapons transferred to prohibited persons. And since the NICS took effect, ATF has opened over 1000 criminal

investigations involving individuals who have illegally attempted to purchase firearms – over 200 of which have been referred to U.S. Attorneys for federal prosecution.

GIVING COMMUNITIES TOOLS TO REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE. The President today also announced two important tools for communities to combat crime and gun violence: a new HUD gun buyback initiative and funds for hundreds of communities to hire more police officers.

HUD Gun Buy Back: Taking Guns Off the Streets. The President announced a \$15 million HUD initiative to help create gun buyback programs in communities across the country. Police departments and several cities have initiated similar programs, allowing citizens to turn in their guns in exchange for money, vouchers for gifts or clothing, and other items of value. The funds will enable public housing authorities (PHAs) to partner with local law enforcement departments to establish gun buyback programs – removing up to 300,000 guns from circulation by the end of the year.

The initiative will encourage a cap of \$50 for each working gun, and encourage PHAs to provide the awards in the form of gift certificates for goods or services rather than cash. Every HUD-sponsored buyback will be run by a local police department – with no amnesty given for any crimes committed with returned firearms. And to ensure the permanent removal from circulation of guns retrieved, all guns must be destroyed unless there is a need for an ongoing law enforcement investigation.

COPS Grants: Putting More Police Officers on Our Streets and in our Schools. The President also announced that the Justice Department will release more than \$146 million in Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grants to fund nearly 1,600 additional officers. \$61 million will be provided to 151 state and local law enforcement agencies to hire over 850 new officers for our streets; and \$85 million will be awarded to 319 state and local police departments to put over 750 police officers in schools.

FIGHTING FOR COMMON SENSE GUN LEGISLATION. Finally, the President renewed his call on Congress to pass sensible legislation supported by a bipartisan coalition of Mayors and Chiefs. The President urged Congress to complete work on juvenile crime legislation and pass a final bill that includes the common sense gun provisions passed in the Senate to close the gun show loophole, require child safety locks for handguns, bar the importation of large capacity ammunition clips, and ban violent juveniles from owning guns for life.

**PRESIDENT CLINTON ANNOUNCES
NEW RESOURCES TO KEEP SCHOOLS SAFE
September 11, 1999**

In his radio address to the nation today, President Clinton emphasized the importance of protecting our children from violence, announced new grants to keep children safe in and out of school, and called on Congress to do its part by passing common sense gun legislation. The President announced over \$100 million in grants from the new Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative for 54 communities to prevent and combat youth violence. An additional \$17 million in COPS grants for 48 communities to hire 155 new police officers for schools was also released.

PROMOTING A COMMUNITY-WIDE RESPONSE TO SCHOOL SAFETY

The Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative. This initiative, launched last year at the White House Conference on School Safety, rewards and promotes coordinated community-wide responses to school and youth violence. It empowers parents, principals, police, and others to collaborate on local solutions. Today's announcement included \$106 million in grants for 54 school districts to support coordinated and comprehensive school safety plans.

- Engaging the whole community. Under the initiative, school districts submit safe schools plans under formal partnerships with local law enforcement and mental health authorities, and in collaboration with families, juvenile justice authorities and community groups.
- Comprehensive solutions. Today's grantees – chosen among hundreds of worthy applications – developed comprehensive safe school plans that provide for drug and violence prevention programs, mental health services, and early childhood development services. Some of the activities funded through the school safety plans include: mentoring and conflict resolution programs, truancy prevention, teen courts, after school programs, and security measures such as school resource officers and metal detectors.
- One-stop shopping. This is an unprecedented joint effort of the Departments of Education, Justice, and Health and Human Services to give communities user-friendly, one-stop access to an array of federal resources.

COPS in Schools. The Justice Department today will also release \$17 million in Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grants for 48 communities to hire 155 police officers to work in schools. These officers work in partnership with education officials and students to solve problems of crime and disorder in and around schools.

FIGHTING FOR COMMON SENSE GUN LEGISLATION. The President also urged Congress to complete work on juvenile crime legislation and pass a final bill that includes common sense gun provisions. Noting that communities across the nation are mobilizing to address the problem of youth and school violence, the President said it was past time for Congress to do its part.