

## **PRESIDENT CLINTON ON CRIME**

### **Inaugural Address, January 20, 1993**

When most people are working harder for less; when others cannot work at all; when the cost of health care devastates families and threatens to bankrupt our enterprises, great and small; when the fear of crime robs law-abiding citizens of their freedom; and when millions of poor children cannot even imagine the lives we are calling them to lead -- we have not made change our friend. We know we have to face hard truths and take strong steps.

### **Remarks at a Town Meeting in Detroit, Michigan, February 10, 1993**

Let me tell you where I think we ought to begin. We ought to begin by passing the crime bill that nearly passed last year, which does two things: It gives the urban areas of this country more police officers for the streets. I have been in areas that were dominated by drugs, by weapons, and by murders, which are now virtually crime-free because they have enough policemen. They have neighborhood policemen walking the streets on every block, working with their neighbors. That's the first thing.

The second thing that bill has is the Brady bill that would require a waiting period before people could buy handguns.

And the third thing we probably ought to do is do what Governor Wilder in Virginia is trying to do. It takes a lot of guts to do that, but he's trying to pass a law which says that you can't buy a handgun more than once a month. Try to stop all these people that go to legal stores and buy guns and then turn around and just give them to kids like they're going out of style.

So those are three places that I think we ought to start. And if you've got any other ideas, I'd like to have them. I think the problem of violence among young people, particularly in our inner cities and not all big cities, is maybe the biggest problem we've got today in terms of their future and the future of our cities.

... I do not believe that we're well served by having a bunch of 14- or 15-year-old kids out there with handguns shooting each other because of blood battles between gangs or because they're mad or because they're high on drugs. It's wrong. We've got to do something about it.

### **Address to Joint Session of Congress, February 17, 1993**

And I ask you to help to protect our families against the violent crime which terrorizes our people and which tears our communities apart. We must pass a tough crime bill. I support not only the bill which didn't quite make it to the President's desk last year but also an initiative to put 100,000 more police officers on the street, to provide bootcamps for first-time nonviolent offenders for more space for the hardened criminals in jail, and I support an

initiative to do what we can to keep guns out of the hands of criminals. Let me say this. I will make you this bargain: If you will pass the Brady bill, I'll sure sign it.

**Remarks at Adult Learning Center, New Brunswick, NJ, March 1, 1993**

I've got young Americans now in Somalia trying to create conditions of peaceful existence there in a country where it is difficult. But there are a lot of young Americans who are living in neighborhoods today that are about as dangerous or worse than what kids are facing in Somalia in terms of shots.

**Remarks at 250th Anniversary of Thomas Jefferson's Birth, Washington, April 13, 1993**

But I think [Jefferson] would be appalled at the lack of self-respect and self-control and respect for others which manifests itself in the kind of mindless violence to which this city and others have been subject for the last several years, and appalled at the millions of young people who will never know the full measure of their freedom because they have been raised without order, with love, without family, without even the basic safety which people need to be able, almost, to take for granted in order to be citizens of a real Democracy. In short, I think Thomas Jefferson would tell us that this is one of those times that we need to change.

**Remarks to Law Enforcement Organizations, Rose Garden April 15, 1993**

[On April 15th, the President called on Congress to dedicate \$200 million in the supplemental appropriations bill being considered to hire more police officers. This proposal was signed into law in June.]

At a time when too many of our people live in fear of violent crime, when too many businesses have closed and too many people have lost their jobs because people are afraid to leave their homes, rehiring thousands of officers is one of the best investments America can make. And I ask both houses of Congress to make that investment in our people's safety and in their peace of mind.

**Announcement of Lee Brown as ONDCP Director, Rose Garden, April 28, 1993**

As Americans who care about our future, we can't let drugs and drug-related crime continue to ruin communities, threaten our children even in schools and fill up our prisons with wrecked and wasted lives...We must do more to protect law-abiding citizens from those who victimize them in the pursuit of drugs or profit from drugs.

...It has to start with community policing, with more police at the local level, working with our neighbors and the children and the friends to prevent crime and to quickly punish criminals...

The most basic responsibility of the government is to protect the American people. It's our sacred duty to do our best. I believe we have a good program. It can be a great program if it can come alive in America in every community in this country.

#### **Remarks at the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, Washington, May 13, 1993**

More than 13,000 law enforcement officials have fallen in the line of duty. This memorial was dedicated to them more than a year and a half ago. Tonight we note the names of 328 more who will be newly etched on these marble stones. But our tribute will ring hollow tonight unless we recommit ourselves to do whatever we can to keep the remainder of these stones as smooth as possible, to support the men and women who keep our society more lawful and our lives more secure, to help them as enforcers and to keep them from becoming victims.

#### **Satellite Feed to the U.S. Conference of Mayors, June 22, 1993**

I want to empower communities to protect themselves, and I'm fighting for \$200 million to help you hire back police officers you've had to lay off. I want to put 100,000 more police on our streets and promote community policing programs. That's the best anti-crime program we can have... It's one thing we can do that will literally change the lives of most Americans who live in the communities affected by it.

#### **Remarks to the National Association of Police Organizations, June 24, 1993**

There are a lot of people in this country who are genuinely insecure today. That shooting at the swimming pool here in Washington, DC, that I'm sure all of you read about, is a horrible example of the kind of mindless behavior that is ripping at the fabric of society. And now I think many children are afraid to go back to the pool, a place where wholesome recreation will occur, a place where kids can stay out of trouble and in water at summertime; how many of their parents might be afraid for them to go back. That is the sort of thing that I hope we can keep in the minds of our policymakers as we deal with the crime bill and deal with these other issues.

#### **Swearing-In Ceremony for Lee Brown, July 1, 1993**

You know the insecurity most Americans feel, without regard to income or race, is a truly appalling thing. And anything we can do, not only to give lives back to children who might otherwise become involved in drugs, but to give the streets and the safety of the streets back to ordinary American families of all kinds is a service well done; and it might mean more to them than anything else this government could produce during my tenure in office and for the foreseeable future.

This is a fight that can unite us all, across the boundaries of party and race and region and income. We are fighting for our families, our children, our communities and our future.

Each and every American -- make no mistake about it -- also bears a personal responsibility to play a role in this battle.

### **Remarks to the National Urban League, Washington, August 4, 1993**

We have to move on to the crime bill, which will do a great deal to help us to put more police officers on the streets in community policing settings where we will be working with people in the community to make them safer and to prevent crime from occurring in the first place. We need to pass the Brady Bill. We have fooled around with this too long. It is time to pass it.

I had a heartbreaking conversation over the weekend with a friend of mine who is a Member of Congress who had a friend whose son was shot in one of these blind, mad encounters between children over the weekend where four young boys got in a fight with four others, and they didn't know the other guys had guns. And finally they just took out the guns and started shooting them. This is crazy. This is crazy.

Our television new is filled at night with horrible incidents of violence in Bosnia and other places in the world that break our heart. Twenty-four people were killed in this town, our Nation's Capital, in one week last month. We have to get on with that.

### **Remarks Announcing Anti-Crime Initiative, Rose Garden, August 11, 1993**

[The day after he signed the budget agreement, President Clinton outlined an anti-crime initiative in the Rose Garden with Judiciary Committee Chairmen Biden and Brooks, representatives from the National Association of Attorneys General and the National District Attorneys Association, and Boston Police Commissioner Bill Bratton.]

The first duty of any government is to try to keep its citizens safe, but clearly too many Americans are not safe today. We no longer have the freedom from fear for all our citizens that is essential to security and prosperity. The past four years have seen 90,000 murders in this country. Last month in this city, our Nation's Capital, in one week 24 murders were committed. When our children must pass through metal detectors to go to school or worry that they'll be the victim of random drive-by shootings when they're playing in the swimming pool in the summertime, when parents are imprisoned in their own apartments behind locked doors, when we can't walk the streets of our cities without fear, we have lost an essential element of our civilization.

Many of you have heard me tell many times over the last year and a half or so of the immigrant worker in the New York hotel who said that if I became President he just wanted me to make his son free. And when I asked him what he meant, he meant that his son couldn't walk to school two blocks without his walking with him, his son couldn't play in the

park across the streets from their apartment house with his father being there. He said his son was not free.

It's time to put aside the divisions of party and philosophy and put our best efforts to work on a crime plan that will help all the American people and go beyond the cynicism of mere speeches to clear action.

### **Radio Address, Oakland, CA, August 14, 1993**

But there's another threat to our security, to our economic revival and our most basic values. It's the crime that's ravaging our neighborhoods and communities...There's a virtual war on our streets, and crime has become a national security issue to millions of Americans...We in government can start by ensuring that the criminal justice system reflects our values and restores people's confidence in the government's ability to prevent and punish crime...But the power of every individual to influence those around them is also very strong, and it's also a power we must turn to if we're going to turn the crime problem around.

With the economic plan in hand and a very tough anti-crime bill on the way, we can truly say our country is headed in a new direction -- more responsibility, more opportunity, a deeper sense of community and restoring the American Dream.

### **Address to a Joint Session of Congress on Health Care Reform, September 22, 1993**

In short, responsibility should apply to anybody who abuses this system and drives up costs for honest, hard-working citizens and undermines confidence in the honest, gifted health care providers we have. Responsibility also means changing some behaviors in this country that drive up our costs like crazy. And without changing it we'll never have the system we ought to have, we will never.

Let me just mention a few and start with the most important: The outrageous costs of violence in this country stem in large measure from the fact that this is the only country in the world where teenagers can rout the streets at random with semiautomatic weapons and be better armed than the police.

### **Remarks in St. Petersburg, FA, September 23, 1993**

When Michael Jordan's father was killed recently, a nation grieved, but no one knew the names of the other 22 people who died in that country this year. This is a national problem.

When I was born in 1946, homicide wasn't even in the top ten leading causes of death in America. In fact, listen to this, throughout my lifetime homicide never made the top ten until 1989. And yet, now, homicide is the second leading cause of death among Americans age 15 to 25. And more of our teenage boys die from gunshots now than any other cause.

**Remarks to the Democratic National Committee Breakfast, at the Washington Sheraton, October 8, 1993**

We've got to know, how old are these people buying these guns? Who are they? Do they have a criminal record? Do they have a mental health history? It's a big deal.

The states can do something. 17 states have said kids can't own handguns unless they're out with their parents on a hunting trip or a target practice. A lot of states have tried to set up laws licensing gun dealers, but the federal law will give you a license for ten bucks, and the states can't overturn it yet.

You got hundreds of gun dealers out there and there's no system about it. And maybe the most important thing of all is, you've got a lot of these people, most of them very young, a lot of them with drug problems, nearly all of them with no real connection to the rest of society, who have easy access to rapidfire assault weapons, the sole purpose of which is to kill people quicker, in greater numbers.

Look at New York. One of the few big cities in the country, where for two years running, there's been a decline in the crime rate in all seven major FBI categories because they went to a community policing system. Look at Houston, where the mayor there, Bob Lanier, got elected on a commitment to put the equivalent of 655 more police officers on the street, and to concentrate them in areas of high crime, and they had a 17 percent drop in the crime rate the first year they did it. You can do this. And we ought to be about the business of helping our places become more safe. This is a huge deal. And the Democratic Party ought to do it. If we were the party of social security, why can't we be the party of health security, and personal security, and freedom from fear?

**Remarks on Health Care and Violence in America, Robert Wood Johnson Hospital, New Brunswick, NJ, October 8, 1993**

And so, I tell you, my fellow Americans, we have a decision to make. And this is the time to make it. We can't keep saying that we deplore these things and it's terrible and keep extolling our American values on how much more law-abiding we are than other people and put up with this. We either need to say this is a level of chaos and human degradation and waste of human potential and incredible cost in society that we are willing to tolerate because we cannot bear to do something about it; or we need to get up, stand up and be counted and do something about it.

We need a national law to do what New Jersey has done here with the assault weapons. Again because we have a constitutional right to travel in this country. New Jersey can make a big dent in New Jersey's problems by abandoning these weapons here, and then by setting up a system to try to collect them, but people are still crossing the state line all the time.

We need national legislation. There are several bills in the Congress, and arguments about which one is better than the other one, but I will guarantee you they are all better than nothing. And the Congress should pass one of those bills and send it to me this year. It would be a great Christmas present to the American people to stand up for safety.

Finally, let me just say that each of us in our own way are going to ask ourselves what we can do to deal with this. We have a culture of violence. We glorify it. I was delighted to see some of the television networks voluntarily say that they were going to do their best to try to monitor the content of violence and reduce it, and degradation of people during prime time television.

We have got to take a whole generation of young people who have very short attention spans for whom the future has no claim because they cannot even imagine the future, and slowly, carefully, and one-on-one, neighborhood by neighborhood, community by community, help them rebuild the kind of inner strength and sense of values and discipline and control and hope that will permit us to go where we need to go. No law will do that, but that is not an excuse not to pass these laws.

And let us have the courage to admit that some of these problems we will never fix until we change our ways as a nation, and let's start with violence, begin with guns, and prove that we can do in America what you are doing here in New Jersey.

### **Radio Address, October 9, 1993**

And the blanket of security for Americans has another side to it: personal security. Our people have the right to feel safe where they live, work, play and go to school. But too many of our people are denied that right. I've talked with parents who are afraid to send their children to schools where other kids carry guns. I've talked with children who were so afraid of becoming caught up with gangs, they didn't even want to leave their homes. I've talked with police officers who felt anger and frustration at trying, sometimes against overwhelming odds, to stem an epidemic of violence, especially from children, better armed than police, who shoot other children. And, most importantly, I've talked with the victims.

My visits with these victims made me more determined than ever to win passage of our crime bill. This bill will help to restore a system where those who commit crimes are caught, those who are found guilty are convicted, those who are convicted are punished -- sometimes by the imposition of the death penalty for especially serious crimes. I support that. Two months ago I asked Congress to pass a tough crime bill. This month your lawmakers will consider it. And they should pass it this year.

### **Remarks by the President at Yale Alumni Luncheon, October 9, 1993**

The second thing I want to mention is violence. This is the only country in the world where police have to go to work every day on streets with teenagers better armed than they

do. This is the only country in the world that would be fiddling around after these years -- how many years has it been since Jim Brady got shot in the attempt to assassinate Ronald Reagan, and we still haven't passed the Brady bill, because people are fiddling around the edges of it making parliamentary arguments because they're trying to find some way to please the people who don't like it. It's unconscionable.

How can I preach to people about NAFTA, education, think of the future, and you've got to worry about whether your kid's going to get shot going to school? We can do something about it. And it is time to close the massive yawning gap between our rhetoric and the way we are organized in this society.

### **Remarks at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, October 12, 1993**

Most of our people are law-abiding citizens who love their families more than their own lives. But America leads the world in violent crime, has the highest percentage of its people behind bars, has 90,000 murders in the last four years and more and more of our children are born into and grow up in family situations so difficult that it is hard even to make the arguments that the rest of us have taken for granted all of our lives.

And this last point I would make to you -- if we are to be personally secure enough to make the changes and meet the tests of this time, we must protect our people better against the ravages of violence. Our people have the right to feel safe where they live, where they go to school and where they work.

My fellow Americans, I was in California the other night and I talked to people all across the state in a hooked up town hall meeting. And this young African American boy, a junior high school student, said, "Mr. President, my brother and I, we don't want to be in gangs, we don't want to have guns, we don't want to cause any trouble. We want to learn, we want a future. And we thought our school was too unsafe, so we decided to go to another school and enroll in it because it was safer. And on the day we showed up to register for school, my brother was standing right in front of me and he was shot," because he got in a crossfire of one of these mindless, arbitrary, endless shootings that occur among children on our streets and in our schools today. We have to stop this. We cannot let those children be robbed of their future.

I know this state grieved recently when your native son Michael Jordan's father was killed. And I know we all wish him well as Michael embarks on a new journey in his life. But let us not forget that 22 other men and women were killed in that same county in your state this year. Ten foreign tourists were killed in Florida this year, and the state grieved over it. But in our nation's capital, in one week this summer, more than twice that many people were killed. They were not famous, but they were the President's neighbors.

**Remarks in Interview With Radio Reporters, October 18, 1993**

[The President was asked about the Chafee bill to ban all handguns.]

I think it might go a little far if it bans all handguns, just because I think that there is a lot of evidence that Americans have used handguns responsibly for sporting purposes, that they're not all used as weapons for committing crimes or killing people. I do believe, however---and let me say first---secondly, as a practical matter, I have not yet been able to get Congress to vote on the crime bill, including the Brady bill and the vote to ban a comprehensive list of assault weapons.

I also know that I heard that Senator Kohl has an amendment, which I encourage, which would make national the ban on ownership or possession of handguns by minors unless with their parents or another supervising adult in an appropriate setting, which might be the way to go on the issue that Senator Chafee is concerned about. Nonetheless, I hold him in the highest regard. He's, I think, an extremely responsible person, and I welcome the hearings on his legislation. But I would have a little problem with a total ban on handguns. I would have a problem with that based on what my understanding of the situation is.

Again, we ought to focus on the Brady bill, the assault weapons ban, and banning possession by minors right now. Since I have been working on this in the last several months, one of the multitude of statistics that's made the biggest impression on me is the one that we were told a couple of weeks ago, that now someone shot in a criminal encounter is 3 times more likely to die from a gunshot wound because they're likely to have nearly three bullets in them, as opposed to only 15 years ago. That is a huge statistical change. And of course, as I pointed out, these wounds and the homicides put an enormous financial burden on this country, on the medical system, on the criminal justice system.

But mostly, it's an incredible human problem. We've got 90,000 people in the last 4 years murdered in America, most of them by gunshots. That's more in any single year than were ever lost in a single year in the war in Vietnam. I think the time has come to do something about this. And I'm hopeful that both Houses of Congress will act on the crime bill and on the assault weapons bill before the end of the year. I hate to keep coming back to this, but right now I don't know that we have the votes to pass the assault weapons ban in the Congress. And I hope we can get the votes to do that and to pass the limitation on minors and possession or ownership of handguns. I think if we push those now in the Brady bill, then the Congress could really make a dent on the exposure of Americans to lethal violence.

**Remarks at a Democratic National Committee Fundraiser, October 21, 1993**

And finally, let me say, I believe we will never meet our challenges at home and abroad until the American people are more secure on their own streets again. For all the violence in the Middle East, my friends, we can read stories every day on every street in America that rivals anything you can read about in the Gaza in the toughest times. If you

look at what has happened, 90,000 murders in 4 years in America, more in any given year than ever happened at the height of the war in Vietnam; you look at the fact that this is the only advanced country in the world, the only one where we don't even check your criminal record or your mental health history in some States to see if you can get a gun and where people seriously argue that infringes on constitutional rights. This is the only country in the world where police go to work on mean streets every day and confront young people who grew up in chaotic circumstances who are often better armed than they are.

...We are breeding generation after generation of people who have no claim to the mainstream of this society and on whom the future has no claim. We are breeding so many people who are so alienated and who have no sense of all these things that you and I came here to celebrate tonight. Just 3 weeks ago, a little girl named Launice Smith was shot and killed in this city. She was on a playground 3 1/2 miles from this wonderful building. She was 4 years old, one of 1,500 people who are shot in this town every year, our Nation's Capital. Her father could not go to her funeral because he's in prison for shooting another 4-year-old on another playground several years ago when he was 19 and got in an argument over hair barrettes. He got angry, and another kid handed him a gun, and he used it.

#### **Remarks in the Radio Address, October 23, 1993**

One of the problems in inspiring that confidence in America is that we've become the most dangerous big country in the world. We have a higher percentage of our people behind bars than any other nation in the world. We've had 90,000 murders in this country in the last 4 years. The American people increasingly feel that they're not secure in their homes, on their streets, or even in their schools. This explosion of crime and violence is changing the way our people live, making too many of us hesitant, often paralyzed with fear at a time when we need to be bold. When our children are dying, often at the hands of other children with guns, it's pretty tough to talk about anything else. Today, there are more than 200 million guns on our streets, and we have more Federally licensed gun dealers---from your Federal Government for only \$10---than we have gas stations.

It's prompted the corner grocer to shut down because he feels threatened. It's made the shopper afraid to enter a parking garage at night. It's made children think twice about going to school because classmates have been shot there. It's made parents order their children inside in broad daylight because of gunfire.

Nothing we aspire to in our Nation can finally be achieved unless first we do something about children who are no longer capable of distinguishing right from wrong, about people who are strangely unaffected by the violence they do to others, about the easy availability of handguns or assault weapons that are made solely for the purpose of killing or maiming others, about the mindless temptations of easy drugs.

Every time we feel the need to view strangers with suspicion or to bar our homes and cars against intrusion or we worry about the well-being of the child we send off to grade

school, we lose a little part of what America should mean. Some of these problems were decades in the making, and we know we can't solve them overnight, but within adversity there is some hope today.

...We are dedicated to restoring and expanding personal security for people who work hard and play by the rules. We're dedicated to insisting on more responsibility from those who should exercise it. We have a comprehensive crime bill that says we need more police, fewer guns, tougher laws, and new alternatives for first offenders. We're asking for a new direction in the control of illegal drugs to make our streets safer. We're asking all our people to take more personal responsibility for their health, their lives, and the well-being of their children.

I believe the American people have decided simply and finally they are sick and tired of living in fear. They are prepared to reach beyond the slogans and the easy answers to support what works, to experiment with new ideas, and to finally, finally do something about this crime and violence. If we do it together, we'll make America more prosperous and more secure. We'll have the courage, the self-confidence, the openness to make the other changes we need to make to put the American people first in the months and years to come.

#### **Remarks at the National Italian-American Foundation Dinner, October 23, 1993**

We have a whole generation of children growing up who will not be able to tell these stories, who shoot each other on the street, who have access to guns in a way they would not have access in any other country in the world. We say we're a law and order country. We're the most religious, big country in the entire world, by far, and we're the only ones that let teenagers be better armed than police, who have no structure, order in their lives, who have no identity with a future, who impulsively do things that destroy others and themselves.

#### **Remarks Announcing Federal Procurement Reforms and Spending Cut Proposals, October 26, 1993**

...We ought to take some of that money that your Government has been wasting all these years and use it to uphold Government's first responsibility, which is to keep our citizens safe here at home. With that money, we can make our crime bill even stronger.

...I want Congress to pass this crime bill and pass the savings I've asked to help pay for it. I want them to know that if these cuts aren't passed, I'm going to come back with more cut. And if those aren't passed, I'll come back with still more. I'll keep coming back until we have the money we need to make America safer.

**Remarks to the Medical Community at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Md,  
October 28, 1993**

It goes way beyond that. We have certain group behaviors in this country that are imposing intolerable burdens on the health care system, which will never be remedies. And we must recognize every time another kid takes another assault weapon onto another dark street and commits another random drive-by shooting and sends another child into the Johns Hopkins emergency room, that adds to the cost of health care. It is a human tragedy. It is also the dumbest thing we can permit to continue to go on for our long-term economic health. Why do we continue to permit this to happen?

And most important of all, we have got to do something about the rising tide of violence in this country. There's a crime bill that Congress can give you for a Christmas present that includes the Brady bill and more police officers on the street and alternatives for kids, and we ought to pass it. We ought to pass it before the Congress goes home.

**Remarks on Signing the Executive Order on Historically Black Colleges and  
Universities, November 1, 1993**

I'd like to close by mentioning a very disturbing article that appeared in the morning paper here. You may have seen it, about children in our Nation's Capital, not even teenagers, discussing their own funerals, planning their funerals, thinking about what they would wear and what music they hope would be played. I am profoundly concerned as we take up the debate this week on the crime bill, on the Brady bill, on the establishment of boot camps as alternatives to prison for young people, on trying to get more law enforcement officers on our streets, that we not underestimate the gravity of the task before us. Somehow we have to get those young people to you, and through you, to the world.

I say that not to end this on a down moment but to remind you of just how important this is, what you are doing. A lot of these kids still won't have a chance if you don't do your job well. And we have to find a way for you to reach them at an even earlier point. And if we want to make it, we've got to find a way to remind the rest of America that we are really all in this together. We cannot afford to have 11-year-olds thinking about their funerals. They need to be thinking about their children. You can do that.

**Remarks in Photo Opportunity with Jim and Sarah Brady, November 2, 1993**

[The President was asked about the impact of the Brady Bill.]

What the Brady bill would do, it would make uniform the requirement -- the losing battle a lot of states are fighting now because they're all alone to at least check those people who do buy from registered gun dealers. And there are an enormous number of people who do have criminal backgrounds, who have mental health problem, who don't even meet any kind of age requirement. We would be able to check all that, uniformly nationwide.

We find now that in a lot of states that have pretty strict gun laws, an enormous percentage of the guns that are confiscated by law enforcement officials every year come from other states that don't. So we do have some evidence that these laws work, that it's not the end all and be all. We've got a couple hundred million guns out there. There are a lot of other problems that we need to deal with in terms of minors in possession, in terms of assault weapons, in terms of the way the permitting process works for federal arms dealers.

But the Brady bill is the first step. And we are going to pass it this year, I believe because the American people finally have heard the long call of Jim and Sarah Brady. They've been out here on this for years and years and years, often times alone with no support. And finally, thanks to the leadership of the members of Congress who are here and others, we're going to be able to put it over.

...And you read all these stories, like the story that was in *The Washington Post* yesterday of the children planning for their funerals, I think it's going to be very difficult got the Congress to justify continued inaction on what millions of Americans believe is the number one problem in their lives.

#### **Remarks to Bipartisan Congressional Leadership Meeting, November 5, 1993**

[The President made this comment the day after the Byrd amendment, increasing the crime bill's funding to \$22 billion, was attached to the crime bill.]

I am delighted that now both Houses have acted on the crime legislation. I congratulate the House and Senate, and I look forward to working with them on getting the strongest possible crime bill out we can; and hopefully meeting the goal that I have had for a long time now putting another 100,000 police officers on the street, which I am convinced will do more in less time to lower the crime rate than anything else. I also hope that we can now move forward to a debate in the Senate and the House on the Brady Bill. And I hope that it will pass before the Senate goes home and the House goes home.

#### **Remarks by the President on "Meet the Press," November 7, 1993**

We ought to pass our crime bill here and put another 100,000 police on the street and do it right in community policing. But we have to get work back into the lives of people. you know you can't have generation after generation not knowing work and expect there to be structure and order in people's lives...

I think this country needs a community strategy which deals with the crises of drugs, violence, crime, the family and work. And we need to go not only nationally, but at the grass-roots level. And we need to understand that there's some basic things we have to do. If you want families to stay together, you've got to make it possible for people to be successful workers and successful parents.

**Remarks at NAFTA Press Conference, November 10, 1993**

[The President was asked about what he would do about crime and violence, beyond the crime bill.]

We have to rebuild families and communities in this country. We've got to take more responsibility for these little kids before they grow up and start shooting each other. We have to find ways to offer hope and to reconnect people. When children start shooting children the way they're doing now, and little kids go around planning their own funerals, what that means is that they're a whole lot of people, millions of people in this country, who literally are not even playing by the same set of rules that all the rest of us take for granted. And we have learned in this country to accept many things that are unacceptable. And I think the President has a pulpit, Teddy Roosevelt's bully pulpit, that I have to use and work hard on and try to live by to try to help rebuild the conditions of family and community and education and opportunity.

...First of all, the Attorney General and Secretary Cisneros and a number of other people are now working in our administration on how we can develop a comprehensive approach to the whole issue of violence in our society and how we can merge that with what we want to do in terms of community empowerment, and how it will fit with all the things that we are now doing. And I think what you will see from us over the next several months is a sustained, organized, disciplined approach so that we don't just respond to the horror we all feel when a little kid gets shot after being picked up off the street like happened here last weekend, or when the children plan their funerals. I want to give -- I want to put this right at the center of what we're doing.

I have spent years going to neighborhoods and talking to people and dealing with issues that most politicians in national government have not talked a lot about. I care a great deal about this. There is a lot of knowledge in this town about it. Senator Moynihan wrote a very powerful article just a couple of weeks ago on how we have defined deviancy down. I think there's an enormous bipartisan willingness to face this. What I think I have to do is to mobilize every person in my government to do what can be done to address these problems. And you will see that coming out after the Congress goes home and in my address to the people next year when the Congress begins.

**Remarks at the Mason Temple Church of God In Christ, Memphis, Tennessee, November 13, 1993**

But I guess what I really want to say to you today, my fellow Americans, is that we can do all of this and still fail unless we meet the great crisis of the spirit that is gripping America today.

...If Martin Luther King, who said, "Like Moses, I am on the mountaintop and I can see the promised land, but I'm not going to be able to get there with you, but we will get

there," -- if he were to reappear by my side today and give us a report card on the last 25 years, what would he say?...He would say, I did not live and die to see the American family destroyed. I did not live and die to see 13-year-old boys get automatic weapons and gun down 9-year-olds just for the kick of it. I did not live and die to see young people destroy their own lives with drugs and then build fortunes destroying the lives of others. That is not what I came here to do.

I fought for freedom, he would say, but not for the freedom of people to kill each other with reckless abandon; not for the freedom of children to have children and the fathers of the children walk away from them and abandon them as if they don't amount to anything. I fought for people to have the right to work, but not to have whole communities and people abandoned. This is not what I lived and died for.

My fellow Americans, he would say, I fought to stop white people from being so filled with hate that they would wreak violence on black people. I did not fight for the right of black people to murder other black people with reckless abandon.

...The freedom to do that kind of thing is not what Martin Luther King lived and died for. It's not what people gathered in this hallowed church for the night before he was assassinated in April, 1968. If you had told anybody who was here in that church on that night that we would abuse our freedom in that way, they would have found it hard to believe. And I tell you it is our moral duty to turn it around.

...How would we explain to him all these kids getting killed and killing each other? How would we justify the things that we permit that no other country in the world would permit? How could we explain that we gave people the freedom to succeed and we created conditions in which millions have used that freedom to destroy the things that make life worth living and life itself? We cannot.

And I say to you today, my fellow Americans, you gave me this job. And we're making progress on the things you hired me to do. But unless we deal with the ravages of crime and drugs and violence and unless we recognize that it's due to the breakdown of the family, the community and the disappearance of jobs; and unless we say some of this cannot be done by government because we have to reach deep inside to the values, the spirit, and the soul and the truth of human nature, none of the other things we seek to do will ever take us where we need to go.

So in this pulpit, on this day, let me ask all of you in your hear to say we will honor the life and the work of Martin Luther King; we will honor the meaning of our church; we will somehow, by God's grace, we will turn this around. We will give these children a future. We will take away their guns and give them books. We will take away their despair and give them hope. We will rebuild the families and the neighborhoods and the communities. We won't make all the work that has gone on here benefit just a few. We will do it together by the grace of God.

## **PRESIDENT CLINTON ON CRIME**

### **Inaugural Address, January 20, 1993**

When most people are working harder for less; when others cannot work at all; when the cost of health care devastates families and threatens to bankrupt our enterprises, great and small; when the fear of crime robs law-abiding citizens of their freedom; and when millions of poor children cannot even imagine the lives we are calling them to lead -- we have not made change our friend. We know we have to face hard truths and take strong steps.

### **Remarks at a Town Meeting in Detroit, Michigan, February 10, 1993**

Let me tell you where I think we ought to begin. We ought to begin by passing the crime bill that nearly passed last year, which does two things: It gives the urban areas of this country more police officers for the streets. I have been in areas that were dominated by drugs, by weapons, and by murders, which are now virtually crime-free because they have enough policemen. They have neighborhood policemen walking the streets on every block, working with their neighbors. That's the first thing.

The second thing that bill has is the Brady bill that would require a waiting period before people could buy handguns.

And the third thing we probably ought to do is do what Governor Wilder in Virginia is trying to do. It takes a lot of guts to do that, but he's trying to pass a law which says that you can't buy a handgun more than once a month. Try to stop all these people that go to legal stores and buy guns and then turn around and just give them to kids like they're going out of style.

So those are three places that I think we ought to start. And if you've got any other ideas, I'd like to have them. I think the problem of violence among young people, particularly in our inner cities and not all big cities, is maybe the biggest problem we've got today in terms of their future and the future of our cities.

... I do not believe that we're well served by having a bunch of 14- or 15-year-old kids out there with handguns shooting each other because of blood battles between gangs or because they're mad or because they're high on drugs. It's wrong. We've got to do something about it.

### **Address to Joint Session of Congress, February 17, 1993**

And I ask you to help to protect our families against the violent crime which terrorizes our people and which tears our communities apart. We must pass a tough crime bill. I support not only the bill which didn't quite make it to the President's desk last year but also an initiative to put 100,000 more police officers on the street, to provide bootcamps for first-time nonviolent offenders for more space for the hardened criminals in jail, and I support an

initiative to do what we can to keep guns out of the hands of criminals. Let me say this. I will make you this bargain: If you will pass the Brady bill, I'll sure sign it.

**Remarks at Adult Learning Center, New Brunswick, NJ, March 1, 1993**

I've got young Americans now in Somalia trying to create conditions of peaceful existence there in a country where it is difficult. But there are a lot of young Americans who are living in neighborhoods today that are about as dangerous or worse than what kids are facing in Somalia in terms of shots.

**Remarks at 250th Anniversary of Thomas Jefferson's Birth, Washington, April 13, 1993**

But I think [Jefferson] would be appalled at the lack of self-respect and self-control and respect for others which manifests itself in the kind of mindless violence to which this city and others have been subject for the last several years, and appalled at the millions of young people who will never know the full measure of their freedom because they have been raised without order, with love, without family, without even the basic safety which people need to be able, almost, to take for granted in order to be citizens of a real Democracy. In short, I think Thomas Jefferson would tell us that this is one of those times that we need to change.

**Remarks to Law Enforcement Organizations, Rose Garden April 15, 1993**

[On April 15th, the President called on Congress to dedicate \$200 million in the supplemental appropriations bill being considered to hire more police officers. This proposal was signed into law in June.]

At a time when too many of our people live in fear of violent crime, when too many businesses have closed and too many people have lost their jobs because people are afraid to leave their homes, rehiring thousands of officers is one of the best investments America can make. And I ask both houses of Congress to make that investment in our people's safety and in their peace of mind.

**Announcement of Lee Brown as ONDCP Director, Rose Garden, April 28, 1993**

As Americans who care about our future, we can't let drugs and drug-related crime continue to ruin communities, threaten our children even in schools and fill up our prisons with wrecked and wasted lives...We must do more to protect law-abiding citizens from those who victimize them in the pursuit of drugs or profit from drugs.

...It has to start with community policing, with more police at the local level, working with our neighbors and the children and the friends to prevent crime and to quickly punish criminals...

The most basic responsibility of the government is to protect the American people. It's our sacred duty to do our best. I believe we have a good program. It can be a great program if it can come alive in America in every community in this country.

#### **Remarks at the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, Washington, May 13, 1993**

More than 13,000 law enforcement officials have fallen in the line of duty. This memorial was dedicated to them more than a year and a half ago. Tonight we note the names of 328 more who will be newly etched on these marble stones. But our tribute will ring hollow tonight unless we recommit ourselves to do whatever we can to keep the remainder of these stones as smooth as possible, to support the men and women who keep our society more lawful and our lives more secure, to help them as enforcers and to keep them from becoming victims.

#### **Satellite Feed to the U.S. Conference of Mayors, June 22, 1993**

I want to empower communities to protect themselves, and I'm fighting for \$200 million to help you hire back police officers you've had to lay off. I want to put 100,000 more police on our streets and promote community policing programs. That's the best anti-crime program we can have... It's one thing we can do that will literally change the lives of most Americans who live in the communities affected by it.

#### **Remarks to the National Association of Police Organizations, June 24, 1993**

There are a lot of people in this country who are genuinely insecure today. That shooting at the swimming pool here in Washington, DC, that I'm sure all of you read about, is a horrible example of the kind of mindless behavior that is ripping at the fabric of society. And now I think many children are afraid to go back to the pool, a place where wholesome recreation will occur, a place where kids can stay out of trouble and in water at summertime; how many of their parents might be afraid for them to go back. That is the sort of thing that I hope we can keep in the minds of our policymakers as we deal with the crime bill and deal with these other issues.

#### **Swearing-In Ceremony for Lee Brown, July 1, 1993**

You know the insecurity most Americans feel, without regard to income or race, is a truly appalling thing. And anything we can do, not only to give lives back to children who might otherwise become involved in drugs, but to give the streets and the safety of the streets back to ordinary American families of all kinds is a service well done; and it might mean more to them than anything else this government could produce during my tenure in office and for the foreseeable future.

This is a fight that can unite us all, across the boundaries of party and race and region and income. We are fighting for our families, our children, our communities and our future.

Each and every American -- make no mistake about it -- also bears a personal responsibility to play a role in this battle.

### **Remarks to the National Urban League, Washington, August 4, 1993**

We have to move on to the crime bill, which will do a great deal to help us to put more police officers on the streets in community policing settings where we will be working with people in the community to make them safer and to prevent crime from occurring in the first place. We need to pass the Brady Bill. We have fooled around with this too long. It is time to pass it.

I had a heartbreaking conversation over the weekend with a friend of mine who is a Member of Congress who had a friend whose son was shot in one of these blind, mad encounters between children over the weekend where four young boys got in a fight with four others, and they didn't know the other guys had guns. And finally they just took out the guns and started shooting them. This is crazy. This is crazy.

Our television new is filled at night with horrible incidents of violence in Bosnia and other places in the world that break our heart. Twenty-four people were killed in this town, our Nation's Capital, in one week last month. We have to get on with that.

### **Remarks Announcing Anti-Crime Initiative, Rose Garden, August 11, 1993**

[The day after he signed the budget agreement, President Clinton outlined an anti-crime initiative in the Rose Garden with Judiciary Committee Chairmen Biden and Brooks, representatives from the National Association of Attorneys General and the National District Attorneys Association, and Boston Police Commissioner Bill Bratton.]

The first duty of any government is to try to keep its citizens safe, but clearly too many Americans are not safe today. We no longer have the freedom from fear for all our citizens that is essential to security and prosperity. The past four years have seen 90,000 murders in this country. Last month in this city, our Nation's Capital, in one week 24 murders were committed. When our children must pass through metal detectors to go to school or worry that they'll be the victim of random drive-by shootings when they're playing in the swimming pool in the summertime, when parents are imprisoned in their own apartments behind locked doors, when we can't walk the streets of our cities without fear, we have lost an essential element of our civilization.

Many of you have heard me tell many times over the last year and a half or so of the immigrant worker in the New York hotel who said that if I became President he just wanted me to make his son free. And when I asked him what he meant, he meant that his son couldn't walk to school two blocks without his walking with him, his son couldn't play in the

park across the streets from their apartment house with his father being there. He said his son was not free.

It's time to put aside the divisions of party and philosophy and put our best efforts to work on a crime plan that will help all the American people and go beyond the cynicism of mere speeches to clear action.

### **Radio Address, Oakland, CA, August 14, 1993**

But there's another threat to our security, to our economic revival and our most basic values. It's the crime that's ravaging our neighborhoods and communities...There's a virtual war on our streets, and crime has become a national security issue to millions of Americans...We in government can start by ensuring that the criminal justice system reflects our values and restores people's confidence in the government's ability to prevent and punish crime...But the power of every individual to influence those around them is also very strong, and it's also a power we must turn to if we're going to turn the crime problem around.

With the economic plan in hand and a very tough anti-crime bill on the way, we can truly say our country is headed in a new direction -- more responsibility, more opportunity, a deeper sense of community and restoring the American Dream.

### **Address to a Joint Session of Congress on Health Care Reform, September 22, 1993**

In short, responsibility should apply to anybody who abuses this system and drives up costs for honest, hard-working citizens and undermines confidence in the honest, gifted health care providers we have. Responsibility also means changing some behaviors in this country that drive up our costs like crazy. And without changing it we'll never have the system we ought to have, we will never.

Let me just mention a few and start with the most important: The outrageous costs of violence in this country stem in large measure from the fact that this is the only country in the world where teenagers can rout the streets at random with semiautomatic weapons and be better armed than the police.

### **Remarks in St. Petersburg, FA, September 23, 1993**

When Michael Jordan's father was killed recently, a nation grieved, but no one knew the names of the other 22 people who died in that country this year. This is a national problem.

When I was born in 1946, homicide wasn't even in the top ten leading causes of death in America. In fact, listen to this, throughout my lifetime homicide never made the top ten until 1989. And yet, now, homicide is the second leading cause of death among Americans age 15 to 25. And more of our teenage boys die from gunshots now than any other cause.

**Remarks to the Democratic National Committee Breakfast, at the Washington Sheraton, October 8, 1993**

We've got to know, how old are these people buying these guns? Who are they? Do they have a criminal record? Do they have a mental health history? It's a big deal.

The states can do something. 17 states have said kids can't own handguns unless they're out with their parents on a hunting trip or a target practice. A lot of states have tried to set up laws licensing gun dealers, but the federal law will give you a license for ten bucks, and the states can't overturn it yet.

You got hundreds of gun dealers out there and there's no system about it. And maybe the most important thing of all is, you've got a lot of these people, most of them very young, a lot of them with drug problems, nearly all of them with no real connection to the rest of society, who have easy access to rapidfire assault weapons, the sole purpose of which is to kill people quicker, in greater numbers.

Look at New York. One of the few big cities in the country, where for two years running, there's been a decline in the crime rate in all seven major FBI categories because they went to a community policing system. Look at Houston, where the mayor there, Bob Lanier, got elected on a commitment to put the equivalent of 655 more police officers on the street, and to concentrate them in areas of high crime, and they had a 17 percent drop in the crime rate the first year they did it. You can do this. And we ought to be about the business of helping our places become more safe. This is a huge deal. And the Democratic Party ought to do it. If we were the party of social security, why can't we be the party of health security, and personal security, and freedom from fear?

**Remarks on Health Care and Violence in America, Robert Wood Johnson Hospital, New Brunswick, NJ, October 8, 1993**

And so, I tell you, my fellow Americans, we have a decision to make. And this is the time to make it. We can't keep saying that we deplore these things and it's terrible and keep extolling our American values on how much more law-abiding we are than other people and put up with this. We either need to say this is a level of chaos and human degradation and waste of human potential and incredible cost in society that we are willing to tolerate because we cannot bear to do something about it; or we need to get up, stand up and be counted and do something about it.

We need a national law to do what New Jersey has done here with the assault weapons. Again because we have a constitutional right to travel in this country. New Jersey can make a big dent in New Jersey's problems by abandoning these weapons here, and then by setting up a system to try to collect them, but people are still crossing the state line all the time.

We need national legislation. There are several bills in the Congress, and arguments about which one is better than the other one, but I will guarantee you they are all better than nothing. And the Congress should pass one of those bills and send it to me this year. It would be a great Christmas present to the American people to stand up for safety.

Finally, let me just say that each of us in our own way are going to ask ourselves what we can do to deal with this. We have a culture of violence. We glorify it. I was delighted to see some of the television networks voluntarily say that they were going to do their best to try to monitor the content of violence and reduce it, and degradation of people during prime time television.

We have got to take a whole generation of young people who have very short attention spans for whom the future has no claim because they cannot even imagine the future, and slowly, carefully, and one-on-one, neighborhood by neighborhood, community by community, help them rebuild the kind of inner strength and sense of values and discipline and control and hope that will permit us to go where we need to go. No law will do that, but that is not an excuse not to pass these laws.

And let us have the courage to admit that some of these problems we will never fix until we change our ways as a nation, and let's start with violence, begin with guns, and prove that we can do in America what you are doing here in New Jersey.

### **Radio Address, October 9, 1993**

And the blanket of security for Americans has another side to it: personal security. Our people have the right to feel safe where they live, work, play and go to school. But too many of our people are denied that right. I've talked with parents who are afraid to send their children to schools where other kids carry guns. I've talked with children who were so afraid of becoming caught up with gangs, they didn't even want to leave their homes. I've talked with police officers who felt anger and frustration at trying, sometimes against overwhelming odds, to stem an epidemic of violence, especially from children, better armed than police, who shoot other children. And, most importantly, I've talked with the victims.

My visits with these victims made me more determined than ever to win passage of our crime bill. This bill will help to restore a system where those who commit crimes are caught, those who are found guilty are convicted, those who are convicted are punished -- sometimes by the imposition of the death penalty for especially serious crimes. I support that. Two months ago I asked Congress to pass a tough crime bill. This month your lawmakers will consider it. And they should pass it this year.

### **Remarks by the President at Yale Alumni Luncheon, October 9, 1993**

The second thing I want to mention is violence. This is the only country in the world where police have to go to work every day on streets with teenagers better armed than they

do. This is the only country in the world that would be fiddling around after these years -- how many years has it been since Jim Brady got shot in the attempt to assassinate Ronald Reagan, and we still haven't passed the Brady bill, because people are fiddling around the edges of it making parliamentary arguments because they're trying to find some way to please the people who don't like it. It's unconscionable.

How can I preach to people about NAFTA, education, think of the future, and you've got to worry about whether your kid's going to get shot going to school? We can do something about it. And it is time to close the massive yawning gap between our rhetoric and the way we are organized in this society.

### **Remarks at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, October 12, 1993**

Most of our people are law-abiding citizens who love their families more than their own lives. But America leads the world in violent crime, has the highest percentage of its people behind bars, has 90,000 murders in the last four years and more and more of our children are born into and grow up in family situations so difficult that it is hard even to make the arguments that the rest of us have taken for granted all of our lives.

And this last point I would make to you -- if we are to be personally secure enough to make the changes and meet the tests of this time, we must protect our people better against the ravages of violence. Our people have the right to feel safe where they live, where they go to school and where they work.

My fellow Americans, I was in California the other night and I talked to people all across the state in a hooked up town hall meeting. And this young African American boy, a junior high school student, said, "Mr. President, my brother and I, we don't want to be in gangs, we don't want to have guns, we don't want to cause any trouble. We want to learn, we want a future. And we thought our school was too unsafe, so we decided to go to another school and enroll in it because it was safer. And on the day we showed up to register for school, my brother was standing right in front of me and he was shot," because he got in a crossfire of one of these mindless, arbitrary, endless shootings that occur among children on our streets and in our schools today. We have to stop this. We cannot let those children be robbed of their future.

I know this state grieved recently when your native son Michael Jordan's father was killed. And I know we all wish him well as Michael embarks on a new journey in his life. But let us not forget that 22 other men and women were killed in that same county in your state this year. Ten foreign tourists were killed in Florida this year, and the state grieved over it. But in our nation's capital, in one week this summer, more than twice that many people were killed. They were not famous, but they were the President's neighbors.

## Remarks in Interview With Radio Reporters, October 18, 1993

[The President was asked about the Chafee bill to ban all handguns.]

I think it might go a little far if it bans all handguns, just because I think that there is a lot of evidence that Americans have used handguns responsibly for sporting purposes, that they're not all used as weapons for committing crimes or killing people. I do believe, however---and let me say first---secondly, as a practical matter, I have not yet been able to get Congress to vote on the crime bill, including the Brady bill and the vote to ban a comprehensive list of assault weapons.

I also know that I heard that Senator Kohl has an amendment, which I encourage, which would make national the ban on ownership or possession of handguns by minors unless with their parents or another supervising adult in an appropriate setting, which might be the way to go on the issue that Senator Chafee is concerned about. Nonetheless, I hold him in the highest regard. He's, I think, an extremely responsible person, and I welcome the hearings on his legislation. But I would have a little problem with a total ban on handguns. I would have a problem with that based on what my understanding of the situation is.

Again, we ought to focus on the Brady bill, the assault weapons ban, and banning possession by minors right now. Since I have been working on this in the last several months, one of the multitude of statistics that's made the biggest impression on me is the one that we were told a couple of weeks ago, that now someone shot in a criminal encounter is 3 times more likely to die from a gunshot wound because they're likely to have nearly three bullets in them, as opposed to only 15 years ago. That is a huge statistical change. And of course, as I pointed out, these wounds and the homicides put an enormous financial burden on this country on the medical system, on the criminal justice system.

But mostly, it's an incredible human problem. We've got 90,000 people in the last 4 years murdered in America, most of them by gunshots. That's more in any single year than were ever lost in a single year in the war in Vietnam. I think the time has come to do something about this. And I'm hopeful that both Houses of Congress will act on the crime bill and on the assault weapons bill before the end of the year. I hate to keep coming back to this, but right now I don't know that we have the votes to pass the assault weapons ban in the Congress. And I hope we can get the votes to do that and to pass the limitation on minors and possession or ownership of handguns. I think if we push those now in the Brady bill, then the Congress could really make a dent on the exposure of Americans to lethal violence.

## Remarks at a Democratic National Committee Fundraiser, October 21, 1993

And finally, let me say, I believe we will never meet our challenges at home and abroad until the American people are more secure on their own streets again. For all the violence in the Middle East, my friends, we can read stories every day on every street in America that rivals anything you can read about in the Gaza in the toughest times. If you

look at what has happened, 90,000 murders in 4 years in America, more in any given year than ever happened at the height of the war in Vietnam; you look at the fact that this is the only advanced country in the world, the only one where we don't even check your criminal record or your mental health history in some States to see if you can get a gun and where people seriously argue that infringes on constitutional rights. This is the only country in the world where police go to work on mean streets every day and confront young people who grew up in chaotic circumstances who are often better armed than they are.

...We are breeding generation after generation of people who have no claim to the mainstream of this society and on whom the future has no claim. We are breeding so many people who are so alienated and who have no sense of all these things that you and I came here to celebrate tonight. Just 3 weeks ago, a little girl named Launice Smith was shot and killed in this city. She was on a playground 3 1/2 miles from this wonderful building. She was 4 years old, one of 1,500 people who are shot in this town every year, our Nation's Capital. Her father could not go to her funeral because he's in prison for shooting another 4-year-old on another playground several years ago when he was 19 and got in an argument over hair barrettes. He got angry, and another kid handed him a gun, and he used it.

#### **Remarks in the Radio Address, October 23, 1993**

One of the problems in inspiring that confidence in America is that we've become the most dangerous big country in the world. We have a higher percentage of our people behind bars than any other nation in the world. We've had 90,000 murders in this country in the last 4 years. The American people increasingly feel that they're not secure in their homes, on their streets, or even in their schools. This explosion of crime and violence is changing the way our people live, making too many of us hesitant, often paralyzed with fear at a time when we need to be bold. When our children are dying, often at the hands of other children with guns, it's pretty tough to talk about anything else. Today, there are more than 200 million guns on our streets, and we have more Federally licensed gun dealers---from your Federal Government for only \$10---than we have gas stations.

It's prompted the corner grocer to shut down because he feels threatened. It's made the shopper afraid to enter a parking garage at night. It's made children think twice about going to school because classmates have been shot there. It's made parents order their children inside in broad daylight because of gunfire.

Nothing we aspire to in our Nation can finally be achieved unless first we do something about children who are no longer capable of distinguishing right from wrong, about people who are strangely unaffected by the violence they do to others, about the easy availability of handguns or assault weapons that are made solely for the purpose of killing or maiming others, about the mindless temptations of easy drugs.

Every time we feel the need to view strangers with suspicion or to bar our homes and cars against intrusion or we worry about the well-being of the child we send off to grade

school, we lose a little part of what America should mean. Some of these problems were decades in the making, and we know we can't solve them overnight, but within adversity there is some hope today.

...We are dedicated to restoring and expanding personal security for people who work hard and play by the rules. We're dedicated to insisting on more responsibility from those who should exercise it. We have a comprehensive crime bill that says we need more police, fewer guns, tougher laws, and new alternatives for first offenders. We're asking for a new direction in the control of illegal drugs to make our streets safer. We're asking all our people to take more personal responsibility for their health, their lives, and the well-being of their children.

I believe the American people have decided simply and finally they are sick and tired of living in fear. They are prepared to reach beyond the slogans and the easy answers to support what works, to experiment with new ideas, and to finally, finally do something about this crime and violence. If we do it together, we'll make America more prosperous and more secure. We'll have the courage, the self-confidence, the openness to make the other changes we need to make to put the American people first in the months and years to come.

#### **Remarks at the National Italian-American Foundation Dinner, October 23, 1993**

We have a whole generation of children growing up who will not be able to tell these stories, who shoot each other on the street, who have access to guns in a way they would not have access in any other country in the world. We say we're a law and order country. We're the most religious, big country in the entire world, by far, and we're the only ones that let teenagers be better armed than police, who have no structure, order in their lives, who have no identity with a future, who impulsively do things that destroy others and themselves.

#### **Remarks Announcing Federal Procurement Reforms and Spending Cut Proposals, October 26, 1993**

...We ought to take some of that money that your Government has been wasting all these years and use it to uphold Government's first responsibility, which is to keep our citizens safe here at home. With that money, we can make our crime bill even stronger.

...I want Congress to pass this crime bill and pass the savings I've asked to help pay for it. I want them to know that if these cuts aren't passed, I'm going to come back with more cut. And if those aren't passed, I'll come back with still more. I'll keep coming back until we have the money we need to make America safer.

**Remarks to the Medical Community at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Md, October 28, 1993**

It goes way beyond that. We have certain group behaviors in this country that are imposing intolerable burdens on the health care system, which will never be remedies. And we must recognize every time another kid takes another assault weapon onto another dark street and commits another random drive-by shooting and sends another child into the Johns Hopkins emergency room, that adds to the cost of health care. It is a human tragedy. It is also the dumbest thing we can permit to continue to go on for our long-term economic health. Why do we continue to permit this to happen?

And most important of all, we have got to do something about the rising tide of violence in this country. There's a crime bill that Congress can give you for a Christmas present that includes the Brady bill and more police officers on the street and alternatives for kids, and we ought to pass it. We ought to pass it before the Congress goes home.

**Remarks on Signing the Executive Order on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, November 1, 1993**

I'd like to close by mentioning a very disturbing article that appeared in the morning paper here. You may have seen it, about children in our Nation's Capital, not even teenagers, discussing their own funerals, planning their funerals, thinking about what they would wear and what music they hope would be played. I am profoundly concerned as we take up the debate this week on the crime bill, on the Brady bill, on the establishment of boot camps as alternatives to prison for young people, on trying to get more law enforcement officers on our streets, that we not underestimate the gravity of the task before us. Somehow we have to get those young people to you, and through you, to the world.

I say that not to end this on a down moment but to remind you of just how important this is, what you are doing. A lot of these kids still won't have a chance if you don't do your job well. And we have to find a way for you to reach them at an even earlier point. And if we want to make it, we've got to find a way to remind the rest of America that we are really all in this together. We cannot afford to have 11-year-olds thinking about their funerals. They need to be thinking about their children. You can do that.

**Remarks in Photo Opportunity with Jim and Sarah Brady, November 2, 1993**

[The President was asked about the impact of the Brady Bill.]

What the Brady bill would do, it would make uniform the requirement -- the losing battle a lot of states are fighting now because they're all alone to at least check those people who do buy from registered gun dealers. And there are an enormous number of people who do have criminal backgrounds, who have mental health problem, who don't even meet any kind of age requirement. We would be able to check all that, uniformly nationwide.

We find now that in a lot of states that have pretty strict gun laws, an enormous percentage of the guns that are confiscated by law enforcement officials every year come from other states that don't. So we do have some evidence that these laws work, that it's not the end all and be all. We've got a couple hundred million guns out there. There are a lot of other problems that we need to deal with in terms of minors in possession, in terms of assault weapons, in terms of the way the permitting process works for federal arms dealers.

But the Brady bill is the first step. And we are going to pass it this year, I believe because the American people finally have heard the long call of Jim and Sarah Brady. They've been out here on this for years and years and years, often times alone with no support. And finally, thanks to the leadership of the members of Congress who are here and others, we're going to be able to put it over.

...And you read all these stories, like the story that was in *The Washington Post* yesterday of the children planning for their funerals, I think it's going to be very difficult got the Congress to justify continued inaction on what millions of Americans believe is the number one problem in their lives.

#### **Remarks to Bipartisan Congressional Leadership Meeting, November 5, 1993**

[The President made this comment the day after the Byrd amendment, increasing the crime bill's funding to \$22 billion, was attached to the crime bill.]

I am delighted that now both Houses have acted on the crime legislation. I congratulate the House and Senate, and I look forward to working with them on getting the strongest possible crime bill out we can; and hopefully meeting the goal that I have had for a long time now putting another 100,000 police officers on the street, which I am convinced will do more in less time to lower the crime rate than anything else. I also hope that we can now move forward to a debate in the Senate and the House on the Brady Bill. And I hope that it will pass before the Senate goes home and the House goes home.

#### **Remarks by the President on "Meet the Press," November 7, 1993**

We ought to pass our crime bill here and put another 100,000 police on the street and do it right in community policing. But we have to get work back into the lives of people. you know you can't have generation after generation not knowing work and expect there to be structure and order in people's lives...

I think this country needs a community strategy which deals with the crises of drugs, violence, crime, the family and work. And we need to go not only nationally, but at the grass-roots level. And we need to understand that there's some basic things we have to do. If you want families to stay together, you've got to make it possible for people to be successful workers and successful parents.

### **Remarks at NAFTA Press Conference, November 10, 1993**

[The President was asked about what he would do about crime and violence, beyond the crime bill.]

We have to rebuild families and communities in this country. We've got to take more responsibility for these little kids before they grow up and start shooting each other. We have to find ways to offer hope and to reconnect people. When children start shooting children the way they're doing now, and little kids go around planning their own funerals, what that means is that they're a whole lot of people, millions of people in this country, who literally are not even playing by the same set of rules that all the rest of us take for granted. And we have learned in this country to accept many things that are unacceptable. And I think the President has a pulpit, Teddy Roosevelt's bully pulpit, that I have to use and work hard on and try to live by to try to help rebuild the conditions of family and community and education and opportunity.

...First of all, the Attorney General and Secretary Cisneros and a number of other people are now working in our administration on how we can develop a comprehensive approach to the whole issue of violence in our society and how we can merge that with what we want to do in terms of community empowerment, and how it will fit with all the things that we are now doing. And I think what you will see from us over the next several months is a sustained, organized, disciplined approach so that we don't just respond to the horror we all feel when a little kid gets shot after being picked up off the street like happened here last weekend, or when the children plan their funerals. I want to give -- I want to put this right at the center of what we're doing.

I have spent years going to neighborhoods and talking to people and dealing with issues that most politicians in national government have not talked a lot about. I care a great deal about this. There is a lot of knowledge in this town about it. Senator Moynihan wrote a very powerful article just a couple of weeks ago on how we have defined deviancy down. I think there's an enormous bipartisan willingness to face this. What I think I have to do is to mobilize every person in my government to do what can be done to address these problems. And you will see that coming out after the Congress goes home and in my address to the people next year when the Congress begins.

### **Remarks at the Mason Temple Church of God In Christ, Memphis, Tennessee, November 13, 1993**

But I guess what I really want to say to you today, my fellow Americans, is that we can do all of this and still fail unless we meet the great crisis of the spirit that is gripping America today.

...If Martin Luther King, who said, "Like Moses, I am on the mountaintop and I can see the promised land, but I'm not going to be able to get there with you, but we will get

there," -- if he were to reappear by my side today and give us a report card on the last 25 years, what would he say?...He would say, I did not live and die to see the American family destroyed. I did not live and die to see 13-year-old boys get automatic weapons and gun down 9-year-olds just for the kick of it. I did not live and die to see young people destroy their own lives with drugs and then build fortunes destroying the lives of others. That is not what I came here to do.

I fought for freedom, he would say, but not for the freedom of people to kill each other with reckless abandon; not for the freedom of children to have children and the fathers of the children walk away from them and abandon them as if they don't amount to anything. I fought for people to have the right to work, but not to have whole communities and people abandoned. This is not what I lived and died for.

~~My fellow Americans, he would say, I fought to stop white people from being so~~  
 filled with hate that they would wreak violence on black people. I did not fight for the right of black people to murder other black people with reckless abandon.

...The freedom to do that kind of thing is not what Martin Luther King lived and died for. It's not what people gathered in this hallowed church for the night before he was assassinated in April, 1968. If you had told anybody who was here in that church on that night that we would abuse our freedom in that way, they would have found it hard to believe. And I tell you it is our moral duty to turn it around.

...How would we explain to him all these kids getting killed and killing each other? How would we justify the things that we permit that no other country in the world would permit? How could we explain that we gave people the freedom to succeed and we created conditions in which millions have used that freedom to destroy the things that make life worth living and life itself? We cannot.

And I say to you today, my fellow Americans, you gave me this job. And we're making progress on the things you hired me to do. But unless we deal with the ravages of crime and drugs and violence and unless we recognize that it's due to the breakdown of the family, the community and the disappearance of jobs; and unless we say some of this cannot be done by government because we have to reach deep inside to the values, the spirit, and the soul and the truth of human nature, none of the other things we seek to do will ever take us where we need to go.

So in this pulpit, on this day, let me ask all of you in your hear to say we will honor the life and the work of Martin Luther King; we will honor the meaning of our church; we will somehow, by God's grace, we will turn this around. We will give these children a future. We will take away their guns and give them books. We will take away their despair and give them hope. We will rebuild the families and the neighborhoods and the communities. We won't make all the work that has gone on here benefit just a few. We will do it together by the grace of God.

## **President Clinton on Drug Policy**

### **Announcement of Lee Brown as ONDCP Director, Rose Garden, April 28, 1993**

It is a great pleasure and honor for me today to announce the appointment of Lee Brown, the first police officer ever to hold the job of Office of National Drug Control Policy.

A few weeks ago I elevated this office to cabinet level status because I believe drug abuse is as serious a problem as we have in America and because I believe that this office cannot work effectively on its own no matter how many people it might have. The real ability of this office to make a difference in the lives of the American people is the ability to work with all the departments of the national government and with others who care about this issue to maximize our resources, to focus our efforts and to make sure we're all working together. Lee Brown shares that view, and I am proud that he has agreed to join us in this administration.

I'm committed to winning this struggle, as all Americans are, and I'm convinced there is no better American to lead this effort than Lee Brown...

To reduce drug use and drug related crimes we have to do many things at the same time. It has to start with community policing, with more police at the local level, working with our neighbors and the children and the friends to prevent crime and to quickly punish criminals. There must be better education and prevention efforts starting at the earliest ages. These work, I know that. And there must be treatment for those who want to get better.

I pledge to him and to the American people an exceptionally focused and carefully executed antidrug effort from the national government. At the heart of our efforts will be more funds for local police officers. More for treatment and more for prevention. We will continue to work with other nations who have shown the political will to fight illegal drugs. They will continue to get our full support and our cooperation.

But it's time we turned our attention home and built a strategy to make the neighborhoods of America safer and more drug-free. We want to close the gap between those who want treatment and available treatment. Treating addiction is a good urban policy and good anticrime policy and good health policy. We ask for a 10 percent increase in treatment funds for 1994. And we'll make drug treatment an important part of the national health care plan that will be presented to the Congress and the American people. Our goal is to work toward treatment on demand.

I believe the parents of America want and deserve more help in educating their children about drugs. We can prevent drug abuse. School programs work. Public

service programs work. But they aren't miracles. They require a commitment and a consistency year in and year out. We've asked for a 15 percent increase in drug prevention funding.

Finally, we're determined to put more police officers on the street and to expand community policing. It's a local program - old-fashioned law enforcement, but it works. It means less crime. I think it's time to go back to the basics...

The most basic responsibility of the government is to protect the American people. It's our sacred duty to do our best. I believe we have a good program. It can be a great program if it can come alive in America in every community in this country. It's basic -- more officers, more education, more treatment. And with the leadership of Lee Brown it promises to be effective.

### **Swearing-in of Lee Brown as Drug Director, July 1, 1993**

....We know that successful drug control does not take place in a vacuum. This is a many headed monster. Drugs violate our borders when smugglers bring them in as illegal cargo. Our jails are crowded and our court system is overloaded with users and dealers. Crime and violence are brought to communities large and small, and random drive-by shootings, and deliberate killings as well.

Too many young Americans are robbed of their future and many, many of their very lives. For all those reasons, fighting drugs requires a multifaceted offensive and the maximum use of the resources we have as a people. That's what we've been trying to do in this administration. With all the budget cuts and with a five year hard freeze on overall domestic spending, there's a 10 percent increase in the funds in our budget for demand reduction, and a dramatic increase in the funds available for community policing, as well as a clear commitment to include drug treatment in the national health care program that our administration will be advancing in the near future.

But, most important, we will have an effort that is coordinated as one, pulled together and anchored by Lee Brown. No longer will the Office of the Director of Drug Policy operate separately from the rest of the government, consigned just to being a bully pulpit. Now it will work hand in hand with the other Cabinet agencies, and in doing so, our effectiveness will be increased. Our aim is to cut off the demand for drugs at the knees through prevention. That means more and better education, more treatment, more rehabilitation.

At the same time, we want to strangle supplies by putting more officers on the streets, by enforcing the law in our communities, at our nation's borders and by helping our friends and allies to do the same thing beyond our borders. We pledge to work with other nations who have shown the courage and the political will to take on

their own drug traffickers who destabilize their own societies and their economies.

....You know the insecurity most Americans feel, without regard to income or race, is a truly appalling thing. And anything we can do, not only to give lives back to children who might otherwise become involved with drugs, but to give the streets and the safety of the streets back to ordinary American families of all kinds is a service well done; and it might mean more to them than anything else this government could produce during my tenure in office and for the foreseeable future.

....This is a fight that can unite us all, across the boundaries of party and race and region and income. We are fighting for our families, our children, our communities, and our future. Each and every American -- make no mistake about it -- also bears a personal responsibility to play a role in this battle...

### **Crime Bill Announcement, August 11, 1993**

Finally, if we are to take back the streets of America from the gangs and the drug dealers, we must do what has not been done before. We must actually enact a crime bill. This legislation will be introduced by Chairman Biden and Brooks, and it will build upon a lot of good ideas from around the country, including one I worked hard on when I was governor, community boot camps for young offenders. Boot camps which give young people the discipline, the training, the treatment they need for a second chance to build a good life.

### **Swearing In Ceremony of FBI Director Louis Freeh, September 1, 1993**

Today's FBI operates in a new and challenging world, without that part of the agency's mission that was driven by the Cold War, but with new and even more immediate threats. Terrorism once seemed far from our shores, an atrocity visited on the people in other lands. Now, after the attack on the World Trade Center, we know that we, too, are vulnerable. Violent crime has been frightful but limited. But now armed drug gangs stalk the streets of our cities, equipped like mercenary armies, randomly cutting down innocent bystanders in a primitive struggle for territory.

The FBI has already begun to meet these challenges head on. Through the Safe Streets Program the agency has begun working with state and local police forces to combat drug gangs and to reclaim our neighborhoods. But we must do more, and we will.

Today, I was given a pin which I am wearing that commemorates the FBI's drug prevention program. In churches, in schools and scout troops all across this country, agents work with young people to stop drug use before it starts.

**Address to a Joint Session of the Congress on Health Care Reform  
September 22, 1993**

Under our plan, every American would receive a health security card that will guarantee a comprehensive package of benefits over the course of an entire lifetime, roughly comparable to the benefit package offered by most Fortune 500 companies. This health security card will offer this package of benefits in a way that can never be taken away.

This card will give comprehensive coverage. It will cover people for hospital care, doctor visits, emergency and lab services, diagnostic services like Pap smears and mammogram and cholesterol tests, substance abuse, and mental health treatment.

**California Town Hall Meeting, October 3, 1993**

Q: Mr. President, the organizing effort that I work for is part of a national network that is now in about 28 cities throughout the country. And one of the overriding concerns that we hear throughout the country is people's fear and being overwhelmed by the crime and violence, especially as it relates to drugs. What I'd like to know from you is what do you see your administration being able to do to help us with that problem?

PRESIDENT CLINTON: ...So the first things we've got to try to do is to make the police and the community work together better with the proper allocation of resources with a view toward preventing crime from recurring as well as catching criminals quicker. That's why we need more police officers so cities can afford to deploy the resources that way.

The second thing we've got to do, I'll say again, is to try to take the guns out of the hands of people who shouldn't have them.

The third thing we're trying to do, as Dr. Brown will tell you, is we want to change the emphasis of the federal government's drug control efforts. With regard to enforcement, we want to concentrate more on kingpins, really big dealers, to try to break the financial back of a lot of these networks - not just on how many arrests we can make of people in the middle, but really go after big people and money networks. Then, with people who are actual users and who may commit crimes in the course of that, we're trying to have much more comprehensive alcohol and drug treatment. One of the really important things about our health care plan that I think you would support is that it includes substance abuse treatment for people who now don't have any insurance. So that will stop a lot of these long, long delays for adequate treatment. Drug treatment works in an extraordinary percentage of cases - not in all the cases, but in a lot of the cases if it is there. So those are the things that we're

working on. But the other thing that we want to do is to listen to people like you who've actually done things that work. We have not only Lee Brown, but Janet Reno, the attorney general, was a prosecutor in Miami, one of the toughest towns in America for drug problems, and Louis Freeh, the director of the FBI, was a U.S. attorney, a federal judge, and a FBI agent working principally in drug cases. He broke big, international drug cases as well as dealing with drugs on the street. So we've got these three crime fighters who basically came up from the grass roots. And it's the first time we ever had a team of grass root crime fighters dealing with the drug issue. They want to hear from you and people like you all over the country about what would work for you.

### **Reinventing Government Announcement, October 26, 1993**

According to the NPR report, if Congress does its part in passing this legislation and we do our part in making it work, we could save more than \$5 billion in the first year of reform alone. We ought to take some of that money that your government has been wasting all these years and use it to uphold government's first responsibility, which is to keep our citizens safe here at home. With that money we can make our crime bill even stronger....We can have more drug courts, like the one the Attorney General started in Florida and the one our administration is helping to launch here in D.C., so we can stop sending tens of thousands of criminal addicts back onto the street every year where they'll commit more crimes if they don't get treatment first.

### **Interview with Rolling Stone Magazine, November 2, 1993,**

Q: ...I have just a couple of questions, the question of drug policy. And Lee Brown by the way, who I know -- I think he's a terrific guy and it was a great choice -- you issued a national drug strategy last week that emphasized health issues as the main focus. But yet, the budget that comes with it is the same as the Bush budget, which was about \$12 billion that was distributed 56%, 35% to law enforcement. How do you reconcile those two?

THE PRESIDENT: Because most of the -- first of all, we need to make some changes --

Q: So that's the interim budget?

THE PRESIDENT: We're going to try to make some changes in it. But secondly, the big -- let me back up a second -- the main change we want to make that you will see coming through the crime bill -- and we don't know yet how much money we're going to get in this, because we start negotiations again tonight on that -- is for more drug treatment for people convicted of crimes. Because I think that's a big issue.

For people who are on the outside, that is, who are not in the criminal justice system, our biggest change of priority would be manifest if the health care bill passes next year. Because in the health care bill, we cover drug treatment, both preventive and treatment services related to drugs. Now, if that fails, I'll have to revisit my whole idea about what to do with the budget. But the reason we didn't try to make radical changes in the budget this year is, I believe, both substantively and as a matter of political reality, we have to have a certain level of support for enforcement and interdiction.

And Lee Brown had -- one of the things he didn't get credit for and I think he should have is that he wants to change the focus of interdiction --

Q: To?

THE PRESIDENT: --to really working on the roots of the exports of the United States and not just sort of middlemen that run your numbers up. But we have to spend some money on that, and so since, I didn't just want to drastically move around what is relatively small amount of money we decided to go ahead and put the drug treatment piece in to the health care bill and make that part of comprehensive health benefits.

...Anyway, the place that I feel badly about in this whole drug thing, keep in mind we always knew when the crime bill came up at the end of the year we'd come back with more drug treatment for people in the penitentiary -- drug treatment generally will be covered in the health care bill. So if I fail with this somehow, I'll have to come back with a different strategy.

The third thing that we can be -- I don't know -- we can certainly be criticized for, is that in this budget, when we got through all the cutting and everything, the drug prevention programs funded by the federal government had been cut. So we don't have as much money as we had previously had to give the school districts, for example.

Now there's a lot of controversy about that. Congress had to meet -- the Appropriations Committee had to meet these very tough budget caps, and they thought those were the monies as we had previously had to give the school to support the DARE program or whatever.

But I have to tell you, based on my personal experience as a governor, I think those prevention programs do work. I realize that you can argue that they don't but I think they do. And I think it's really worth doing. Because prevention, over time, it's exactly the flip side of what you said about the television and what we said about television. There is a cumulative impact it's positive, and so if I have fallen short this year, it's in that little piece of the -- in the prevention programs.

## **NBC "Meet the Press" Interview, November 7, 1993**

Mr. Brokaw: So much of this is driven by drugs. Your administration has kind of taken drugs off the radar screen. Do you think you're going to have to take a harder line on drugs?

PRESIDENT: Well, first of all, I don't think that's fair characterization. The administration has had to subject the drug budget to the same ruthless discipline that nearly every other budget has been subjected to, so that while we have increased some drug funding, like in the block grant program, some of the rest of it has not been increased.

What I have tried to do is get people to see the drug problem first of all in terms of stopping the major sources and then here at home focusing on drugs - in terms of treatment and education and integrating it with the overall strategy on law enforcement and violence. I think this country needs a community strategy which deals with the crisis of drugs, violence, crime, family, and work. And we need to go out not only nationally but at the grassroots level, and we need to understand that there's some basic things we have to do. If you want families to stay together, you've got to make it possible for people to be successful workers and successful parents.

## **Remarks at the Mason Temple Church of God in Christ, Memphis November 13, 1993**

...I tell you, unless we do something about crime and violence and drugs that is ravaging the community, we will not be able to repair this country.

If Martin Luther King, who said, "Like Moses, I am on the mountaintop and I can see the promised land, but I'm not going to be able to get there with you, but we will get there," -- if he were to reappear by my side today and give us a report card on the last 25 years, what would he say?

...He would say, I did not live and die to see the American family destroyed. I did not live and die to see 13-year-old boys get automatic weapons and gun down 9-year-olds just for the kick of it. I did not live and die to see young people destroy their own lives with drugs and then build fortunes destroying the lives of others. That is not what I came here to do.

...The freedom to do that kind of thing is not what Martin Luther King lived and died for... And I tell you it is our moral duty to turn it around.

So we are beginning. We are trying to pass a bill to make our people safer -- to put another 100,000 police officers on the street. To provide boot camps instead

of prisons for young people who can still be rescued. To provide more safety in our schools. To restrict the availability of these awful assault weapons. To pass the Brady Bill and at least require people to have their criminal background checked before they get a gun. And to say, if you're not old enough to vote and you're not old enough to go to war, you ought not to own a handgun and you ought not to use one unless you're on a target range.

We want to pass a health care bill that will make drug treatment available for everyone. And we also have to do it -- we have to have drug treatment and education available to everyone, and especially those who are in prison who are coming out. We have a Drug Czar now in Lee Brown, who was the Police Chief of Atlanta, of Houston, of New York, who understands these things. And when the Congress comes back next year we will be moving forward on that.

...But unless we deal with the ravages of crime and drugs and violence and unless we recognize that it's due to the breakdown of the family, the community and the disappearance of jobs; and unless we say some of this cannot be done by government because we have to reach deep inside to the values, the spirit, the soul and the truth of human nature, none of the other things we seek to do will ever take us where we need to go.

#### **Remarks in Meeting with Mayors and Chiefs of Police, December 9, 1993**

I also think we ought to recognize that we don't have all the money in the world, and we don't want to spend a lot of money on things that will be of marginal significance. I was glad to see you advocating this paper. I've just been skimming it over - that we ought to give attention to drug treatment as well as drug enforcement, that we needed to deal with supply and demand in an evenhanded way. We need some more investment to do that.

#### **Radio Address to the Nation, December 11, 1993**

This morning I want to talk to you about crime and violence and what we can all do about it...

On Thursday, together with Attorney General Janet Reno, FBI Director Louis Freeh and Drug Policy Coordinator Lee Brown, I met with mayors and police chiefs from 35 cities. They told me they need more police on the streets, a ban on assault weapons and action to keep drugs and guns away from vulnerable young people. And I intend to give the folks on the front lines the resources and the support they need to win the fight against crime.

I call upon Congress when they return in January to pass promptly a strong crime bill that will put 100,000 more police officers on the street, prohibit assault weapons and provide fundings for more boot camps for first-time offenders...

There's so much more we're doing and more we need to do. Under the leadership of Dr. Lee Brown, our drug policy director and the father of community policing, we're strengthening enforcement and prevention. We're increasing the focus on hard core users who fuel the crime and violence and the tragic waste of human lives...

Let's face it -- drugs and guns and violence fill a vacuum where the values of civilized life used to be. Work and family and community are the principles, the institutions, upon which the great majority of Americans are building their lives. We need to restore them, and the sense of hope and discipline that will give every man and woman, every boy and girl the opportunity to become the people God intended them to be.

#### **Remarks on "Larry King Live", January 20, 1994**

Q: I live in Detroit where we have had 629 murders in our state, and I would like to know what can you do or help us about this issue. And I would just like to congratulate you -- you've been a president that has said what you're going to do and you have done it. And regardless of what the media bashing, I thank you for all that you have done.

THE PRESIDENT: ...Let me tell you what I think we can do together. First of all, we've got to strengthen our law enforcement forces. ...We have to put more police officers on the street, well trained, and working with people in the communities -- walking the blocks, working with the kids, preventing crime as well as catching criminals. Our crime bill will put 100,000 more police officers on the street. It's the first priority for Congress when they come back.

Secondly, we passed the Brady Bill, but we need to do more on guns. Specifically, we need to limit these automatic, semiautomatic assault weapons that have no purpose other than to kill...

Thirdly, people who are repeated serious violent offenders shouldn't be paroled. And fourthly, you've got to give these kids something to say yes to. That is, we have got to go into these really distressed areas and rebuild the bonds of family, community and work. There's got to be education opportunities, there's got to be job opportunities. There's got to be alternatives to imprisonment, like boot camps. There needs to be drug treatment and drug education programs. We can't have it all on the punishment. These children have to have something to say yes to. If you look at a lot of these high crime areas where the gangs and the drugs and the guns are, they

fill the vacuum. When family collapse, when work collapse, most of us organize our lives around work, family, community. And a lot of these young people that are in real trouble today and really vulnerable are living in places where there's not enough community, enough family or enough work. So I think we have to do both things. And then next year, or this year now, I'm going to ask the Congress to work with me and then work with the mayors, the governors and others to really get serious about this. We've got to do something about it, and we've got a program that will make a difference...

### **State of the Union Address, January 25, 1994**

But while Americans are more secure from threats abroad, I think we all know that in many ways we are less secure from threats here at home. Every day the national peace is shattered by crime...Violent crime and the fear it provokes are crippling our society, limiting personal freedom and fraying the ties that bind us.

The crime bill before Congress gives you a chance to do something about it -- a chance to be tough and smart. What does that mean?

...First, we must recognize that most violent crimes are committed by a small percentage of criminals who too often break the laws even when they are on parole. Now those who commit crimes should be punished. And those who commit repeated, violent crimes should be told, when you commit a third violent crime, you will be put away, and put away for good. Three strikes, and you are out.

Second, we must take serious steps to reduce violence and prevent crime, beginning with more police officers and more community policing...

The third thing we have to do is to build on the Brady Bill -- the Brady Law. To take further steps to keep guns out of the hands of criminals...There is no sporting purpose on Earth that should stop the United States Congress from banishing assault weapons that out-gun police and cut down children.

Fourth, we must remember that drugs are a factor in an enormous percentage of crimes. Recent studies indicate, sadly, that drug use is on the rise again among our young people. The crime bill contains -- all the crime bills contain -- more money for drug treatment for criminal addicts, and boot camps for youthful offenders that include incentives to get off drugs and to stay off drugs.

Our administration's budget with all its cuts can paint a large increase in funding for drug treatment and drug education. You must pass them both. We need them desperately...

### **Radio Address to the Nation, January 29, 1994**

I'm asking Congress to pass a strong, smart, tough anticrime bill. We must tell career criminals if you commit a third violent crime, you'll be put away for good. Three strikes and you're out. We should hire 100,000 more police officers to protect our communities. They help to reduce the crime rate. We must ban assault weapons that make criminals better armed than police. And we need more drug training and alternative punishments for young people, like boot camps.

### **Address to the National Governors Association Conference, January 30, 1994**

The third thing I'd like to say is there are a number of other things in the crime bill which I think are worthy of your attention. There's the provision which bans possession of handguns by minors except in limited circumstances, which many of you have already done at the state level. There is the ban on several assault weapons. There are funds for alternative incarceration, like boot camps, and for drug treatment. And, of course, there are significant funds -- which I heard you all discussing yesterday in the committee chaired by Governor Wilson -- about jails and federal funds for jails.

### **Remarks to Students at Kramer Junior High School, February 3, 1994**

The first thing I want to ask of you is not to give up. Don't give up on yourselves and don't give up on your country. I very much want you to go to school in safety, where you learn things and can look forward to a brighter and richer future. I want you to feel that you should, that you must stay off drugs and graduate from high school and go beyond...

One of these goals says that by the year 2000, every school in America will be free of drugs and violence and will offer a disciplined environment, conducive to learning. No one should have to go to school afraid, and no school should operate in a way that makes learning impossible. But the truth is that while we have some legislation up there to make our schools safer, you have a lot to do with what goes on in this school and whether the environment is good for learning.

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Q: Good morning. I would like to know, how we can keep the drugs off the street?

THE PRESIDENT: Well I think that there are two or three things we have to focus on. How can we keep the drugs off the street? ...One is that most cities do not have enough officers to give neighborhoods the kind of coverage they need. Thirty years ago, there were three police officers in this country for every violent crime reported.

Today, there are three crimes, violent crimes, for every police officer. So most cities simply don't have the people they need to work in the neighborhoods, stay there and help keep the places safe and drug free - first thing.

Second thing is that schools should become drug free areas. You ought to be able to get the drugs out of the schools, and then kids should be taught from a very early age about the hazards of drugs - that they can kill you, they can take your life away.

The third thing is, we've got to bring another economy to the areas where people are doing drugs, because it's a business. People have to have other ways of making a living. We have to create an alternate future.

So I think there's law enforcement, I think there's drug education and treatment, which I know works, because I've had -- my own brother has had a drug problem, and I know that works. But I also think you also have to create another future. We have to tell people -- keep in mind, the drugs got real bad in the places where the family and the community and jobs were all disappearing. So I think we have to again create an alternative reality.

One of the things we're trying to do in our administration is to create some conditions in which people will go in and invest money and hire people in these areas where people have been making money off drugs instead of off honest jobs...

### **Drug Strategy Announcement, February 9, 1994**

I believe very much in what we are doing today from two angles. One is the first job I ever the courtesy of the voters was the job of attorney general. I started out in a law enforcement job. Second is that I have had the questionable privilege of living in a family that has dealt with both alcoholism and drug abuse. I know treatment works. I also know that it is important to be tough as well as caring.

And I dare say this is probably the first time that we've ever had seven Cabinet members on a stage at the same time all manifesting their commitment to dealing with this issue. And there are many others -- we'll have a total of 10 just in the next two days who will be announcing their part of this battle to implement this strategy.

We also have here the Director of our AIDS effort, the head of the Internal Revenue Service, the head of the Secret Service. We have an enormous number of federal officials here who are not on this stage who have a big part of this endeavor. I say this to illustrate the fact that we have really tried to be very realistic, very hard-headed to try to take some time to think about what it is we can do and what it is the rest of America has to do to reinvigorate this nation's fight against the surge of drugs.

We know we have to build on the works of parents and community leaders who did so much to bring down casual drug use in the 1980s. We know we have to add to the staffs of law enforcement authorities who have proved there are things you can do that work. We know that where energies have been deployed effectively -- whether it was cracking down on pushers, cracking down on drug networks, or building up people like this man who spoke so eloquently today --that they can make progress.

We also know some pretty tough facts. We know that hard-core drug abuse in America has continued unabated. We know that its persistence represents the threat to the stability of our society and the economic future of our country. We know that no nation can fight crime and drugs without dealing honestly and forthrightly with the problem of drug addiction.

As I said in my State of the Union address, we need an approach to crime and drugs that is both tough and smart. We very often have one without the other and we pay the price for that, as well.

The crime bill and this strategy we announced today puts more into law enforcement than we've ever put before. It does more to keep drugs off the street. It does more than ever before to help hard-core drug users into treatment programs where they belong. It is a new national attack on drug addiction.

The craving for drugs is an enormous factor in a lot of our problems -- the rise of violence, the spread of AIDS, the spiraling costs of health care....No health care proposal can solve all the problems that lead American health care to be more expensive than any other country. And one big one problem health care cannot solve is the fact that we pay more for violence because we've got our emergency rooms full of people who have been cut up and shot. We pay more to deal with AIDS. And both those things are the direct result, in large measure, of our very high rate of drug abuse. You know it and I know it. So if we want to deal with this problem, we have to face it.

You also heard Mr. Mundo say in such powerful terms that he lost everything. We know that drug abuse is a big factor in the breakdown of families, in the increase in joblessness, in the increase in homelessness. How many people -- every day when I go out for my run at the White House, I see what seems like an ever-increasing number of people who are living homeless within three or four blocks of the White House. And you know every one of them has a personal life story -- many of them, a story that involves drugs.

We know if you go to any children's hospital in any sizeable city today, and you go to the ward where the little babies are, you'll see baby after baby after baby

born with an addiction to drugs. We know that now many of our streets are too dangerous to walk and our schools even dangerous to attend...

If we want to, therefore, reduce crime and cut health care costs and reform our welfare system, if we want to rebuild our families and our communities, all these things require a serious effort to curb the use of drugs. Part of it is enforcement. The crime bill now before the Congress is part of that strategy. It would put another 100,000 police officers on the street. It would provide boot camps for juvenile offenders. It would provide dramatic increases in support for drug courts -- very successful drug courts, like the ones in Florida, New York, California, and the District, where court-ordered rehabilitation programs have cleaned people up and freed prison cells for truly violent criminals. The Miami drug court has treated 4,500 first offenders since 1987, with a rearrest rate of only 11 percent.

We know these kinds of initiatives will support the efforts of community grass-roots efforts, like the one sponsored by Monsignor East and his parishioners in Washington who started an orange-hat brigade, where community leaders patrol streets in bright orange hats, sending a message that drugs and drug trade won't be tolerated.

There are thousands of groups like this all across America who work with police to shut down crack houses and take the neighborhoods back. Last Friday the Vice President and the Cabinet outlined our new plan to help residents of public housing rid themselves of crime and drugs. We can't do that unless people at the grass roots participate and take the lead. But we have to also do our part. The most effective things mobilize all the resources of a community. And that's what our strategy seeks to support.

We also seek to support a new, more drug-free America through prevention. We need to reach people before they get started through prevention and early intervention, especially among our young people before they enter middle school, much less high school or college. The latest statistics show an increase in drug use among the young. Our children need a constant drum beat reminder that drugs are not safe, drugs are not good, drugs are illegal, there will be consequences for using them.

I know a lot of these programs work. I saw them work in the schools where my child attended when she was very, very young. I saw the impact that a law enforcement officer in a uniform, talking to children who had never before had a positive human personal relationship with an authority figure could have in these schools. I know we can do it. And our proposal provides a substantial increase in funds to support those kinds of activities.

We also know we have to do more in the workplace. Drug-free programs that work can be every bit as important and effective as drug-free programs at school. Our strategy supports programs like these and calls on everyone in a position of influence to do their part.

Finally, we have to have some more effort at treatment. This strategy recognizes that drug addiction is a disease, that it can and should be treated, and that treatment can work, as Adele said. We're letting hard-core drug users know that if you're an addict caught in the cycle of drug abuse, we can help you to get the help you need. Our goal is to get 140,000 more hard-core users into treatment in the next year -- 140,000 more. Targeting chronic hard-core users, including adults and juveniles under the supervision of criminal authorities, along with pregnant women and children.

Every dollar we spend on treatment will save seven dollars America is losing today. It will make up for lost productivity. It will save money we are using now to fight the problem instead of to prevent it. This target is a significant start that allows us to expand programs as the effectiveness of service and research findings grow.

One of the most important parts from your perspective of our health care proposal is that it would include drug treatment as part of health care coverage. This is a very important thing. We have to recognize that until we have the appropriate level of treatment on demand without delay we will continue to pay for a problem that we can reduce.

You know treatment works. It's time for the Congress to recognize it in the form of the budgets we have presented, and for America to aggressively embrace it in the way you have at this institution.

We also recognize we need to try to do something to control the supply. Strategy calls for what we strongly believe is an improvement of our international drug control program, shifting away from a policy that was focused largely on interdiction -- that is stopping the drugs when they were on the way to the United States -- to a three-pronged approach: working with countries in which drugs are grown that have the political will to go after the kingpins in those countries; -- -- destroying the cartels that grow rich from supplying our people with drugs; -- -- and continuing our interdiction effort, hopefully with better technology and smarter efforts that allow us to interdict even more drugs. That is very important. We should not stop it, but we must supplement those efforts so that we can be more successful.

Dr. Brown has said, yes, we want to continue our presence at the border to interdict drugs, but we don't want to wait for people at the border anymore. He says he's tired of swatting hornets, he'd rather go after the hornet's nest. And that's a pretty good line.

I might say our friends and neighbors beyond our borders should welcome this. We have seen in nation after nation how international drug trafficking is a threat to democratic institutions. It fuels human rights abuses and terrorism against the innocent. It undermines legitimate, broad-based economic development. It contributes to regional instability. Many of the countries that deal with this problem will never become what they want to be until they're able to be rid of it. We ought to help them -- for ourselves and for their own people as well.

This is an important part of our foreign policy, toward major source countries and major transit countries. We have to make it an important part of our commitment to promoting democracy, economic reform and human rights. None of that's going to happen in countries dominated by people who dictate events because of the profits of the drug trade.

Finally, let me end where I began. From my own personal experience, in my family as well as my work in law enforcement as an attorney general and a governor, I believe still that once it occurs drug addiction has to be overcome one person at a time. In the past year, as President I've spoken about drugs on 85 separate occasions. And I can keep talking about this until I, once again, lose my voice. But you and I know that we're not going to make a dent in this problem except by having it happen -- one person at a time. If this man had not chosen to take some responsibility for his own life, then this fine program would still be just another expenditure of taxpayer money.

The newly-inaugurated Mayor of Detroit, Dennis Archer, offered a challenge to his city when he was sworn into office. I'd like to quote it for you now because it equals what I think we're facing. He said, and I quote: "To the people of Detroit, stand with me when I tell the dope man to get off our streets, to leave our children alone, to get out of our way. We're taking back our streets, and we're taking back our children."

Well, Mayor Archer can't do it alone, Monsignor East can't do it alone. But this administration and the entire weight of state and local government can't do it alone either. The people of this country have got to take responsibility for themselves, their children and their neighbors. If we work with them -- if we say we know hard-core drug users can't do it alone; the help they need is treatment, the help they need is support -- then I think we can make a real profound difference.

I want every American, every member of Congress, every state official, everybody who works for a mayor or a city government to join me in putting this strategy to work. This is a national strategy, not a federal strategy. I don't want it to become partisan in any way, shape or form. This should unite us in America -- people in the private sector, people in government, people at the local level, people at the national level, Republicans and Democrats, people who are inside this

institution and people who are beyond its walls. We have a common interest in saving our country. And all of us have a personal responsibility to pursue. This drug strategy we announce today is our attempt to be your partner and pursue our personal responsibility. And together, together we can do it.

### **Teleconference Call With Mayors, February 9, 1994**

Earlier today, Lee Brown and I announced our new drug control strategy, which expands drug treatment as well as provides more police officers on the street. These two items in our budget got bigger increases than almost anything else. Community policing went up \$1.7 billion. The drug budget went up \$1 billion, even though we were cutting half the government departments and 60 percent of the line items in the budget.

### **Remarks at Ohio Peace Officer Academy, February 15, 1994**

In the last three decades, violent crimes have increased by 300 percent. Over the last three years, almost a third of Americans have either had themselves or someone in their families victimized by crime...Here is what our administration is trying to do.

First of all, it's clear that to reduce crime significantly in America we have to reduce hard-core drug use. Last year our drug policy director -- Lee Brown, who was the chief of police in Houston, Atlanta, and New York and one of the pioneers of the community policing concept that Patrolman Skiller talked so eloquently about, announced along with me our strategy on drug control and drug abuse. It focusses on hard-core drug use because that's the worst part of the problem. Heavy users -- just for example, heavy users are about 20 percent of all cocaine users, but they consume two-thirds of the available cocaine. And more than 50 percent of the people arrested for crimes now test positive for drugs. We have got to get these hard-core users off the street. For those who are going to be back on the street, we have got to get them into treatment. We want to help them get the treatment they need, but if they don't get the message, we have to use the courts, the jails, the prisons to make sure they do. Our budget and the crime bill if they both pass will help us to get another 140,000 hard-core drug users into substantial treatment programs that have a chance to work per year.

...We know the most powerful tool we have over the long run is changing the whole culture in America. I don't know how many of you have been active in the DARE program, but when my daughter was in the fifth grade, I heard her and her classmates give me no less than ten speeches about the officer that came on a regular basis in the DARE program. It makes a difference whether kids are told early and clearly by someone they really respect that the only sensible policy is no use.

...Now, the fifth thing we need to do is to make our schools gun-free, drug-free and violent-free. If kids can't go to school safe, this country cannot move into the 21st century in good shape. It sounds like a simple thing, but there have been schools in this country where people do bullet drills.

Our bill allocates \$300 million over three years for local schools and communities, for safe school projects. Up to a third of it can be used for metal detectors, school police or security measures; the rest should provide alcohol and drug education, counseling for youngsters who are victims of violence, and activities to get young people to stay out of gangs. You know, we've got to put basic recreation and a spirit of teamwork and working together back in a lot of these schools...

#### **Remarks at Hillcrest High School in Country Club Hills, February 28, 1994**

I can't help saying one thing about drugs that I think is important, and that is that we see some evidence now that drug use, after going down among young people for several years, may now be on the rise again. And I just have to tell you that one of the things that I learn everyday and I try to do what I can to make the future better for you. My job really is about guaranteeing the future for America, preparing America for the 21st century, trying to keep the American dream alive for you. I've lived most of my life, and I hope I can say that none of you have lived most of your lives. I hope the vast majority of your life is still out there ahead of you. But I know that there is a limit to what even the President can do. The President can't keep anybody off drugs. The President can't keep anybody from getting in trouble with the law. The President can't keep anybody from resorting to violence. These are decisions you have to make.

#### **Roundtable on Crime and Health Care with Doctors, Police, and Community Members, Chicago, February 28, 1994**

Our crime bill does a number of things. It contains a three strikes and you're out provision written properly to really cover people who commit three consecutive violent crimes. It gives us 100,000 more police officers so that we can do more community policing. We know that lowers the crime rate --if you have properly trained police officers on the streets, in the communities who know the neighbors and know the kids. It bans assault weapons and it provides funds for things like drug treatment and alternative treatment for first-time young offenders, like community boot camps.

#### **ABC's "Answering Children's Questions," March 19, 1994**

Q: Well, Mr. President Clinton, I know you get a lot of questions, but this is just a little thing about you. I think you're such a decent and honest person and I really believe in you in trying to make everybody happy. And I think we kids have to take

the responsibility, because we should know who's bringing in the drugs, the guns. And if we just report it in, that would make a difference. And also that would make a really big difference is that most of the criminals and people who sell drugs, they don't feel loved. And so I think, from the moment your born, you have to feel loved. You should tell your child that you love them very much.

**THE PRESIDENT:** Let me say two things. First of all. remember what I said, no matter what I do, the President has to have partners all over America. Everybody's got a role to play. Everybody is important.

In most schools where there are drugs and guns, some other kids who don't do drugs and don't have guns know about it. They could report it; they could help to get it done; they could organize themselves into groups in each school and say, we don't want drugs in our schools, we don't want guns, we don't want knives, we don't want violence in our schools. That could make a bigger difference in that school than anything the President could do.

On the other question, I think you're right. One of the things that we have to do is to find young people who are likely to get in trouble and try to reach them before they get to the point where they are hurting other people, because a lot of young people never felt like they were loved. That's obvious to me, I see it all the time.

#### **Radio Address to the Nation, April 9, 1994**

We're doing more to make the schools safe and to get hard-core drug users into the treatment they need. But telling our kids to say no to drugs is only half the battle. If we want children to grow up to become law-abiding members of society, we have to help them find a place in tomorrow's economy to give them something to say yes to.

You and I both know government can't do this job alone, nor should it. The most law-abiding societies are not those with the most jails. They're the ones with good jobs, strong families and strong communities, where the rights of the community are respected, with strong values about helping, not hurting, one's neighbors. Let's face it: In a lot of places in this country, crime, drugs and violence now fill the spaces where work and family and community used to be. So the job of all Americans is urgent...

#### **Remarks in Event with Mayors and Law Enforcement Officials, April 14, 1994**

We also make available funding for 30,000 more prison cells so that we don't treat this as some sort of mandate on the states. We are trying to help the states to enact their own kinds of sensible punishment laws and bear some of the costs along with them. We also provide funding for smarter and less costly punishment for

nonviolent criminals -- boot camps for juvenile offenders -- and significant, even dramatic, increases in drug treatment so that people who are going to be paroled have a good chance to make it once they go back on the street.

I thank you, Sergeant Lawson, for mentioning Lee Brown, the Director of our Drug Policy. Now he worries not only about community policing, but about how we can make sure, when we do parole people, they're likely to be law-abiding. And I can tell you, it does not make sense, when you look at the percentage of people who commit crimes who have a drug or an alcohol abuse problem, it does not make any sense to put them back on the street without adequate drug treatment. Finally, this bill does something about that. And the Congress should be urged to pass it for that reason alone, along with the other good things in the bill.

Let me say finally, this bill has a healthy dose of prevention. And we know that works. And I was glad to see Sergeant Lawson speak up for prevention. It's funny, you know, you hear sometimes the debates in the Congress and people who want to be tough on crime say, well, this prevention stuff, it's a little squishy and maybe we shouldn't spend the money on it. But if you talk to any veteran police officer, they tell you, spend the money on prevention; give me the tools to do alcohol and drug abuse education; give me the tools to give these kids something to do before school and after school and at night; give me the tools to give these young people something to say yes to, instead of just having us tell them to say no to something wrong. That's what the law enforcement community tells us.

#### **Radio Address to the Nation, April 16, 1994**

Every law-abiding American, rich or poor, has the right to raise children without the fear of criminals terrorizing where they live. That's why, as soon as I heard about the court's decision, I instructed Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Henry Cisneros and Attorney General Janet Reno to devise a constitutional effective way to protect the residents of America's public housing communities. Secretary Cisneros and Attorney General Reno moved quickly. Today I am announcing a new policy to help public housing residents take back their homes.

First, at my direction, Secretary Cisneros is in Chicago to provide emergency funds for enforcement and prevention in gang-infested public housing. We'll put more police in public housing, crack down on illegal gun trafficking, and fill vacant apartments where criminals hide out. And we'll provide more programs like midnight basketball leagues to help our young people say no to gangs and guns and drugs.

#### **April 19, 1994, Remarks in MTV's "Enough is Enough" Forum**

Q: Hello Mr. President. My name is Bernice Thorton and I'm a 19 year old D.C. resident. I know a lot of drug addicts that have been locked up for abusing drugs.

And personally, I just don't think that's right. I think there should be more drug prevention or more drug rehabilitation programs out here to help them. And putting them in jail is not the answer, I don't think. What do you think about that?

THE PRESIDENT: I agree with half of what you said. I think there should be more drug prevention programs, and I think they'd work, the drug education programs. I think there should be more drug treatment programs. But some of you, perhaps all of you know that my brother is a recovering drug addict who actually went to prison for 14 months. It is my opinion that if he hadn't been caught up in the criminal justice system, he probably would have died because his problem was so gross and so bad. And I think he would tell you the same thing if he was standing here with me.

So I don't think it's inappropriate for people to do some time for violating serious crimes when they have a drug problem, and it may actually jerk them out of the life they're in and help save their life. But I would say two things: Number one, you don't want to overdo the length of time they have to serve if, fundamentally they're not drug pushers, they're really drug users and abusers and addicts - you can overdo the length of time. And, number two, you've got to have adequate drug treatment, as well as preparation, for living a different life if you want a different kind of behavior coming out of prison than you got going in. That, it seems to me is the biggest problem.

So a little time won't hurt people who are in the process of killing themselves anyway, if you make the most of them. But if you just send them to prison for a too-long sentence and you never do drug treatment and they get nothing when they come out, then you're right, it's self defeating.

### **Radio Address to the Nation, July 16, 1994**

...No issue poses the need to come together more to deal with the problems that we face than does the cancer of crime and violence that is eating away at the bonds that unite us as a people. I saw it again this week when I visited a housing project in Chicago called Robert Taylor Homes. I went there once three years ago. So, I'm pretty familiar with all the wonderful people who live there, the good things they're trying to do, and the terrible problems they face from violence and guns and drugs. I went there because it's a good place to emphasize to all Americans that we have begun a nationwide effort to drive the guns, the gangs and the drugs from public housing and from all neighborhoods where Americans feel terrorized. I wanted to underscore how important it is to empower our people to take back their homes, their streets and their schools wherever they live...

...We have to deter crime where it starts. This proposal also gives people something to say yes to. It provides jobs for thousands of young people from high- crime neighborhoods -- particularly those who stay in school, off drugs, and out of trouble.

It gives funds to keep schools open after hours. It adds support for boys and girls clubs, for community activities like midnight basketball. It builds better partnerships between our police and our young people. An investment in a child is not only a contribution to America's future, it's a real stroke in the war against crime...

...Here at the Robert Taylor Homes on Friday, I saw young people wearing T-shirts for peer groups, for Adopt-A-Grandparents program, for anti-drug programs, for midnight basketball programs. I met adults working in tenant patrols. All these prevention programs are unleashing the grass roots energy of responsible residents who understand that they too have a duty to try to do something about crime. They're young, they're old, their middle-aged. They want to take their streets, their neighborhoods, their communities back. And we owe it to them to support them.

#### **Remarks by the President at Crime Bill Event, August 15, 1994**

The crime bill makes three strikes and you're out the law of the land, puts 100,000 police on the street, builds more prisons to lock up serious offenders, takes handguns away from juveniles and bans assault weapons, and provides investments and prevention to give our kids a better start in life; deals more sensibly with the terrible scourge of drugs that are responsible for so many of the crimes we have. These are things which ought to be done.

#### **Radio Address to the Nation, August 20, 1994**

But this crime bill is smart as well as tough, because our approach recognizes what the law enforcement community has been saying for years and years. There isn't a single victim of crime who wouldn't trade the toughest sentence in the world for some way to have prevented the crime from happening in the first place.

That's why this bill includes an unprecedented effort in crime prevention -- to help kids stay away from crime and drugs and gangs. It gives them something to say yes to. At the same time, we make it clear there are some things young people must say no to. The crime bill bans juvenile ownership of handguns. There's no reason why kids should be carrying guns to schools instead of books.

#### **Address to the National Baptist Convention, September 9, 1994**

If we get these assault weapons off the street --and it's now illegal for kids to own handguns -- if we start enforcing that law, and if we do something with that prevention money, if we give these kids something to say yes to, if we do something with the job money, with the job training money, with the drug treatment money, with the recreation money, if we give people at that time of their lives when they've got all this energy some constructive outlet for it, it will make a difference.

## **Radio Address to the Nation, September 10, 1994**

Next week I'll sign in to law the historic Crime Bill that will be tough, but a smart tool in every communities fight for our children's safety. It'll punish hardened, young criminals with stronger penalties, and it will expand boot camps, drug courts and other sanctions to stop first time offenders from beginning lives of crime...And with prevention programs, the crime law will take on the sickness of gangs and drugs and give our young people a chance at a new and better life.

## **Crime Bill Signing Ceremony, September 13, 1994**

Now, too many kids don't have parents who care. Gangs and drugs have taken over our streets and undermined our schools. Every day we read about somebody else who has literally gotten away with murder. But the American people haven't forgotten the difference between right and wrong. The system has. The American people haven't stopped wanting to raise their children in lives of safety and dignity, but they've got a lot of obstacles in their way.

But, my friends, let us be frank with each other: even this great law, the toughest and smartest crime bill in our history, cannot do the job alone. By its own words, it is still a law. It must be implemented by you; and it must be supplemented by you. Even when we put a new police officer on your block, the officer can't make you safe unless you come out of your home and help the officer do his or her job. Even when we keep our schools open late and give our children an alternative to drugs and gangs, your children won't learn the difference between right and wrong unless you teach them and they're in those schools when they're open.

## **Address to the Int. Assoc. of Chiefs of Police, October 17, 1994**

I want to tell you a story about the -- since this is an international organization, one of the things that I have really tried to do as President is to build international cooperation in law enforcement. It's important in dealing with drugs, it's important in dealing with terrorism, it's important in dealing with organized crime.

Lee Brown and Tom Constantine, both of them, as you know, have major responsibilities that go beyond our nation's borders, as you would expect, in dealing with the drug problems. But the FBI Director, Mr. Freeh, also took a very popular trip to Europe and to Russia not very long ago, and slightly after that when I was following him, instead of the other way around, I went to Riga, Latvia to celebrate the withdrawal of Russian forces from Eastern Europe for the first time since World War II, and from the Baltic States. And we had this meeting with the heads of the government of Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia; and, so help me, the first thing the President of Latvia said is, can we have an FBI office in Riga?

Now, it's funny and it's flattering, but it's also serious. Why? Because as these countries convert from totalitarian societies to free societies, as they become much more open, they become much more vulnerable to organized crime, because they haven't developed their banking system and their trading rules and their business rules. And that relates to whether they, themselves, then become more vulnerable to drug-trafficking and to terrorism, and to trafficking in weapons of mass destruction or stolen nuclear materials, or any of that sort of thing.

So I say to you -- I'll make you a prediction: For the next 10 years when you meet, more and more and more, of your concentration will have to be on the international aspects of the crime problem which affects what you do on the streets in your cities and towns throughout the United States.

...The first job I ever had as an elected official was as Attorney General of my state. And I began to work with law enforcement on a regular basis. Then I was governor for a dozen years -- the years when crime was exploding in America. I built prison cells. I devised work programs. I put in education programs and drug education programs and boot camps for first offenders. I enforced the capital punishment laws and tried to find ways to rehabilitate people who were getting out. I went to funerals of police officers who were friends and family members of friends of mine who died in the line of duty.

We have to do things that will go beyond talking, that will actually reduce the rates of crime and violence in the United States, that will actually make sure that more of our children do say "no" to drugs and gangs and guns, and "yes" to books and to Boys and Girls Clubs and to games. That's what the Brady Bill was all about; that's what the Crime Bill was all about. It was the national government's contribution to a national effort to really change the way Americans are living, to change the way they feel inside. And it is terribly important.

### **Singing of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, October 20, 1994**

The second thing I want to say is something that has already been alluded to here by the previous speakers. If we can't make these schools in this country safe, if children are not free of fear when they come to school, they are not going to learn very well. And this bill has a safe schools component, but it must be implemented. All we can do is give the means to make schools safe to local school districts. We in the national government don't do anything to make the schools safe; you do that. And you must, and every school must. The children of this country, even if they are scared to death on the streets, ought to feel safe when they're in their schools so they can learn...

And now I'm going to ask you young people to do one more thing. There is a lot of evidence, and there is a new survey that's been put out today, saying that in a

modest but very clear way, drug use is going up again among young people in America. I hope you're clapping because you agree with what I said, not because you agree that it's a good thing. That more and more young people simply don't believe it's dangerous to use marijuana, for example, and that it's okay to do.

Let me tell you something: Every single scientific study that has been done in the last several years shows alarming increases in the toxicity and the danger of using marijuana, especially to young women, and what might happen to their child-bearing capacity in the future.

All illegal drugs are dangerous. We have to drive down usage again. It has got to be not a good thing to do, not a cool thing to do. It is a stupid thing to do, as well as an illegal thing to do, and I want you to help bring it back down.

### **Announcement of Chief Joe Brann as Top Cop, December 19, 1994**

I know that members of this new Congress have some ideas about fighting crime; I welcome those ideas. I ask them only to remember that we should do what was done in the last Congress: listen to the people in law enforcement; listen to the people in community organizations; listen to the people at the grass-roots level who know how to catch criminals, but who also know how to prevent crime and lower the crime rate. If we listen to people at the grass-roots level and enlist ourselves as your supporters, then we can continue to make progress on crime.

But I also have to say that I don't think we should turn back on the progress we have made. We shouldn't give up on this community policing program. We ought to keep going until there are 100,000 more police on the street. And I'm going to do my dead-level best to make sure we don't turn back.

I'm going to come up with plenty of budget cuts. But we shouldn't cut the money that Lee Brown and people all over America need for drug prevention, drug education, drug treatment, things to lower the problem of drugs so we can lower the crime rate in that way. We shouldn't do that.

And even though we did not have a majority in both parties for the Brady Bill, and we certainly didn't have a majority in both parties for the assault weapons ban last time, I think we ought to leave them right where they are. We ought to stay with it, and go forward and implement it.

### **Announcement of Drug Strategy and COPS FAST grants, February 8, 1995**

This is security week at the White House, I think you could say. We talked about immigration yesterday and the need to protect our borders from illegal immigration. Today we're releasing our Drug Control Strategy and talking about

police officers. I'd like to put it briefly in the context of what I have been trying to achieve here.

I ran for this office with a vision that at the end of this century we need to be preserving the American Dream for all of our people and making sure that, as we move into the next century, we're still the strongest country in the world. I think our strategy should be what I have called the New Covenant, creating more opportunity, but insisting on more responsibility; and strengthening our communities at the grass-roots level.

The role of government, and specifically, the role of the federal government at this time, it seems to me, is to do three things: To expand opportunity while shrinking bureaucracy; to empower Americans to make the most of their own lives; and to enhance our security at home and abroad.

In ways that are obvious, the Crime Bill we passed and the drug strategy we pursue furthers all of those objectives. We are working hard to help communities to arm themselves to fight crime and violence. We are working hard to help people to defeat the scourge of drugs both by enforcement, as well as prevention and education and treatment. The Crime Bill makes the most of the resources that we have achieved by shrinking the federal bureaucracy dramatically, to the point where, when we finish, it will be the smallest it's been since President Kennedy was in office.

I also want to emphasize - I saw a lot of you nodding your head out there when Lee Brown was up here talking -- our Crime Bill and our National Drug Control Strategy are intimately related. With the help of the Crime Bill, this year's drug control's budget is the largest in the history of the federal government. Last year, for the first time in 25 years, I submitted to Congress a budget -- and Congress largely adopted it -- which reduced both domestic and defense spending in an attempt to get control of this terrible deficit. For the first time in 25 years. The only things that went up were interest on the debt and the medical costs of the government and the cost of living for Social Security. The aggregate spending, otherwise, went down. And I am proud of that. This year I have submitted to Congress a budget with another \$140 billion in spending cuts.

But remember our objectives here. The federal government's job is to increase the ability of people to make the most of their own lives and to enhance security. So we're spending more on education and training and children and their future in our budget. We're also spending more on security, not only abroad, but at home. More -- more to fight the drug war; more to fight crime; more to do things that will make people more secure in their homes in their schools, on their streets, in their workplaces. That's why this Drug Control Strategy is important. And it's also

important to note that it, too, is funded in the Crime Bill. A big part of the prevention section of the Crime Bill is an antidrug strategy, to take this country's commitment to fighting drugs to new heights.

I thank Lee Brown for his leadership, and I am going to do everything I can to implement the 1995 Drug Control Strategy. That has four steps: We propose to work more closely with foreign governments to cut drugs off at the source. We propose to boost community efforts to educate young people about the dangers and penalties of drug use, something that is very important. We see fresh and disturbing efforts -- evidence -- that a lot of young people are no longer afraid that they will get sick, that they can die, that they can become addicted if they have casual drug use. We will work to break the cycle of crime and drugs by providing treatment to hardcore drug users, who consume most of the drugs and cause much of the crime and health problems. And we will punish people who break the law more severely.

This strategy gives your communities more resources to fight drugs as well, and more flexibility, as I said, in the use of those resources.

I want to work with the new Congress to build on this Crime Bill, but we should not move backwards. We shouldn't undermine our ability to implement the Drug Control Strategy; we shouldn't walk away from our commitment to provide 100,000 police officers. And we shouldn't let this become a partisan, political issue...

### **Radio Address to the Nation, February 11, 1995**

...This week, I announced our administration's 1995 Drug Control Strategy. It involves cutting off drugs at the source, stiffer punishment for drug dealers, more education and prevention, and more treatment. But perhaps the most important part of this strategy will be to boost efforts to educate our young people about the dangers of drug use. Our children need a constant drumbeat reminding them that drugs are not safe, drugs are illegal, drugs can put you in jail, and drugs may cost you your life.

Community based education programs work. I saw them work in school when my daughter was younger. This morning I've been joined by some police officers who participate in community education programs, and especially in the national drug abuse education and resistance program that you probably know as DARE. Every American should follow their example and accept the responsibility to join the fight against drugs and crime and violence.

Parents must teach their children right from wrong. They must teach that drugs are bad and dangerous. And make no mistake about it, parents must set a good example for their children. Young people must have the courage to do what's right and stand up for what's right. That means not using drugs, staying out of gangs, studying hard, avoiding violence. It also means telling friends that drugs and

gangs and guns aren't cool, and children that are involved in those things aren't going to be your real friends.

### **Radio Address to the Nation, March 4, 1995**

I was especially touched by a letter I recently received from a 15 year old girl named Melissa, who lives in a small town in the Midwest. Even though she's only 15...she's a recovering drug addict...

This is what she wrote to me: "It seems there's just not enough help, and when there is help, there's not enough money to do what needs to be done. Let's help this problem so it's not so big for the next generation." We ought to listen to Melissa. From our smallest towns to our biggest cities, millions of our children face the temptation of illegal drugs everyday in their schools. Surveys show that unfortunately more and more of our adolescents are using illegal drugs. Kids today are somehow not getting the message. They are beginning once again to think that it is alright to use drugs, that they're not really dangerous. But they're wrong. Too often they're dead wrong.

Now I think about what this means for our communities and for our country, for all the rest of us. Illegal drugs go hand in hand with violence. They foster fear. School children stay home by the thousands every day because they are afraid. And in this kind of environment, even the best behaved young people have a tough time learning. That means our standard of education are being undermined by drugs and violence. And that hurts our ability as a nation to compete and win. So we all pay a price.

The first line of defense, of course, has to be in our communities - with our parents and teachers and our neighbors, other role models in law enforcement and the religious community - telling our young people in no uncertain terms that drugs and violence are wrong, and helping them to stay away or to get out. I know that.

...After all, leaders of both parties have seen this as a problem that can't be ignored in Washington. President Reagan and President Bush invested in initiatives for drug free schools. And last year, working with members of Congress of both parties, our administration expanded the Safe and Drug Free Schools Program to include violence prevention and security. We passed legislation that sends \$482 million to the states - enough for efforts in over 90 percent of our school districts.

Communities are using this money in a lot of different ways. They are using it to pay for police officers and metal detectors to keep our schools safer, to train teachers, staff, and students on how to resolve conflicts without violence, to help guide young people in fighting peer pressure to use drugs, to help instruct parents on warning signs of drug use. All of this is a very good sound investment for our future.

It's Washington being a good partner with people building their communities at the grass roots level.

The schools taking part wouldn't give up these safeguards. If anything, they want more help. But now, some Republicans in Congress want to completely eliminate our safe schools and anti-drug efforts. Right now, Congress is considering a rescission bill that cuts out the money we passed last year for all these programs.

I am concerned that the Republicans are willing to sacrifice our children's safety and our ability to learn in secure environments to pay for these tax cuts for upper income Americans. That's not a good deal for America's children, for America's future -- it's not a good deal for upper income Americans. It's not putting people first. It won't help to restore the American Dream, to advance the economic interests of the middle class to support mainstream values. They're trying to cut other things that I don't support, either. They're trying to cut the crime bill we passed last year to provide 100,000 police on our streets and to cut other education programs.

Now, I know we've got to reduce the deficit. We've already brought it down by over \$600 billion under the tough plan we passed last year and the year before. And I've given Congress a budget that has another \$140 billion of spending cuts. I'll work with them to find more, but not in education or jobs or the safety of our children. We need to be expanding opportunity up here, not restricting it. We need to be giving our people the tools they need to make the most of their own lives, not taking them away. We need to enhance our security, not undermine it.

And where our children are concerned, we've got to give them the best chance we can to develop their God-given abilities so they can do the rest. They've got to stay in school, stay out of trouble, stay off drugs and off the streets. But young people, given a chance, can overcome great obstacles.

Look at young Melissa. Now she's gotten herself a second chance to become a first-class citizen. We need more young people like her for their strength, their intelligence their humanity. We don't have a one to waste. And our young people need us to have the vision and the strength to do what's best for their futures today.

#### **Address to the National PTA Legislative Conference, March 14, 1995**

And in spite of the progress we are making on many fronts, there is still an awful lot of social turmoil in this country, from drugs and violence and gangs and family breakdown. And these things are profoundly troubling to the American people. So we have a lot of good news and a lot of bad news. And a whole lot is happening.

In 1993 we had the largest number of new businesses started in the United States in any single year in the history of the country

...And we have invested more in our children. In the last two years, we have, I believe, had the best year in terms of legislative advancements for education that we've had in 30 years. And I might say, it was done in a largely bipartisan way. We expanded and reformed Head Start. We passed an apprenticeship program for young people who don't go on to four-year colleges, but do want to move into good jobs after high school. We made college loans more affordable and the repayment terms better for millions and millions of middle class and lower income students. We made a new commitment to help you to get drugs and guns out of your schools and to end the mindless violence that too many of our children still suffer from. And of course, with your help, we passed Goals 2000 -- some thing that was very, very important to me and very important to you. And it's a clear example of government as a partner, not a savior and not on the sidelines.

...But we don't agree with what they're trying to do in the House -- to cut \$1,7 billion from education, to eliminate all the funds for the Safe and Drug Free School Program -- all the funds at a time when, disturbingly, young people are beginning to use drugs casually again, forgetting that they're dangerous and illegal, when schools still need the funds they need to be literally more secure in difficult areas. They want to eliminate all the funds in that bill for teaching homeless children, all the funds for the parent resource centers, which you know are very important. We're dealing with a lot of parents, folks, who want to do a better job by their kids but need some help and some support from people like you who have been showing up in the PTA for years, some of you for decades.

...I want to just mention one other thing. I want to thank Secretary Riley again for taking the lead in creating the National Family Involvement Partnership for Learning. It includes many members of the private sector, more than 100 organizations, including the PTA. He's been proposing seven basic steps for all parents to take. And I like them so much that I want to repeat them for every parent now here at the PTA meeting, because if these things are not done, then our efforts won't succeed. And if these things are done, then our efforts here become even more important to support the parents who are doing them.

Find some time to spend with your children. Read with them. Set high expectations for them. Take away the remote control on school nights. Check their homework, check their grades, and set a good example, and talk directly to your children, especially to your teenagers about the dangers of drugs and alcohol and the values you want them to have.

### **Address to the National Conference of State Legislatures, March 16, 1995**

But I do not agree with the proposals that undermine our fundamental mission -- more economic opportunity, empowering people through education and training, and increasing our security. Therefore, I don't agree with the proposal that would eliminate the 100,000 police commitment and the crime bill that we worked for six years for, or cut school lunches, or cut our education programs -- the Goals 2000 program for 4,000 schools in America or the proposal for Safe and Drug Free schools...

I don't think all federal government spending is the same. I think with drug use on the rise and among young people again, there are reasons that are almost impossible to understand, young people thinking that it's no longer really dangerous to fool with drugs again -- not to mention illegal. To cut out all of these programs that would give 94 percent of the schools in this country an opportunity to make their schools safer and more drug-free, whether it's metal detectors and police officers, or more folks in there teaching prevention, is not common sense.

### **Address to the National Education Assoc. School Safety Summit, April 8, 1995**

And the Secretary and I fought very hard for the Safe and Drug Free Schools Act which would provide funds to over 90 percent of our schools districts to help to keep schools safe whether it would be in the form of security officers or security equipment or other things designed to make our schools safer and more free of drugs.

...We had a big debate about how we could lower the spending in this year's budget more, in the so-called rescission bill to pay for the California earthquake costs and some other expenses we had and reduce the deficit a little more. And we got this bill originally from the House that was going to cut all kinds of education funding and cut funding for safe and drug free schools, at a time when drug use is going back up among young people who have forgotten that it is not only illegal, it is dangerous and stupid, and violence is a real problem.