

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Framingham, Massachusetts)

For Immediate Release

October 20, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT THE SIGNING OF
THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT OF 1994

Framingham High School
Framingham, Massachusetts

11:25 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. You know, we wanted to come here because this school has a reputation for academic excellence and because it is so diverse, because it's a school that really looks like America. But if I had known we were going to get such an enthusiastic reception, I would have come yesterday instead of today and just waited. (Applause.) Thank you. (Applause.)

I also want to say a special word of appreciation to your student council president. I thought he did a fine job up here. (Applause.) I can tell you this -- if he continues to speak so well, so much to the point, and so briefly, he'll win a lot more elections. (Laughter and applause.) Very impressive.

I'd like to thank you principal, Mr. Flaherty, your superintendent, Dr. Thayer. (Applause.) Your school board chairman, Mr. Petrini, and all the people here who made this wonderful visit possible.

I'd like to thank all the members of Congress who have joined us. I especially want to thank those who have come from other states -- Senator Pell and Congressman Reed have come from Rhode Island, and Senator and Mrs. Jeffords are here. We're glad to see them. I thank Congressman Markey for hosting us. And I thank Congressman Kennedy for coming and bringing his wife and his mother. I'm glad they're all here. Thank you for coming. (Applause.)

I want to say just a brief word about those who have spoken. Governor Kunin, who was the Governor of Vermont, is now the Deputy Secretary of Education, spoke on behalf of the Department and Secretary Riley, who was the Governor of South Carolina. All three of us served as governors together, working on these education problems. And think we've made a real difference bringing a whole different approach to education to Washington. We look at it from the grass roots up, from the point of view of the principals and the teachers and the school board members. And we like to think from time to time we even look at it from the point of view of the students -- from the grass roots up, from education at the school level where it should be. (Applause.)

I want to say a special word of thanks to Senator Jeffords for what he said. And to Congressman Ford and Senator Kennedy. Let me say that you read

a lot and hear a lot about all the fights that go on in Washington and about how things don't get done; but when the history of this time is written, the progress we have made in education will be known chiefly for two things: one is, we really did write new ideas into the law; and secondly, we did it in a bipartisan fashion with Republicans and Democrats for all the children of this country. (Applause.)

I was sitting up here listening to these fine people speak, wondering what all of our words might mean to the students who are here; thinking that -- trying to remember what it was like when I used to sit over there in the band when I was their age and hold my saxophone. (Applause.) You did a great job today, by the way, and I thank you. (Applause.)

I'd like to try to tell you why this whole thing is important from your point of view, because this whole education issue is really about your future. Twenty-one months ago, when I moved to Washington to become President, I had some very clear ideas. I wanted to rebuild the American Dream; to restore the health of the American economy; to make sure that your future would be the brightest future ever enjoyed by any generation of Americans, as you grow into the 21st century -- a new and exciting, rapidly changing and very different time. I knew that we had to do some things that would matter to people in the short run. We had to begin to make our government work for ordinary Americans again. And we've done a pretty good job of that. We passed the Family and Medical Leave Law to protect parents when they need time off from work because their children are sick. (Applause.) And we're immunizing all the kids in the country under the age of two by 1996. (Applause.) I see the nurses clapping there -- thank you.

Because we want to reward people who are trying to be good parents and good workers, we actually lowered the income taxes of 15 million working families because they make modest wages and we don't want them to be in poverty if they're working full time and raising their kids. So we began to do these things. And we started to work to bring the economy back; to bring the deficit down; to invest more in new technologies; to expand trade. And it is working, and the economy is coming back. But over the long run, the United States of America cannot continue to lead the world economically in a world where the average young person will change work six, seven, eight times in a lifetime; in a world where what you earn depends not just what you know, but what you are capable of learning; in a world that is incredibly fast-moving and diverse. We cannot do that unless we develop the learning capacities of every person in this country. That is the key to the long-term survival and strength of the United States. (Applause.)

When I was a governor, my administration, and especially my wonderful wife and I spent most of our time working on what we could do to improve our schools; how we could get the test scores up; how we could get more kids in foreign language; how we could improve mathematics achievement; how more of our young people could be ready to learn when they come to school; how we could facilitate more young people going to college.

And I learned over and over again as, I think Governor Kunin said, that there are schools in this country, including this one, that are doing a very good job, sometimes against great odds. They are still doing a good job teaching and learning. (Applause.)

But we have some significant challenges we have to face. First of all, we are not as good as we ought to be as a country in taking the things that work well in some school districts and seeing them spread throughout the country. Secondly, we have great challenges, because of all the great nations in the world, we are by far the most diverse -- racially, ethnically, religiously, economically. Thirdly, we know that schools have become the home away from home for a lot of children who have enormous personal challenges to face. And all those things mean that we have to be constantly working overtime to try to meet the challenges that we face today and the challenges we know you will face in your lives tomorrow.

That's why I worked so hard several years ago to get our country to set a mission, a national set of education goals. Most of you may not know what they are, but I think they're good goals. They're worth repeating -- that we will make sure every child shows up for school ready to learn; that we will raise the high school graduation rate to at least 90 percent of all students which is the international standard all over the country; that we will make sure our young people learn and are proficient in, by international standards of excellence, basic subjects in English and mathematics and history and geography and languages. And we will learn how to measure whether we are doing that or not at least three times during the course of a student's career; that we will lead the world in math and science achievement, not bring up the rear -- (applause); that our schools will become safe, disciplined and free of drugs; and that we will develop a system of lifetime learning so that people, no matter how old they are, will always be able to develop new skills, acquire new knowledge, know what they need to know to move forward with confidence.

Those are the goals of this nation educationally. They have been adopted by presidents of both parties, by governors of both parties; they have been embraced by educators all across this country; they are now the law of the land, thanks to this Congress. (Applause.)

The important thing about this bill is that it represents a fundamental change in the way the federal government looks at how we should do our job in helping you students achieve those goals. For 30 years, the federal government has shifted money to the states and the local school districts to try to help with problems that needed the money. But mostly, they have done it in ways that prescribe in very detailed manner the rules and regulations your schools had to follow, the rules and regulations your states had to follow in applying for the money and in complying with it. And very often, we had teachers at the grass-roots level who said, this doesn't make any sense.

This bill changes all that. This bill says the national government will set the goals. We will help develop measurements to see whether Framingham school district is meeting the goals. But you will get to determine how you're going to meet the goals, because the magic of education occurs between the teacher and the students in the classroom -- (applause) -- with the parents, with the principals, with the schools supporting it. (Applause.)

And you have see all this stuff we're talking about up here in terms of that. We've expanded the Head Start program, as Senator Kennedy said. These goals have now been written into law, and 31 of the 50 states have asked for our help in devising a state strategy to meet the goals.

The School to Work Opportunities Act, which the Senator mentioned, has now all 50 states working to try to develop statewide systems of apprenticeships so the young people who don't go to college but do want to have good jobs will be able to get at least some post-high school training in ways that help them academically, help them practically and give them a good start into the future. And that is a very, very important thing. Our nation is the only advanced nation in the world that does not have a system that picks up every single high school graduate who doesn't go to college and gives them some further education and training so they can make a good living, be good citizens, raise a strong family, and contribute to our future. We're going to change that with this legislation. (Applause.)

And the college loan program and the national service program, I want to explain in tandem. You know, in the 1980s, the gap between what a high school graduate earns in his or her first year of work and what a college graduate earns in his or her first year of work doubled -- doubled. Earnings for high school graduates in their first year of work in the United States actually declined in the 1980s, under the pressure of a global economy, where there are a lot of people around the world in developing countries doing jobs for wages we cannot live on. It is clear that it is in the economic interest of the entire United States to get as many young people to go onto college as possible. At the same time, you know we face even more social challenges, especially among younger children.

So we've done two things: One is, we've changed the college loan program to say you can borrow money at lower interest rates; you can pay it out over a longer period of time; if you take a job that doesn't pay a high wage, you can tie the loan repayment to the salary you make. You'll have to pay it back over more years, but there will never be a time when because of the cost of your college education, you can't make a car payment; you can't make your rent payment; you can't meet the basic responsibilities you have. (Applause.)

And the national service program, which you have well represented here in Massachusetts, simply says that if you join a community service program that's part of AmeriCorps, you can earn almost \$5,000 a year against the cost of a college education while helping to solve the problems of people here in the United States. It's sort of a domestic peace corps.

And this morning I met with a couple of hundred national service corps volunteers who are in the City Year project in Boston, which a lot of you probably know about -- each of them telling me about what they're doing to try to help solve a human problem in the state of Massachusetts, not with some bureaucracy, but from the grass roots up. Just young people helping other people to make their lives better and earning some money for a college education. That is the ticket to America's future and the ticket to your future, as well. (Applause.)

Now, let me just say two or three things about this bill, then I'll go sign it, because it's getting warm in here. (Laughter and applause.) It's getting so warm, I'm about to think I'm in Arkansas, not in Massachusetts in October. (Laughter.)

But I have to say a few more things because now I'm getting to the part that you have to do something about. And this bill is a challenge to you as well. This bill does many things, and I won't tell you all about them, but I want to give you just a few examples.

The first thing this bill does is to encourage schools to take kids that are from underprivileged backgrounds and instead of separating them out from other students, bring them into the classrooms, have smaller classes, work with them, have kids help kids to get everybody into the mainstream, and everybody develop to the fullest of their God-given capacities. We know now that works better than separating kids out and trying to help them instead of bringing them in and challenging them to do the best they can do. (Applause.)

Let me tell you what that means. That means that every one of you has to support that -- not just the teachers. The school district needs to encourage that, especially for the younger kids. But if you have a friend in your class, or if you know a student who is not necessarily a friend of yours who is struggling, you ought to see whether you or somebody else can help that student. We need to have more kids helping kids to learn in this country. We've got to have that. (Applause.)

There are a lot of studies today -- and I won't bore you with all of them -- but basically there are a lot of studies on learning and how people learn that show that some people learn best by just going home at night, opening the book and working like crazy. But some people learn best in groups, from their friends and neighbors, from being free to ask when they don't know, and from getting help and from working through problems. There are a lot of young people who think they're not very smart who maybe just don't learn very well in the way that they're being asked to learn. And you need to try to help them do better. (Applause.)

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. (Applause.)

The third thing I want to say is -- I'm getting sort of progressively more controversial maybe here -- is there's an interesting provision of this bill that had enormous bipartisan support that provides opportunities for schools to get some help from this bill to develop what are now being called character education programs -- programs that basically enable schools to develop values that can be taught to students in the public schools based on a consensus of people in the community. I made this National Character Counts Week, putting government on the side of having the schools tell children that there is a difference between right and wrong, and there are some basic things that we ought to teach. There is a bipartisan "Character Counts" coalition in the Congress that's been working on this.

We disagree about a lot of things, but we ought to be able to agree that our schools should say people should tell the truth. They should respect themselves and each other. They ought to be good citizens, which means that we should assume responsibility for obeying the law and for helping others to develop themselves. We ought to practice fairness and tolerance and trustworthiness.

These things should be taught in our schools, and we shouldn't gag our teachers when they try to do it, we ought to applaud them instead; and I hope we will be doing more and more of that. (Applause.)

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. (Applause.) 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. (Applause.)

So this bill is about you; it's not about all of us politicians up here; it's about you. It's about your future. The age in which you are growing and the world toward which you are going can be the best time America ever had. It will be exciting. And our diversity in America is a gold mine of opportunity. No other country is so well-positioned to move into

the 21st century, to live in a global society that is more peaceful and more secure - no one. But it all depends upon whether we develop the God-given capacity of every boy and girl in this country, no matter where they live, no matter what their racial or ethnic or religious background is.

That is your challenge. Let's do it together. Thank you, and God bless you all. (Applause.)

(The bill is signed.)

END11:45 A.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 4, 1995

RADIO ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT TO THE NATION

The Oval Office

10:06 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. I always like to hear from young people across our country. After all, they're at the heart of our efforts to build America up, to face the demands and the challenges of the 21st century. The responsibility of my generation is to leave those young people a better world, and to make sure that they're prepared to succeed in that world.

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 and she lives in America's heartland, she's a recovering drug addict. She's been drug-free for two years now, but she still sees other children going down the road to drug abuse, and she's very worried.

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's all right to use drugs, that they're not really dangerous. But they're wrong. Too often, they're dead wrong.

Now, 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 standards 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 off. I know that.

But we here in Washington have a responsibility, too. All of you know there's a big debate going on in Washington now about what the role of the government ought to be. The Republican Contract says we should cut just about everything to pay for big tax cuts that go mostly to upper income people. Well, I think we should cut government. We have. There are over 150,000 fewer people working here than there were when I took office. I think we ought to reduce the burden of unnecessary regulation, and we are.

But I think we need a government that's lean and not mean, one that offers opportunity and challenges people to be more

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responsible; one that's a partner in increasing opportunity, empowering people to make the most of their own lives, and providing more security for our people. The fight against drugs and the fight for safe schools does all of 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 the warning signs of drug use. All of this is a very good and 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.

Thanks for listening.

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10:12 A.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 13, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT SIGNING OF CRIME BILL

The South Lawn

10:48 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: I think we ought to give the Vice President a hand for all the work that he has done. (Applause.) Thank you, Mr. Vice President, for your introduction and for your labors on this bill.

Most of the introductions have been made, but I want to join what has been said. I want to thank the members of my Cabinet -- General Reno and Secretary Bentsen and all the others who worked so hard on this. I want to thank all these mayors here -- Mayor Giuliani, Mayor Webb, Mayor Rice, Mayor Daley, Mayor James, Mayor Rindel, all the other mayors. I'd like to ask -- and there are some county officials here -- I'd like to ask all the local leaders who are here to please stand up; they didn't all stand -- I'd like to ask them all to stand and be recognized. (Applause.) Mayor Golding, Susan, good to see you. Mayor Schmoke, Mayor Helmke, Mayor Abramson who got cauliflower ear for making his phone calls. (Laughter.)

I'd also like to ask, even though many of them have been introduced, I would like to ask the people without whom we would not be here today -- all the members of the Congress who are here, Republicans and Democrats, to please stand and be acknowledged; every one of them, I'd like for them to stand up. Thank you. (Applause.)

And let me say to all the representatives of the victims' groups and the citizens' groups how grateful we are to you; to all the leaders of the law enforcement groups; to all the rank and file folks who worked so hard; to all the leaders of the community groups of people who wanted to give our kids something to say yes to and to prevent crime before it occurs; to all the ministers -- to all of you, I thank you for being here and for making this day possible.

The American people have been waiting a long time for this day. In the last 25 years, half a million Americans have been killed by other Americans. For 25 years, crime has been a hot political issue, used too often to divide us while the system makes excuses for not punishing criminals and doing the job, instead of being used to unite us to prevent crime, punish criminals, and restore a sense of safety and security to the American people.

For the last six years, children have become the most likely victims of violent crime and its most likely perpetrators. And for six years, Washington debated a crime bill without action while more and more children died, and more and more children became criminals and foreclosed a productive life for themselves.

In the last two years, Meghan Sposato lost a mother she had only begun to know; Polly Klaas lost her life to a felon who should never have been back on the streets; and James Darby wrote his President a letter because he was so afraid, only to lose his life walking home before anybody could erase his fears. And still, some people in this town tried to keep this day from happening. But today, at last, the waiting ends. (Applause.)

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Today the bickering stops, the era of excuses is over, the law-abiding citizens of our country have made their voices heard. Never again should Washington put politics and party above law and order.

From this day forward, let us put partisanship behind us, and let us go forward -- Democrats and Republicans and Independents, law enforcement, community leaders, ordinary citizens -- let us roll up our sleeves to roll back this awful tide of violence and reduce crime in our country. We have the tools now. Let us get about the business of using them. (Applause.)

One of the reasons that I sought this office is to get this bill because if the American people do not feel safe on their streets, in their schools, in their homes, in their places of work and worship, then it is difficult to say that the American people are free.

Not so long ago, kids grew up knowing they'd have to pay if they broke a neighbor's window playing ball. I know; I did it once. (Laughter.) They knew they'd be in trouble if they lied or stole because their parents and teachers and neighbors cared enough to set them straight. And everybody knew that anybody who committed a serious crime would be caught and convicted and would serve their time in jail. The rules were simple, the results were predictable, and we lived better because of it. Punishment was swift and certain for people who didn't follow the rules, and rewards of America were considerable for those who did.

Now, too many kids don't have parents who care. Gangs and drugs have taken over our streets and undermined our schools 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.

When I sign this crime bill, we together are taking a big step toward bringing the laws of our land back into line with the values of our people, and beginning to restore the line between right and wrong. There must be no doubt about whose side we're on. People who commit crimes should be caught, convicted and punished. This bill puts government on the side of those who abide by the law, not those who break it; on the side of the victims, not their attackers; on the side of the brave men and women who put their lives on the line for us every day, not the criminals or those who would turn away from law enforcement. That's why police and prosecutors and preachers fought so hard for this bill, and why I am so proud to sign it into law today.

When this bill is law, three strikes and you're out will be the law of the land, the penalty for killing a law enforcement officer will be death, we will have a significant -- (Applause.) We will have the means by which we can say, punishment will be more certain. We will cut the federal work force over a period of years by 270,000 positions to its lowest level in 30 years, and take all that money to pay for this crime bill. (Applause.)

The savings will be used to put 100,000 police officers on the street, a 20 percent increase. It will be used to build prisons to keep 100,000 violent criminals off the street. It will be used to give our young people something to say yes to, places where they can go after school where they are safe, where they can do constructive things that will help them to build their lives, where teachers replace gang leaders as role models. All of these things should and will be done. (Applause.)

This bill makes it illegal for juveniles to own handguns and, yes, without eroding the rights of sportsmen and women in this country, we will finally ban these assault weapons from our street that have no purpose other than to kill. (Applause.)

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. (Applause.) 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. (Applause.)

Our country will not truly be safe again until all Americans take personal responsibility for themselves, their families and their communities. This day is the beginning, not the end, of our effort to restore safety and security to the people of this country. (Applause.)

Here in Washington there is more that we can do. Today I am naming Vice President Gore -- whose reinventing government report first proposed the cuts in the bureaucracy that will pay for this bill -- to head the President's Prevention Council. I want him to work with every department to make this a coherent and cost-effective effort to give communities the tools they need to prevent crime from occurring in the first place. (Applause.)

In a few weeks I will name the head of our program to put 100,000 new police on the street. And early next month, the Justice Department will award grants to put new police on the street in 150 more cities and towns that applied last year.

Last Sunday, I was in Maryland, and Senator Sarbanes told me that already one of our community policing grants had resulted in the capture of a serious felon in a community in his state. This will make a difference. And I want to commend the Attorney General and the Justice Department for being determined to do this right, to get this money out to the grass roots so that we can hire the police and get on with the job. (Applause.)

Thirdly, in the coming months the Vice President and I will hold forums on crime and violence all across our country, with all kinds of people from all walks of life, leading up here to a meeting at the White House next year to launch a national effort at the grass roots level in each and every community to implement the crime bill properly, to enshrine the values and common sense the crime bill represents, and to do something about this terrible scourge of violence that is especially gripping our children and robbing them of their future. We intend to continue the fight, and we want you to keep working with us. (Applause.)

Today we remember the thousands of officers who gave their lives to make our nation safer, whose names are inscribed in a stone memorial just a mile away from here. We remember the innocent victims whose lives were lost and whose families were shattered by the scourge of violent crime.

We remember three -- James Darby, Polly Klaas and Jody Sposato -- whose deaths literally galvanized this nation and shamed our political system into action. It is in their memories that I dedicate this bill. I hope this law will always be remembered in their names. And I hope, too, that we will remember what the Vice President said: "The ultimate victory of this law will be in the salvation of the children whose names we will never know."

Early in 1992, I was walking through one of the countless kitchens of a hotel lobby in New York on my way to a dinner, when a waiter working there came up to me and grabbed me and he said, Mr. President -- he didn't call me Governor then -- he said, my 10-year-old boy is studying this election in school, and he says I should vote for you. But he said, I want to tell you something first -- I came here as an immigrant, and the place where I lived was very poor, and we were very poor. But at least we were free. Now we live here and we have more money, but we are not free. We are not free because my boy can't walk across the street and play in the park unless I am with him. We are not free because my boy cannot walk to school unless I am with him. Make my boy free.

On the day after the crime bill was signed, I received a letter carefully typed from a very young man who is the son of a member of our administration. It was so eloquent. He said, I live in a good neighborhood, I go to a nice school. You wouldn't think people like me would care about this crime bill, but I have been keeping up with it every day because every time I go out with my friends at night to a movie or to a game, I think someone might shoot me before I get home. Now I feel so much better.

My fellow Americans, this is about freedom. Without responsibility, without order, without lawfulness, there is no freedom. Today, the will of the American people has triumphed over a generation of division and paralysis. We've won a chance to work together.

So in that spirit, let us rededicate ourselves today to making this law become the life of our country, to restoring the sense of right and wrong that built our country, and to make it safe not in words, but in fact, in the lifeblood of every child and every citizen of this country who believes in the promise of America. Let us make it real.

Thank you and God bless you all. (Applause.)

(The bill is signed.) (Applause.)

END

11:00 A.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 24, 1995

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

U.S. Capitol

9:14 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, members of the 104th Congress, my fellow Americans: Again we are here in the sanctuary of democracy, and once again, our democracy has spoken. So let me begin by congratulating all of you here in the 104th Congress, and congratulating you, Mr. Speaker. (Applause.)

If we agree on nothing else tonight, we must agree that the American people certainly voted for change in 1992 and in 1994. (Applause.) And as I look out at you, I know how some of you must have felt in 1992. (Laughter and applause.)

I must say that in both years we didn't hear America singing, we heard America shouting. And now all of us, Republicans and Democrats alike, must say: We hear you. We will work together to earn the jobs you have given us. (Applause.) For we are the keepers of the sacred trust, and we must be faithful to it in this new and very demanding era.

Over 200 years ago, our founders changed the entire course of human history by joining together to create a new country based on a single powerful idea: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, and among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

It has fallen to every generation since then to preserve that idea -- the American idea -- and to deepen and expand its meaning to new and different times: To Lincoln and his Congress, to preserve the Union and to end slavery. To Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson, to restrain the abuses and excesses of the Industrial Revolution, and to assert our leadership in the world. To Franklin Roosevelt, to fight the failure and pain of the Great Depression, and to win our country's great struggle against fascism. And to all our presidents since, to fight the Cold War.

Especially, I recall two who struggled to fight that Cold War in partnership with congresses where the majority was of a different party. To Harry Truman, who summoned us to unparalleled prosperity at home, and who built the architecture of the Cold War. And to Ronald Reagan, whom we wish well tonight, and who exhorted us to carry on until the twilight struggle against communism was won. (Applause.)

In another time of change and challenge, I had the honor to be the first president to be elected in the post-Cold War era, an era marked by the global economy, the information revolution, unparalleled change and opportunity and insecurity for the American people.

I came to this hallowed chamber two years ago on a mission -- to restore the American Dream for all our people and to

make sure that we move into the 21st century still the strongest force for freedom and democracy in the entire world. I was determined then to tackle the tough problems too long ignored. In this effort I am frank to say that I have made my mistakes, and I have learned again the importance of humility in all human endeavor. But I am also proud to say tonight that our country is stronger than it was two years ago. (Applause.)

Record numbers -- record numbers of Americans are succeeding in the new global economy. We are at peace and we are a force for peace and freedom throughout the world. We have almost six million new jobs since I became president, and we have the lowest combined rate of unemployment and inflation in 25 years. (Applause.) Our businesses are more productive and here we have worked to bring the deficit down, to expand trade, to put more police on our streets, to give our citizens more of the tools they need to get an education and to rebuild their own communities.

But the rising tide is not lifting all boats. While our nation is enjoying peace and prosperity, too many of our people are still working harder and harder, for less and less. While our businesses are restructuring and growing more productive and competitive, too many of our people still can't be sure of having a job next year or even next month. And far more than our material riches are threatened; things far more precious too us -- our children, our families, our values.

Our civil life is suffering in America today. Citizens are working together less and shouting at each other more. The common bonds of community which have been the great strength of our country from its very beginning are badly frayed. What are we to do about it?

More than 60 years ago, at the dawn of another new era, President Roosevelt told our nation, "New conditions impose new requirements on government and those who conduct government." And from that simple proposition, he shaped the New Deal, which helped to restore our nation to prosperity and define the relationship between our people and their government for half a century.

That approach worked in its time. But we today, we face a very different time and very different conditions. We are moving from an Industrial Age built on gears and sweat to an Information Age demanding skills and learning and flexibility. Our government, once a champion of national purpose, is now seen by many as simply a captive of narrow interests, putting more burdens on our citizens rather than equipping them to get ahead. The values that used to hold us all together seem to be coming apart.

So tonight, we must forge a new social compact to meet the challenges of this time. As we enter a new era, we need a new set of understandings, not just with government, but even more important, with one another as Americans.

That's what I want to talk with you about tonight. I call it the New Covenant. But it's grounded in a very, very old idea -- that all Americans have not just a right, but a solid responsibility to rise as far as their God-given talents and determination can take them; and to give something back to their communities and their country in return. Opportunity and responsibility: They go hand in hand. We can't have one without the

other. And our national community can't hold together without both.
(Applause.)

Our New Covenant is a new set of understandings for how we can equip our people to meet the challenges of a new economy, how we can change the way our government works to fit a different time, and, above all, how we can repair the damaged bonds in our society

and come together behind our common purpose. We must have dramatic change in our economy, our government and ourselves.

My fellow Americans, without regard to party, let us rise to the occasion. Let us put aside partisanship and pettiness and pride. As we embark on this new course, let us put our country first, remembering that regardless of party label, we are all Americans. And let the final test of everything we do be a simple one: Is it good for the American people? (Applause.)

Let me begin by saying that we cannot ask Americans to be better citizens if we are not better servants. You made a good start by passing that law which applies to Congress all the laws you put on the private sector, and I was proud to sign it yesterday. (Applause.)

But we have a lot more to do before people really trust the way things work around here. Three times as many lobbyists are in the streets and corridors of Washington as were here 20 years ago. The American people look at their capital and they see a city where the well-connected and the well-protected can work the system, but the interests of ordinary citizens are often left out.

As the new Congress opened its doors, lobbyists were still doing business as usual -- the gifts, the trips, all the things that people are concerned about haven't stopped. Twice this month you missed opportunities to stop these practices. I know there were other considerations in those votes, but I want to use something that I've heard my Republican friends say from time to time -- there doesn't have to be a law for everything. So tonight, I ask you to just stop taking the lobbyists' perks. Just stop. (Applause.)

We don't have to wait for legislation to pass to send a strong signal to the American people that things are really changing. But I also hope you will send me the strongest possible lobby reform bill, and I'll sign that, too. (Applause.)

We should require lobbyists to tell the people for whom they work what they're spending, what they want. We should also curb the role of big money in elections by capping the cost of campaigns and limiting the influence of PACs. (Applause.)

And as I have said for three years, we should work to open the airwaves so that they can be an instrument of democracy, not a weapon of destruction by giving free TV time to candidates for public office. (Applause.)

When the last Congress killed political reform last year, it was reported in the press that the lobbyists actually stood in the halls of this sacred building and cheered. This year, let's give the folks at home something to cheer about. (Applause.)

More important, I think we all agree that we have to change the way the government works. Let's make it smaller, less costly and smaller -- leaner, not meaner. (Applause.)

I just told the Speaker the equal time doctrine is alive and well. (Laughter.)

The New Covenant approach to governing is as different from the old bureaucratic way as the computer is from the manual

typewriter. The old way of governing around here protected organized interests. We should look out for the interests of ordinary people. The old way divided us by interest, constituency or class. The New Covenant way should unite us behind a common vision of what's best for our country. The old way dispensed services through large, top-down, inflexible bureaucracies. The New Covenant way should shift these resources and decision-making from bureaucrats to citizens,

injecting choice and competition and individual responsibility into national policy. (Applause.)

The old way of governing around here actually seemed to reward failure. The New Covenant way should have built-in incentives to reward success. The old way was centralized here in Washington. The New Covenant way must take hold in the communities all across America. And we should help them to do that. (Applause.)

Our job here is to expand opportunity, not bureaucracy; to empower people to make the most of their own lives; and to enhance our security here at home and abroad. We must not ask government to do what we should do for ourselves. We should rely on government as a partner to help us to do more for ourselves and for each other. (Applause.)

I hope very much that as we debate these specific and exciting matters, we can go beyond the sterile discussion between the illusion that there is somehow a program for every problem on the one hand, and the other illusion that the government is a source of every problem we have. Our job is to get rid of yesterday's government so that our own people can meet today's and tomorrow's needs. And we ought to do it together. (Applause.)

You know, for years before I became president, I heard others say they would cut government and how bad it was. But not much happened. We actually did it. We cut over a quarter of a trillion dollars in spending, more than 300 domestic programs, more than 100,000 positions from the federal bureaucracy in the last two years alone. Based on decisions already made, we will have cut a total of more than a quarter of a million positions from the federal government, making it the smallest it has been since John Kennedy was president, by the time I come here again next year. (Applause.)

Under the leadership of Vice President Gore, our initiatives have already saved taxpayers \$63 billion. The age of the \$500 hammer and the ashtray you can break on David Letterman is gone. Deadwood programs, like mohair subsidies, are gone. We've streamlined the Agriculture Department by reducing it by more than 1,200 offices. We've slashed the small business loan form from an inch thick to a single page. We've thrown away the government's 10,000-page personnel manual. And the government is working better in important ways: FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, has gone from being a disaster to helping people in disasters. (Applause.)

You can ask the farmers in the Middle West who fought the flood there or the people in California who have dealt with floods and earthquakes and fires, and they'll tell you that. Government workers, working hand in hand with private business, rebuilt Southern California's fractured freeways in record time and under budget. And because the federal government moved fast, all but one of the 5,600 schools damaged in the earthquake are back in business.

Now, there are a lot of other things that I could talk about. I want to just mention one because it will be discussed here in the next few weeks. University administrators all over the country have told me that they are saving weeks and weeks of bureaucratic time now because of our direct college loan program, which makes college loans cheaper and more affordable, with better

repayment terms for students, costs the government less, and cuts out paperwork and bureaucracy for the government and for the universities. We shouldn't cap that program. We should give every college in America the opportunity to be a part of it. (Applause.)

Previous government programs gather dust. The reinventing government report is getting results. And we're not

through. There's going to be a second round of reinventing government. We propose to cut \$130 billion in spending by shrinking departments, extending our freeze on domestic spending, cutting 60 public housing programs down to three, getting rid of over 100 programs we do not need, like the Interstate Commerce Commission and the Helium Reserve Program. (Applause.) And we're working on getting rid of unnecessary regulations and making them more sensible. The programs and regulations that have outlived their usefulness should go. We have to cut yesterday's government to help solve tomorrow's problems. (Applause.)

And we need to get government closer to the people its meant to serve. We need to help move programs down to the point where states and communities and private citizens in the private sector can do a better job. If they can do it, we ought to let them do it. We should get out of the way and let them do what they can do better. (Applause.)

Taking power away from federal bureaucracies and giving it back to communities and individuals is something everyone should be able to be for. It's time for Congress to stop passing on to the state the cost of decisions we make here in Washington. (Applause.)

I know there are still serious differences over the details of the unfunded mandates legislation, but I want to work with you to make sure we pass a reasonable bill which will protect the national interests and give justified relief where we need to give it. (Applause.)

For years, Congress concealed in the budget scores of pet spending projects. Last year was no different. There was a \$1 million to study stress in plants, and \$12 million for a tick removal program that didn't work. It's hard to remove ticks; those of us who have had them know. (Laughter.) But, I'll tell you something; if you'll give me the line-item veto, I'll remove some of that unnecessary spending. (Applause.)

But I think we should all remember, and almost all of us would agree, that government still has important responsibilities. Our young people -- we should think of this when we cut -- our young people hold our future in their hands. We still owe a debt to our veterans. (Applause.) And our senior citizens have made us what we are.

Now, my budget cuts a lot. But it protects education, veterans, Social Security and Medicare -- (applause) -- and I hope you will do the same thing. (Applause.) You should, and I hope you will. (Applause.)

And when we give more flexibility to the states, let us remember that there are certain fundamental national needs that should be addressed in every state, north and south, east and west -- immunization against childhood disease -- (applause) -- school lunches in all our schools -- (applause) -- Head Start, medical care and nutrition for pregnant women and infants -- (applause) -- medical care and nutrition for pregnant women and infants. (Applause.) All these things -- (applause) -- all these things are in the national interest.

I applaud your desire to get rid of costly and unnecessary regulations. But when we deregulate, let's remember what

national action in the national interest has given us: safer foods for our families, safer toys for our children, safer nursing homes for our parents, safer cars and highways, and safer workplaces, clean air and cleaner water. Do we need common sense and fairness in our regulations? You bet we do. But we can have common sense and still provide for safe drinking water. We can have fairness and still clean up toxic dumps, and we ought to do it. (Applause.)

Should we cut the deficit more? Well, of course, we should. Of course, we should. (Applause.) But we can bring it down in a way that still protects our economic recovery and does not unduly punish people who should not be punished, but instead should be helped.

I know many of you in this chamber support the balanced budget amendment. (Applause.) I certainly want to balance the budget. Our administration has done more to bring the budget down and to save money than any in a very, very long time. (Applause.) If you believe passing this amendment is the right thing to do, then you have to be straight with the American people. They have a right to know what you're going to cut -- (applause) -- and how it's going to affect them. (Applause.)

We should be doing things in the open around here. For example, everybody ought to know if this proposal is going to endanger Social Security. (Applause.) I would oppose that, and I think most Americans would.

Nothing is done more to undermine our sense of common responsibility than our failed welfare system. This is one of the problems we have to face here in Washington in our New Covenant. It rewards welfare over work. It undermines family values. It lets millions of parents get away without paying their child support. It keeps a minority, but a significant minority of the people on welfare trapped on it for a very long time.

I worked on this problem for a long time, nearly 15 years now. As a governor I had the honor of working with the Reagan administration to write the last welfare reform bill back in 1988. In the last two years we made a good start in continuing the work of welfare reform. Our administration gave two dozen states the right to slash through federal rules and regulations to reform their own welfare systems, and to try to promote work and responsibility over welfare and dependency.

Last year I introduced the most sweeping welfare reform plan ever presented by an administration. We have to make welfare what it was meant to be -- a second chance, not a way of life. We have to help those on welfare move to work as quickly as possible, to provide child care and teach them skills if that's what they need for up to two years. And after that, there ought to be a simple hard rule: anyone who can work must go to work. (Applause.) If a parent isn't paying child support, they should be forced to pay. (Applause.) We should suspend drivers' licenses, track the across state lines, make them work off what they owe. That is what we should do. Governments do not raise children, people do. And the parents must take responsibility for the children they bring into this world. (Applause.)

I want to work with you, with all of you, to pass welfare reform. But our goal must be to liberate people and lift them up, from dependence to independence, from welfare to work, from mere childbearing to responsible parenting. Our goal should not be to punish them because they happen to be poor. (Applause.)

We should -- we should require work and mutual responsibility. But we shouldn't cut people off just because they're poor, they're young, or even because they're unmarried. We should

promote responsibility by requiring young mothers to live at home with their parents or in other supervised settings, by requiring them to finish school. But we shouldn't put them and their children out on the street. (Applause.)

And I know all the arguments, pro and con, and I have read and thought about this for a long time. I still don't think we

can in good conscious punish poor children for the mistakes of their parents. (Applause.) My fellow Americans, every single survey shows that all the American people care about this without regard to party or race or region. So let this be the year we end welfare as we know it. But also let this be the year that we are all able to stop using this issue to divide America.

No one is more eager to end welfare -- (applause.) I may be the only president who has actually had the opportunity to sit in a welfare office, who's actually spent hours and hours talking to people on welfare. And I am telling you, people who are trapped on it know it doesn't work. They also want to get off. So we can promote together education and work and good parenting. I have no problem with punishing bad behavior or the refusal to be a worker or a student, or a responsible parent. I just don't want to punish poverty and past mistakes. All of us have made our mistakes, and none of us can change our yesterdays. But every one of us can change our tomorrows. (Applause.)

And America's best example of that may be Lynn Woolsey, who worked her way off welfare to become a congresswoman from the state of California. (Applause.)

I know the members of this Congress are concerned about crime, as are all the citizens of our country. And I remind you that last year, we passed a very tough crime bill -- longer sentences, three strikes and you're out, almost 60 new capital punishment offenses, more prisons, more prevention, 100,000 more police. And we paid for it all by reducing the size of the federal bureaucracy and giving the money back to local communities to lower the crime rate.

There may be other things we can do to be tougher on crime, to be smarter with crime, to help to lower that rate first. Well, if there are, let's talk about them and let's do them. But let's not go back on the things that we did last year that we know work; that we know work because the local law enforcement officers tell us that we did the right things, because local community leaders who have worked for years and years to lower the crime rate tell us that they work.

Let's look at the experience of our cities and our rural areas where the crime rate has gone down and ask the people who did it how they did it. And if what we did last year supports the decline in the crime rate -- and I am convinced that it does -- let us not go back on it. Let's stick with it, implement it. We've got four more hard years of work to do to do that. (Applause.)

I don't want to destroy the good atmosphere in the room or in the country tonight, but I have to mention one issue that divided this body greatly last year. The last Congress also passed the Brady Bill and, in the crime bill, the ban on 19 assault weapons. I don't think it's a secret to anybody in this room that several members of the last Congress who voted for that aren't here tonight because they voted for it. (Applause.) And I know, therefore, that some of you who are here because they voted for it are under enormous pressure to repeal it. I just have to tell you how I feel about it.

The members of Congress who voted for that bill and I would never do anything to infringe on the right to keep and bear arms to hunt and to engage in other appropriate sporting activities. I've done it since I was a boy, and I'm going to keep right on doing

it until I can't do it anymore. But a lot of people laid down their seats in Congress so that police officers and kids wouldn't have to lay down their lives under a hail of assault weapon attack -- and I will not let that be repealed. (Applause.) I will not let it be repealed. (Applause.)

I'd like to talk about a couple of other issues we have to deal with. I want us to cut more spending, but I hope we won't cut government programs that help to prepare us for the new economy, promote responsibility and are organized from the grass roots up, not by federal bureaucracy. The very best example of this is the National Service Corps -- AmeriCorps. (Applause.)

It passed with strong bipartisan support. And now there are 20,000 Americans, more than every served in one year in the Peace Corps, working all over this country, helping people person to person in local, grass-roots volunteer groups, solving problems and, in the process, earning some money for their education. This is citizenship at its best. It's good for the AmeriCorps members, but it's good for the rest of us, too. It's the essence of the New Covenant, and we shouldn't stop it. (Applause.)

All Americans, not only in the states most heavily affected, but in every place in this country, are rightly disturbed by the large numbers of illegal aliens entering our country. The jobs they hold might otherwise be held by citizens or legal immigrants. The public service they use impose burdens on our taxpayers. That's why our administration has moved aggressively to secure our borders more by hiring a record number of new border guards, by deporting twice as many criminal aliens as ever before, by cracking down on illegal hiring, by barring welfare benefits to illegal aliens.

In the budget I will present to you we will try to do more to speed the deportation of illegal aliens who are arrested for crimes, to better identify illegal aliens in the workplace as recommended by the commission headed by former Congresswoman Barbara Jordan.

We are a nation of immigrants. But we are also a nation of laws. It is wrong and ultimately self-defeating for a nation of immigrants to permit the kind of abuse of our immigration laws we have seen in recent years, and we must do more to stop it. (Applause.)

The most important job of our government in this new era is to empower the American people to succeed in the global economy. America has always been a land of opportunity, a land where, if you work hard, you can get ahead. We've become a great middle class country. Middle class values sustain us. We must expand that middle class, and shrink the underclass, even as we do everything we can to support the millions of Americans who are already successful in the new economy.

America is once again the world's strongest economic power, almost six million new jobs in the last two years, exports booming, inflation down, high-wage jobs are coming back. A record number of American entrepreneurs are living the American Dream. If we want it to stay that way, those who work and lift our nation must have more of its benefits.

Today, too many of those people are being left out. They're working harder for less. They have less security, less income, less certainty that they can even afford a vacation, much less college for their kids or retirement for themselves. We cannot let this continue.

If we don't act, our economy will probably keep doing what it's been doing since about 1978, when the income growth began to go to those at the very top of our economic scale and the people in the vast middle got very little growth, and people who worked like crazy but were on the bottom then fell even further and further behind in the years afterward -- no matter how hard they worked.

We've got to have a government that can be a real partner in making this new economy work for all of our people; a government that helps each and every one of us to get an education, and to have the opportunity to renew our skills. That's why we worked so hard to increase educational opportunities in the last two years -- from Head Start to public schools, to apprenticeships for young people who don't go to college, to making college loans more available and more affordable. That's the first thing we have to do. We've got to do something to empower people to improve their skills.

The second thing we ought to do is to help people raise their incomes immediately by lowering their taxes. (Applause.) We took the first step in 1993 with a working family tax cut for 15 million families with incomes under \$27,000; a tax cut that this year will average about \$1,000 a family. And we also gave tax reductions to most small and new businesses.

Before we could do more than that, we first had to bring down the deficit we inherited, and we had to get economic growth up. Now we've done both. And now we can cut taxes in a more comprehensive way. But tax cuts should reinforce and promote our first obligation -- to empower our citizens through education and training to make the most of their own lives.

The spotlight should shine on those who make the right choices for themselves, their families and their communities. I have proposed the Middle Class Bill of Rights, which should properly be called the Bill of Rights and Responsibilities because its provisions only benefit those who are working to educate and raise their children and to educate themselves. It will, therefore, give needed tax relief and raise incomes in both the short run and the long run in a way that benefits all of us.

There are four provisions. First, a tax deduction for all education and training after high school. (Applause.) If you think about it, we permit businesses to deduct their investment, we permit individuals to deduct interest on their home mortgages, but today an education is even more important to the economic well-being of our whole country than even those things are. We should do everything we can to encourage it. And I hope you will support it.

Second, we ought to cut taxes, \$500 for families with children under 13. (Applause.)

Third, we ought to foster more savings and personal responsibility by permitting people to establish an Individual Retirement Account and withdraw from it tax free for the cost of education, health care, first-time home-buying or the care of a parent. (Applause.)

And fourth, we should pass a G.I. Bill for America's workers. We propose to collapse nearly 70 federal programs and not give the money to the states, but give the money directly to the American people; offer vouchers to them so that they, if they're laid off or if they're working for a very low wage, can get a voucher worth \$2,600 a year for up to two years to go to their local community colleges or wherever else they want to get the skills they need to improve their lives. Let's empower people in this way. Move it from the government directly to the workers of America. (Applause.)

Now, any one of us can call for a tax cut, but I won't accept one that explodes the deficit or puts our recovery at risk. We ought to pay for our tax cuts fully and honestly. (Applause.)

Just two years ago, it was an open question whether we would find the strength to cut the deficit. Thanks to the courage of the people who were here then, many of whom didn't return, we did cut

the deficit. We began to do what others said would not be done. We cut the deficit by over \$600 billion, about \$10,000 for every family in this country. It's coming down three years in a row for the first time since Mr. Truman was president, and I don't think anybody in America wants us to let it explode again. (Applause.)

In the budget I will send you, the Middle Class Bill of Rights is fully paid for by budget cuts in bureaucracy, cuts in programs, cuts in special interest subsidies. And the spending cuts will more than double the tax cuts. My budget pays for the Middle Class Bill of Rights without any cuts in Medicare. And I will oppose any attempts to pay for tax cuts with Medicare cuts. That's not the right thing to do. (Applause.)

I know that a lot of you have your own ideas about tax relief, and some of them I find quite interesting. I really want to work with all of you. My test for our proposals will be: Will it create jobs and raise incomes? Will it strengthen our families and support our children? Is it paid for? Will it build the middle class and shrink the underclass? If it does, I'll support it. But if it doesn't, I won't.

The goal of building the middle class and shrinking the underclass is also why I believe that you should raise the minimum wage. (Applause.) It rewards work. Two and a half million Americans -- 2.5 million Americans, often women with children, are working out there today for \$4.25 an hour. In terms of real buying power, by next year that minimum wage will be at a 40-year low. That's not my idea of how the new economy ought to work.

Now, I've studied the arguments and the evidence for and against a minimum wage increase. I believe the weight of the evidence is that a modest increase does not cost jobs, and may even lure people back into the job market. But the most important thing is, you can't make a living on \$4.25 an hour. (Applause.) Especially if you have children, even with the working families tax cut we passed last year. In the past, the minimum wage has been a bipartisan issue, and I think it should be again. So I want to challenge you to have honest hearings on this; to get together; to find a way to make the minimum wage a living wage.

Members of Congress have been here less than a month, but by the end of the week, 28 days into the new year, every member of Congress will have earned as much in congressional salary as a minimum wage worker makes all year long. (Applause.)

Everybody else here, including the President, has something else that too many Americans do without, and that's health care. Now, last year, we almost came to blows over health care. But we didn't do anything. And the cold, hard fact is that, since last year, since I was here, another 1.1 million Americans in working families have lost their health care. And the cold, hard fact is that many millions more, most of them farmers and small businesspeople and self-employed people, have seen their premiums skyrocket, their co-pays and deductibles go up. There's a whole bunch of people in this country that, in the statistics have health insurance, but really what they've got is a piece of paper that says they won't lose their home if they get sick.

Now, I still believe our country has got to move toward providing health security for every American family. (Applause.)

But I know that last year, as the evidence indicates, we bit off more than we could chew. So I'm asking you that we work together. Let's do it step by step. Let's do whatever we have to do to get something done. Let's at least pass meaningful insurance reform so that no American risks losing coverage for facing skyrocketing prices. (Applause.) That nobody loses their coverage because they face high

prices or unavailable insurance, when they change jobs and lose a job, or a family member gets sick.

I want to work together with all of you who have an interest in this -- with the Democrats who worked on it last time, with the Republican leaders like Senator Dole who has a longtime commitment to health care reform and made some constructive proposals in this area last year. We ought to make sure that self-employed people in small businesses can buy insurance at more affordable rates through voluntary purchasing pools. We ought to help families provide long-term care for a sick parent or a disabled child. We can work to help workers who lose their jobs at least keep their health insurance coverage for a year while they look for work. And we can find a way -- it may take some time, but we can find a way -- to make sure that our children have health care. (Applause.)

You know, I think everybody in this room, without regard to party, can be proud of the fact that our country was rated as having the world's most productive economy for the first time in nearly a decade. But we can't be proud of the fact that we're the only wealthy country in the world that has a smaller percentage of the work force and their children with health insurance today than we did 10 years ago, the last time we were the most productive economy in the world. So let's work together on this. It is too important for politics as usual. (Applause.)

Much of what the American people are thinking about tonight is what we've already talked about. A lot of people think that the security concerns of America today are entirely internal to our borders. They relate to the security of our jobs and our homes, and our incomes and our children, our streets, our health and protecting those borders. Now that the Cold War has passed, it's tempting to believe that all the security issues, with the possible exception of trade, reside here at home. But it's not so. Our security still depends upon our continued world leadership for peace and freedom and democracy. We still can't be strong at home unless we're strong abroad.

The financial crisis in Mexico is a case in point. I know it's not popular to say it tonight, but we have to act. Not for the Mexican people, but for the sake of the millions of Americans whose livelihoods are tied to Mexico's well-being. If we want to secure American jobs, preserve American exports, safeguard America's borders, then we must pass the stabilization program and help to put Mexico back on track.

Now let me repeat: it's not a loan, it's not foreign aid, it's not a bail out. We will be given a guarantee like co-signing a note with good collateral that will cover our risks. This legislation is the right thing for America. That's why the bipartisan leadership has supported it. And I hope you in Congress will pass it quickly. It is in our interest, and we can explain it to the American people, because we're going to do it in the right way. (Applause.)

You know, tonight, this is the first State of the Union address ever delivered since the beginning of the Cold War when not a single Russian missile is pointed at the children of America. (Applause.) And along with the Russians, we're on the way to destroying the missiles and the bombers that carry 9,000 nuclear warheads. We've come so far so fast in this post-Cold War world that

it's easy to take the decline of the nuclear threat for granted. But it's still there, and we aren't finished yet.

This year I'll ask the Senate to approve START II, to eliminate weapons that carry 5,000 more warheads. The United States will lead the charge to extend indefinitely the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty -- (applause); to enact a comprehensive

nuclear test ban -- (applause); and to eliminate chemical weapons. (applause.) To stop and roll back North Korea's potentially deadly nuclear program, we'll continue to implement the agree we have reached with that nation. It's smart; it's tough; it's a deal based on continuing inspection with safeguards for our allies and ourselves. (Applause.)

This year I'll submit to Congress comprehensive legislation to strengthen our hand in combatting terrorists --whether they strike at home or abroad. As the coward's who bombed the World Trade Center found out, this country will hunt down terrorists and bring them to justice. (Applause.)

Just this week, another horrendous terrorist act in Israel killed 19 and injured scores more. On behalf of the American people and all of you, I send our deepest sympathy to the families of the victims. I know that in the face of such evil, it is hard for the people in the Middle East to go forward. But the terrorists represent the past, not the future. We must and we will pursue a comprehensive peace between Israel and all her neighbors in the Middle East. (Applause.)

Accordingly, last night I signed an executive order that will block the assets in the United States of terrorist organizations that threaten to disrupt the peace process. It prohibits financial transactions with these groups. And tonight I call on our allies and peace-loving nations throughout the world to join us with renewed fervor in a global effort to combat terrorism. We cannot permit the future to be marred by terror and fear and paralysis. (Applause.)

From the day I took the oath of office, I pledged that our nation would maintain the best-equipped, best-trained and best-prepared military on Earth. We have, and they are. They have managed the dramatic downsizing of our forces after the Cold War with remarkable skill and spirit. But to make sure our military is ready for action, and to provide the pay and the quality of life the military and their families deserve, I'm asking the Congress to add \$25 billion in defense spending over the next six years. (Applause.)

I have visited many bases at home and around the world, since I became president. Tonight, I repeat that request with renewed conviction. We ask a very great deal of our Armed Forces. Now that they are smaller in number, we ask more of them. They go out more often to more different places and stay longer. They are called to service in many, many ways. And we must give them and their families what the times demand and what they have earned. (Applause.)

Just think about what our troops have done in the last year, showing America at its best -- helping to save hundreds of thousands of people in Rwanda, moving with lightning speech to head off another threat to Kuwait, giving freedom and democracy back to the people of Haiti. (Applause.)

We have proudly supported peace and prosperity and freedom from South Africa to Northern Ireland, from Central and Eastern Europe to Asia, from Latin America to the Middle East. All these endeavors are good in those places, but they make our future more confident and more secure.

Well, my fellow Americans, that's my agenda for

America's future: Expanding opportunity, not bureaucracy; enhancing security at home and abroad; empowering our people to make the most of their own lives. It's ambitious and achievable, but it's not enough. We even need more than new ideas for changing the world or equipping Americans to compete in the new economy; more than a government that's smaller, smarter and wiser; more than all the

changes we can make in government and in the private sector from the outside in.

Our fortunes and our posterity also depend upon our ability to answer some questions from within -- from the values and voices that speak to our hearts as well as our heads; voices that tell us we have to do more to accept responsibility for ourselves and our families, for our communities, and, yes, for our fellow citizens. We see our families and our communities all over this country coming apart. And we feel the common ground shifting from under us. The PTA, the town hall meeting, the ball park -- it's hard for a lot of overworked parents to find the time and space for those things that strengthen the bonds of trust and cooperation. Too many of our children don't even have parents and grandparents who can give them those experiences that they need to build their own character and their sense of identity.

We all know what while we here in this chamber can make a difference on those things, that the real differences will be made by our fellow citizens -- where they work and where they live. And it will be made almost without regard to party. When I used to go to the softball park in Little Rock to watch my daughter's league, and people would come up to me, fathers and mothers, and talk to me, I can honestly say I had no idea whether 90 percent of them were Republicans or Democrats. When I visited the relief centers after the floods in California -- Northern California -- last week, a woman came up to me and did something that very few of you would do -- she hugged me and said, "Mr. President, I'm a Republican, but I'm glad you're here." (Laughter and applause.)

Now, why? We can't wait for disasters to act the way we used to act every day. Because as we move into this next century, everybody matters; we don't have a person to waste. And a lot of people are losing a lot of chances to do better. That means that we need a New Covenant for everybody.

For our corporate and business leaders, we're going to work here to keep bringing the deficit down, to expand markets, to support their success in every possible way. But they have an obligation when they're doing well to keep jobs in our communities and give their workers a fair share of the prosperity they generate. (Applause.)

For people in the entertainment industry in this country, we applaud your creativity and your world-wide success, and we support your freedom of expression. But you do have a responsibility to assess the impact of your work and to understand the damage that comes from the incessant, repetitive, mindless violence and irresponsible conduct that permeates our media all the time. (Applause.)

We've got to ask our community leaders and all kinds of organizations to help us stop our most serious social problem: the epidemic of teen pregnancies and births where there is no marriage. I have sent to Congress a plan to targets schools all over this country with anti-pregnancy programs that work. But government can only do so much. Tonight, I call on parents and leaders all across this country to join together in a national campaign against teen pregnancy to make a difference. We can do this, and we must. (Applause.)

And I would like to say a special word to our religious leaders. You know, I'm proud of the fact the United States has more houses of worship per capita than any country in the world. These people who lead our houses of worship can ignite their congregations to carry their faith into action; can reach out to all of our children, to all of the people in distress, to those who have been savaged by the breakdown of all we hold dear. Because so much of

what we've done must come from the inside out, and our religious leaders and their congregations can make all the difference. They have a role in the New Covenant as well.

There must be more responsibility for all of our citizens. You know, it takes a lot of people to help all the kids in trouble stay off the streets and in school. It takes a lot of people to build the Habitat for Humanity houses that the Speaker celebrates on his lapel pin. It takes a lot of people to provide the people power for all of the civic organizations in this country that made our communities mean so much to most of us when we were kids. It takes every parent to teach the children the difference between right and wrong and to encourage them to learn and grow; and to say no to the wrong things, but also to believe that they can be whatever they want to be.

I know it's hard when you're working harder for less, when you're under great stress to do these things. A lot of our people don't have the time or the emotional stress they think to do the work of citizenship.

Most of us in politics haven't helped very much. For years, we've mostly treated citizens like they were consumers or spectators, sort of political couch potatoes who were supposed to watch the TV ads, either promise them something for nothing or play on their fears and frustrations. And more and more of our citizens now get most of their information in very negative and aggressive ways that are hardly conducive to honest and open conversations. But the truth is, we have got to stop seeing each other as enemies, just because we have different views.

If you go back to the beginning of this country, the great strength of America, as de Tocqueville pointed out when he came here a long time ago, has always been our ability to associate with people who were different from ourselves and to work together to find common ground. And in this day, everybody has a responsibility to do more of that. We simply cannot wait for a tornado, a fire, or a flood to behave like Americans ought to behave in dealing with one another. (Applause.)

I want to finish up here by pointing out some folks that are up with the First Lady that represent what I'm trying to talk about -- citizens. I have no idea what their party affiliation is or who they voted for in the last election. But they represent what we ought to be doing.

Cindy Perry teaches second graders to read in AmeriCorps in rural Kentucky. She gains when she gives. She's a mother of four. She says that her service inspired her to get her high school equivalency last year. (Applause.) She was married when she was a teenager. Stand up, Cindy. (Applause.) She was married when she was a teenager. She had four children, but she had time to serve other people, to get her high school equivalency. And she's going to use her AmeriCorps money to go back to college. (Applause.)

Stephen Bishop is the police chief of Kansas City. (Applause.) He's been a national leader. (Applause.) Stand up -- (applause). He's been a national leader in using more police in community policing, and he's worked with AmeriCorps to do it. And the crime rate in Kansas City has gone down as a result of what he did.

Corporal Gregory Depestre went to Haiti as part of his adopted country's force to help secure democracy in his native land. (Applause.) And I might add, we must be the only country in the world that could have gone to Haiti and taken Haitian-Americans there who could speak the language and talk to the people. And he was one of them, and we're proud of him. (Applause.)

The next two folks I've had the honor of meeting and getting to know a little bit, the Reverend John and the Reverend Diana Cherry of the AME Zion Church in Temple Hills, Maryland. I'd like to ask them to stand. (Applause.) I want to tell you about them. In the early '80s, they left government service and formed a church in a small living room in a small house, in the early '80s. Today that church has 17,000 members. It is one of the three or four biggest churches in the entire United States. It grows by 200 a month. They do it together. And the special focus of their ministry is keeping families together. (Applause.)

Two things they did make a big impression on me. I visited their church once, and I learned they were building a new sanctuary closer to the Washington, D.C., line in a higher crime, higher drug rate area because they thought it was part of their ministry to change the lives of the people who needed them. (Applause.)

The second thing I want to say is, that once Reverend Cherry was at a meeting at the White House with some other religious leaders, and he left early to go back to his church to minister to 150 couples that he had brought back to his church from all over America to convince them to come back together, to save their marriages, and to raise their kids. This is the kind of work that citizens are doing in America. We need more of it, and it ought to be lifted up and supported. (Applause.)

The last person I want to introduce is Jack Lucas from Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Jack, would you stand up? (Applause.) Fifty years ago, in the sands of Iwo Jima, Jack Lucas taught and learned the lessons of citizenship. On February the 20th, 1945, he and three of his buddies encountered the enemy and two grenades at their feet. Jack Lucas threw himself on both of them. In that moment, he saved the lives of his companions, and miraculously in the next instant, a medic saved his life. He gained a foothold for freedom, and at the age of 17, just a year older than his grandson, who is up there with him today, and his son, who is a West Point graduate and a veteran, at 17, Jack Lucas became the youngest Marine in history and the youngest soldier in this century to win the Congressional Medal of Honor. (Applause.)

All these years later, yesterday, here's what he said about that day: "It didn't matter where you were from or who you were, you relied on one another. You did it for your country."

We all gain when we give, and we reap what we sow. That's at the heart of this New Covenant -- responsibility, opportunity and citizenship. More than stale chapters in some remote civics book; they're still the virtue by which we can fulfill ourselves and reach our God-given potential and be like them; and also to fulfill the eternal promise of this country -- the enduring dream from that first and most sacred covenant.

I believe every person in this country still believes that we are created equal, and given by our Creator, the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. This is a very, very great country. And our best days are still to come.

Thank you, and God bless you all. (Applause.)

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on March 2.

Remarks Commemorating the First Anniversary of the Brady Law and an Exchange With Reporters

February 28, 1995

The President. Thank you very much. Mr. Vice President, Mr. Secretary, Madam Attorney General, Commissioner Lovitt, and my friend Jim, congratulations. Happy anniversary.

You know, I'd like to begin by saying a special word about Jim Brady. He dedicated his life to public service. In no small measure because of that dedication, 14 years ago his life was in danger and his life changed forever. In spite of all the hardship and the pain that followed, he never looked back but instead decided he should fight on, determined to do his part to prevent the tragedy that struck him from striking other people. More than any other person in the United States, we celebrate today the courage and determination of Jim Brady, and we are in his debt.

Thank you, sir.

James Brady. Thank you, sir.

The President. You know, Jim and Sarah Brady represent in so many ways the kind of citizen action I talked about in the State of the Union Address, the New Covenant: moral responsibility along with more opportunity and people sparking grassroots movements across this country. I am committed to this law and committed to what it represents. You know, our big problems here in Washington often stem from the fact that we don't think about what promotes responsibility and what creates opportunity and what enables people to make the most of their own lives. The Brady bill does all that.

A crucial part of our job here in Washington is to help arm the American people, through our police officers, to fight crime and violence. The Brady law, in that sense, is one of the things that I'm proudest of that has happened since I have been President. We put an end to 7 years of politics-as-usual, of people saying one thing and doing another, when the Brady law passed. It's not a com-

plex piece of legislation, but it took 7 years, 7 years to pass the Congress.

And all the naysayers talked about how terrible it would be. Well, now we know that, as the Secretary said, over 40,000 convicted felons, fugitives, drug dealers, gang members, stalkers, were prevented from purchasing handguns in the Brady law's first 11 months. I should point out that the real national number is bigger than that because, as you know, there are some States that have companion laws that go along with that, and the estimates are that, nationwide in the States with Brady-like laws and the Brady law, the total is more like 70,000.

A recent study says that, as the Secretary said, that that's only 3.5 percent of all the people who buy handguns. And as he said, it's kind of like airport metal detectors. I think 97 percent of us should be willing to wait a while, so that the 3 percent of us who are trying to buy guns for the wrong reasons can be stopped. Three percent of the American people buying guns for the wrong reasons can do a phenomenal amount of damage, and stopping them can do a phenomenal amount of good, can keep a lot of citizens alive, and it can keep an awful lot of law enforcement officials alive.

There are thousands of examples around the country, but let me just cite one or two. In March of 1994, the Brady law stopped a handgun purchase by a man in Kansas under a restraining order for allegedly stalking his wife and threatening to kill her. In April, the law led to the arrest of a suspected drug dealer in Texas with outstanding warrants for possession of cocaine and heroin with intent to distribute. In November, it helped to catch two gang members, both convicted felons, who traveled all the way from California to Nevada to purchase weapons.

These are the people the law was meant to stop. Law-abiding people are those the law was meant to protect. The test was simple: Will it save a life? Will it protect one child walking home from school, so he or she could feel a little safer? Will it spare one woman from abuse? If it could, we all thought the law would be a success. Now we know that it has done that thousands of times over in

just one year. The Brady law with f

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Thank you, Ji gentlemen.

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Q. Mr. Presic reaffirming your lican crime bill a

Mr. Presiden all along. We on bill, we ought no ons ban, and we off the 100,000 will do everythin

just one year. The Brady bill has become the Brady law with flying colors.

After years of the same old politics-as-usual, the last Congress stood up to the special interests and stood up for the American people. They heard the pleas of the victims, and they thought through to the end, past all the rhetoric that was in their way. When they passed this bill and when they banned 19 deadly assault weapons and their copies, many of them paid a terrible price. Some of them laid down their seats in Congress to stand up with the law enforcement officials of this country and with Jim Brady. But America is safer because of their courage. And I think now, after one year of the Brady law's impact, the entire American electorate will see that those who attacked it were wrong and those who stood up for it were right.

You know, today there's a lot of concern in our country and a lot of interest in the news media about the balanced budget. And next week there will be another issue, and the week after that there will be another issue, and 6 months after that there will be another issue. And people may forget what Jim Brady went through for 7 years, and people may forget why some of those Members of Congress lost their seats last November. But from now until the end of this country's existence, every year there will be more people alive because of Jim Brady and because of what the Congress did.

And so I just want to say this: For all the other things that will be debated, you can mark my words, the Brady law and the assault weapons bill are here to stay. They will not be repealed.

Thank you, Jim, and thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

Republican Crime Bill

Q. Mr. President, does that mean you're reaffirming your veto threat for the Republican crime bill and the—

Mr. President. I will stay with what I said all along. We ought not to repeal the Brady bill, we ought not to repeal the assault weapons ban, and we certainly ought not to back off the 100,000 police commitment. And I will do everything I can to protect that.

But let me be fair to this new Congress. Remember, there are two Houses in this new Congress. The Senate has not yet acted on the crime bill or any of these other bills. And I'm confident that we have at least a chance of working out a better bill in the Senate and in the conference process.

I have made clear my veto position on 100,000 police, and I reaffirm it. But I want to emphasize that I still am committed to trying to make good things happen in this Congress, and I have not in any way or shape given up on that. The bill has still got to go to the Senate, and we'll see what happens.

Q. Why do you have so much faith?

The President. I'm just a cockeyed optimist and always have been. [Laughter]

Balanced Budget Amendment

Q. Mr. President, does that extend to what's coming on the balanced budget amendment today? Do you have anything that you'd like to say to the Senate as they approach that?

The President. Well, I have two things. I made a little note here. I asked somebody to give me this. Obviously, I don't support it. But I support the impulses that are giving rise to it, that is, the American people understand that something went terribly wrong about 14 years ago. In the 12 years before I got here, we quadrupled the national debt. And before that, in almost 200 years as a country, we didn't have permanent deficits. We've raised the debt when we needed to, and we ran a surplus when we needed to.

Now, I don't believe we need to change the Constitution to overcome the 12 years before I got here and the mistakes that were made. We've already lowered the deficit for 3 years in a row, and we can do more. But I want to say this. You know what I think is wrong with it. What I think is wrong with it is that it may give a little extra impetus to our reducing the deficit, but it also runs the risk of turning recessions into near depressions and of turning Federal judges into budgeteers—they're not elected—and of giving the Federal Reserve the power, in effect, to wipe out all of our education programs, because when they raise interest rates, they'll raise the deficit. So there are a lot of problems with this automatic mechanism.

But let me say this: Whatever happens today, the real question should be, what are we going to do tomorrow? What are we going to do tomorrow? You know, I'm very proud of the fact that my budgets are the first budgets in 30 years which run surpluses, exclusive of interest on the debt. That is, no President since the Johnson years has introduced a budget and passed a budget through Congress which runs a surplus with all the operating programs of the Government, exclusive of interest on the debt. I'm proud of that. That shows that we've done what we could to bring down unnecessary spending, to reinvent Government under the Vice President's leadership, and to move in the right direction.

Now, I have been here now waiting for 770 days—770 days—for the members of now the majority party in Congress to both propose and vote for a budget that actually reduces the deficit. And I am willing to work with them. But this balanced budget amendment does not reduce any spending. And the American people still don't know what's going to happen to Social Security. They still don't know what's going to happen to education. They still don't know what's going to happen to Medicare. They still don't know anything about what the details are.

So the real question is: Whatever happens today—and it's obviously in the hands of the sponsors in the Senate, because they know what they have to do to get the votes to pass. They have to make it less bad; they have to fix at least the judicial—they have to fix the idea of giving the Federal judges the power to raise taxes and cut spending. And what are we going to do tomorrow? That's what I want them to think about. I'm willing to work to do more, to cut more of the deficit, but we need a partnership here, and we need to go beyond posturing.

So I do not think it's a good idea, but that decision is in the hands of the Congress, and we'll just have to see what they do. But whatever happens today, the real question is, what are we going to do here tomorrow?

Q. It sounds like you're throwing in the towel.

The President. No, I'm not. No, I think—

Q. You sound very—

The President. I have worked—it's just that I know where those five people are that are undecided, and I know that there are changes that the majority could make in the Senate to get the votes. You know, if they would—for example, they plainly could pass it if they said that they weren't going to give Federal judges the power to raise taxes and cut spending and they weren't going to use Social Security in trying to resolve this, they weren't going to put Social Security into the balanced budget calculation. Then the thing would clearly pass.

The only point I'm trying to make is, it's up to them now whether it passes or not because I've talked to all five of those folks. Others have talked to them. They've made their positions public. They've made it clear where they stand. Those five Democrats are all people who, like me, have worked hard to try to bring down the deficit. So we'll just have to see what happens.

No, I'm not sure it's going to pass, see, because I don't know what's in their minds. Some of the cynics believe that they want it to lose so they can continue to blame the Democrats.

Q. You don't seem to have put much energy in it.

The President. That's not—I have made my position very clear. I don't have a veto, as you know, in this process. I've made my position clear. I've had extensive talks with undecided Members. I've done everything I could. Our administration has testified on it. But what I think happens is that a lot of the Members of Congress are frustrated because of what's happened in the previous 12 years before we showed up here, and they see this mountain of debt that's piled up. But I don't believe the amendment is the way to solve it, because I think of the whole history of America. I know we could fix this without a constitutional amendment.

And if we fix the big structural deficit and we're stuck with this amendment, then what happens the next time we have a recession? Are we going to make it worse? In a recession, are we going to be raising taxes and cutting job training programs? What happens the next time the Federal Reserve has to raise interest rates? Are we going to come back and cut Head Start and college loans?

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So we need to continue to work on this. We need strong action. I'm just afraid that the American people have not been told the full implications of this for Social Security, for education, and for the economy. And I think that it's regrettable, but understandable, that the supporters did not want to comply with the right-to-know suggestion. But they're going to have to, anyway. They're going to have to before the States vote on it. They're going to have to tell people what the consequences are.

Q. Is there anything they could change to make you go along with it with this point of view that it's such a bad idea to change the Constitution?

The President. I think that changing—I think if you change the Constitution without some sort of an economic emergency—that's my problem. That is, my problem is, if you read Senator Moynihan's three lectures on this, three speeches in the Senate, he did a wonderful job, Moynihan did, of laying out the whole history of our budgeting and pointing out how this problem that we're saddled with is a new problem in American history. It arose from 1981 to 1993. It did not exist before in our country. And the point he made is, we can fix it without amending the Constitution if we have the will to do it and if we'll work together in a bipartisan fashion.

And if we amend the Constitution and we fix it, then the next time it takes effect, it'll be destructive, because we'll be in a recession and it will make the recession worse. That's what I'm worried about. I don't know how they could fix that. I understand one of the Senators had some sort of an economic emergency amendment that would fix that. But that's what I see as the real problem.

You know, I guess when you come down to it, the best argument for it is the drunk in the liquor store argument: Every time I drive by, I'm going to go in and buy a fifth; you better board it up. I mean, near as I can tell, that's the argument for it. And I just think that we should have a bipartisan determination to keep bringing that rascal down without amending the Constitution in ways that 10, 15 years from now are likely to hurt our children and our grandchildren.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:32 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of the Treasury Robert Rubin; Jerry Lovitt, Kentucky State police commissioner; former White House Press Secretary James Brady, who was wounded in the 1981 assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan; and Mr. Brady's wife, Sarah, who is head of Hand Gun Control, Inc. Public Law 103-159, "To provide for a waiting period before the purchase of a handgun, and for the establishment of a national instant criminal background check system to be contacted by firearms dealers before the transfer of any firearm," approved November 30, 1993, took effect on February 28, 1994.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Wim Kok of The Netherlands

February 28, 1995

Iran

Q. Mr. President, are you concerned about Iran placing anti-aircraft missiles at the mouth of the Persian Gulf?

The President. I think that I'll wait until later to answer any questions.

Q. Even the ones—the Republicans saying that they're willing to change the balanced budget amendment so that the courts cannot raise taxes or cut spending?

The Netherlands

Q. And about The Netherlands—[laughter]—

The President. It's a great country and a great ally of the United States.

[At this point, one group of reporters left the room, and another group entered.]

"Apache" Helicopters

Q. Mr. President, how will you react if the Dutch Government decides not to buy Apache helicopters?

The President. Well, that's a decision for the Dutch Government to make. Obviously, I hope that that will be the decision because I think on the merits, it's the best product. But that's a decision that the Government has to make.

Q. Mr. President, are you trying to sell the Prime Minister on the benefits of the Apache helicopter?

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 15, 1995

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT 14TH ANNUAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL SERVICE

West Front of Capitol Grounds

12:49 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you, Dewey Stokes, for your kind introduction, for your stirring call to continued vigilance in the cause of law enforcement, and for your eight years of fine leadership of the FOP. I have enjoyed working with you, and I know that I speak for all law enforcement and, indeed, all Americans who know anything about what has been done in this town in the last eight years to fight for more sensible and more peaceful laws for our people, when I thank you for eight years of service and congratulate you on what you have done.

Thank you, Karen Lippe, for what you said. Attorney General Reno; Secretary Rubin; Senator Biden; Congressman Lightfoot; -- I see Senator Thurmond and Congressman Ramstad out in the audience -- there may be others; members of the law enforcement community in the United States and their family members; and most especially to the fine families whom we honor here today for the awful losses they have sustained.

I am proud to be with you here today to honor the 157 men and women who died for their country, for law, for order, for peace and freedom last year. They will be long be remembered for their service to our communities, to their families and to the nation. They were in every sense American heroes.

Just before I came out here I had the privilege of meeting with the family of Hank Daly, who was gunned down in Washington last November by a man who brought an assault weapon to the station house. To the Daly family and to all the families who are here, I say a profound thank you.

Today we pay tribute not only to those who died but to the families and friends who lost them, and to the fellow officers who carry on the work that they did. We are here as well to carry on that work, to ensure that we live in a nation that is safe, just and free.

Freedom has endured in this country for more than 200 years now because we have always recognized that we cannot have liberty without responsibility. If we are going to preserve the enormous freedoms we have in America -- the freedom to speak, the freedom to assemble, to freedom to bear arms -- then all Americans must join in and join you and recognize that we cannot preserve the freedoms without responsibility. (Applause.)

If we aren't safe in our homes at night, if our children aren't safe as they go to and from school, if our parents and grandparents are afraid to leave their apartments, if our shopkeepers are afraid to go to work and stay there, if our police officers have to live in mortal fear every single day, then to that extent, my fellow Americans, we are not free. And it is not enough for citizens to say fighting crime is the government's job, and as long as I'm not violating the law, I have utterly no responsibility to help; I'll

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oppose any reasonable law enforcement measure I don't like; I will go about my business; I have no responsibility. Neither it is enough for people in government to say, we've gone so far, we can't go any further; until our people, our culture, our values change, we'll just be too lawless and too violent.

My friends, violence in America can not pose a choice between individual responsibility and social responsibility. The level of violence and crime, the death we mourn and honor today demands more of both.

Government's first responsibility is law and order -- to prevent crime, to punish criminals, to give you in law enforcement the tools you need to do both. That is why I was proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with you last year to pass the crime bill, and the Brady Bill before it. The FOP and every major organization of law enforcement in our country supported and fought for those measures.

The crime bill, as Dewey said, will put 100,000 more police officers on our streets, prevent crime and toughen sentences. And it will make clear, as Dewey called for, that anyone who murders a law enforcement officer from now on will face the death penalty. (Applause.)

Police officers like you engaged in community policing are the single best way to fight crime and to prevent it. I will not stand for any attempt to undermine our common efforts to put 100,000 more police officers on the street. I will not allow you to be outnumbered or to be outgunned. The Brady Bill was the right thing to do. And it is saving lives in America today. The people who are against you and would not support you were wrong. We have evidence, you were right, and we must stand with you. (Applause.)

And you asked us to ban deadly assault weapons for a reason. You were tired of seeing criminals like drug dealers use weapons of war to gun down police officers on our streets. We did that in a bill which also protected hundreds of sporting and hunting weapons. And because of the ban on assault weapons, every year from now on there will be fewer names on the memorial not far from here. (Applause.)

We have also done a great deal to increase the partnership between national law enforcement and those at the state and local level. For that I thank the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Treasury. I thank the Directors of the Secret Service and Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms who are here; and the FBI Director, and all who have worked so hard so that we could do our part to help you to keep America safer.

But the guts of what we did was in the crime bill, the Brady Bill, and the assault weapons ban. So when the NRA holds its annual meeting later this week, I want them to know they can pressure Congress all they want to try to repeal the assault weapons ban, but as long as I am President that ban will be the law of our land. (Applause.)

I also agree with the fine letter that President Bush wrote just a few days ago. Law enforcement officers in this country deserve our respect and support. No one has the right to run them down or to suggest that somehow it is all right for them to be put in harm's way. That is not the American way, and anybody who does it ought to be ashamed of themselves. (Applause.)

You never walk away from your responsibility. And your country is not about to walk away from you. If you're going to do your job on the streets, we all have to do a better job, not just here in government, but as citizens and parents. We have to do a

better job knowing that we are raising children who understand that actions have consequences, who know the difference between right and wrong, who understand that they need to be part of a country and a community that looks out for them and gives them people to look up to, like all of you and all the men and women we honor today.

The tragic bombing in Oklahoma City last month first unmasked the evil that humans are capable of. But the incredible response of the brave people of Oklahoma City and those who came from all over America to lend a hand also shows us that in this country of ours, in the end, good can prevail.

Eight federal law enforcement officials died in the line of duty in the Oklahoma City bombing. One of them, Al Whicher, a Secret Service agent, who served on my security detail, and President Bush's, had just recently moved to Oklahoma City, where we all thought he and his family would have a more regular and more relaxed life.

I will never forget the look I saw this morning in Mrs. Daly's face when she said, I knew my husband was going to be in law enforcement, and I was proud of that, but I never expected this to happen to us. As I look across this sea of people wearing their corsages today, I'm sure that you never expected it to happen to you.

Let me say, first of all, to you that I know this is a painful day for you. And I applaud your personal courage in enduring the pain to be here. But you have set an example for your country by being willing to be here. You have let America see you. And as long as America sees you, we will not be able to forget what our duty is to those whom you loved and all others who do that work. Thank for your courage for being here. (Applause.)

Here in Washington our duty is to bring the terrorists who committed the horrible act in Oklahoma City to justice. And we will do that. And we must do everything in our power to make sure such a tragedy never happens again. Because open societies all over the world are now more vulnerable to the organized forces of destruction and evil, whether they rise up from within our country or come here from without, we must do what we can to ensure that law enforcement has the tools to deal with this profound threat to our security and our way of life. I have sent Congress legislation that will do exactly that.

Last month in the wake of the Oklahoma City tragedy, congressional leaders promised that I would have the antiterrorism legislation on my desk by Memorial Day. Since then we have seen disturbing signs of the old politics of diversion and delay. This plays into the hands of those who would blame the law enforcement officers who keep the law, rather than the criminals who break it. We make a grave mistake in this country, my fellow Americans, when we confuse responsibility in that way. And we must not tolerate it.

Come Friday, a month will have passed since the Oklahoma City bombing. Congress must act and act quickly. It would be a good way to honor the victims of Oklahoma City and the police officers we honor today if the Congress would say, this is not a political issue, this is an American issue. We're going into the next century with the tools to fight the kind of outrage we endured in Oklahoma City. And we are going to do it without delay. (Applause.)

My fellow Americans, we can win the fight against terrorism and we can lower the crime rate in America. We can reduce the number of law enforcement officers we have to honor here every year. And we can reduce the number of innocent citizens who are killed, the number of innocent children who are deprived of the chance even to grow up. We can do this if we will stand shoulder to shoulder, citizens and law enforcement, and do what we know works to lower the crime rate, catch criminals and punish them appropriately.

If every law-abiding citizen will raise a voice against crime and violence, that is the beginning of wisdom and progress.

So I ask you all today, never forget that the overwhelming majority of people in this country honor you, value you, care for your welfare and the welfare of your families. But never forget, until our job is done we must live with the burning reminder of the heartbreak of the families here today, and we must do our duty. No turning back. And we must not let any group in this country say that they don't have responsibility for improved law enforcement and a lower crime rate, that they don't have a responsibility to help, that they can ignore what you know works to save lives and build a better future.

You can be very proud of the progress which has been made in the last couple of years, not just here in Washington with the crime bill, the assault weapons ban and the Brady law, but on your streets -- on your streets, where in place after place the crime rate is declining. But we are a long way from home.

The happiest day in the lives of people in law enforcement will be the day when we can come here and have not one single solitary heartbroken family to honor. (Applause.)

Thank you, and God bless you all. (Applause.)

END

1:06 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 13, 1995

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION AT NATIONAL PTA CONFERENCE

Washington Renaissance Hotel
Washington, D.C.

9:45 A.M. EST

Q We thank you, Mr. President, for your remarks. I think everybody out in the audience was saying, yes, yes, that's what we've been talking about for the last couple of days.

I think what we see is a certain amount of frustration because we've worked very hard over the last few years on children's issues. We have worked very closely with Secretary Riley, the Department of Education to get the kind of funding that we felt we could use from the federal government down to the locals without a lot of attachments to it saying, this is what we want for our children's education. And now we see some of those programs that we started off supporting being brought up and being looked at for possible cuts. And we agree with you, it's not the place to cut.

We have a real concern with such things as the elimination of the Department of Education, vouchers, the entitlements, what's going to happen with School To Work, school violence. Our list is long. And we'd like to have some dialogue with you on some of these issues so that we have a better feel with what's going on.

I think one of the things we've found in the last couple of days is we have money figures from one side. We need to get the money figures on some of the other points of view that are coming forward because when we talk about block-granting some of these programs, we don't really know what will happen in our state. We have no concept about how this will play out when you get down to the states, bring the money down to the locals. We need to know this so we can really get a handle on the dialogue and on the issues before us.

I think the best thing, since we've talked about it -- you brought it up -- was the Department of Education. How serious do you think that is with the possibility of that program going? And I think Gloria has some specifics on what she'd like to address if you don't mind.

Q Mr. President, I realize from your speech -- I mean, our concern is what is your gut reaction to eliminating the Department of Education. The PTA fought many years ago, and it's been almost a decade, to establish the Department of Education. Boy, we would hate to lose it. And from your speech, I can see that you would, too.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, for one thing, you have to ask yourself, why would they do this? First of all, there's a burden -- why would you do it? And there are only two reasons to do it -- to save money or because you think it's doing bad things or it's

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useless. And I noticed the other day that the majority leader of the Senate said that it was one of those departments that had done more harm than good.

Now, most of the time it's been in existence the Department of Education has been under the control of Republican Secretaries of Education. Maybe they did do more harm than good -- (laughter) -- I hadn't really thought so until he said it. But maybe we need to reexamine that. But Secretary Riley has not done more harm than good. He's done more good than harm by a good, long ways.

And I think that it's just sort of fashionable now. I think the truth is that there have been big commitments made in terms of tax cuts -- mostly for upper-income people -- and big commitments made in other areas. And so, they are looking for ways to save money. But this is not a good place. This is not the right thing to do. And we have worked very hard to have what I consider to be the appropriate level of partnership.

Now, on the block grant issue, generally, let me just say I'm not against all block grants. I strongly supported the community development block grant, for example, which the states get and which bigger cities get, and then they get to decide how they're going to use it to develop the economy and make reports on an annual basis to federal government. I think that's fine.

We supported in the crime bill last year more block granting, more flexibility to states and localities in prevention on crime and crime prevention programs because programs that work in one community may not work in another. They know what works best there.

We've now given 26 states waivers from federal rules to implement welfare reforms in their own states, because they know more about it. But let's not kid ourselves, the school lunch program was proposed for block granting just to save the money, because it works the way it is. And we've made some significant improvements in the school lunch program. Last year, with your support, as you know, we got the nutritional standards up, we made some changes. The only reason it was proposed for block granting is because block grants are in, they're fashionable, they're ala mode today. And that's the way they could save some money.

If you add all this money up, it's just not very much money in this big federal budget, and you could argue that we could be doing much more for education, but I think it's very hard to argue that we should be spending less. (Applause.)

Q Mr. President, in light of the fact that it seems the majority of our parents across this nation have a thing that we would call fear of sending our children to school -- our history has shown to us that when our children went to school, they were going to a very safe and secure place and no one ever worried whether their children were not going to be safe in that place. I know that you have promoted many things in your crime bill, but I really do think that at the grass-roots level we really need to concentrate on getting the confidence back into our schools and communities about the violence that is going on. How can the PTA help you in that area? What kinds of things can we partner on that can change that direction and focus?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think the first thing I would say about that is that in the absence of security, not much learning is going to occur. You know that. We know that there are thousands of children who stay home from school every day because they are afraid of what might happen to them in school. We see constantly examples of violence both in school buildings and then in the near vicinity of schools.

Now, what we tried to do with the Safe and Drug-free Schools Act, because there was violence in the schools and in the perimeter, is to provide some funds for things like security devices, metal detectors, things like that, but also more enforcement officers in the outside of school. Then I think you must have, the PTA and all the other committed groups in the country that care about the schools, but especially the PTA has to work with every school district to make sure that there really is a functioning security policy.

You know, there are schools that are very safe environments in very high-crime areas in this country. So it's simply not true that there are no schools in high-crime area that are safe. There are schools that are quite safe in very high-crime areas because of the security policies they have and because of the leadership and the discipline and the organization of resources that have been adopted, and because they've gotten a lot of parental help often.

And so my recommendation is that you identify the schools that you think have done the best job in the most difficult circumstances, figure out what they did, and make sure every PTA chapter in the country has access to that knowledge, and then if we can get these funds and help out there, that you spend them in a way that will maximize the security in the schools in your area.

It's a huge deal, and there's no way -- this is the kind of partnership we need. I mean, there's no way in the world the federal government can tell anybody how they should secure one, two or three schools because they all have different circumstances.

Q Mr. President, congratulations on your School To Work Initiative. I know that started way back in Arkansas. Having said that, I hope the federal government doesn't back off. What should states be doing? What should local school districts be doing? And what do parents need to know about this initiative?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the federal School To Work Initiative essentially tries to build on the work that's being done in states now. When I ran for President, I was fond of talking about the fact that we were the only advanced country in the world that had no real system for dealing with all the young people who finished high school, but didn't go on to four year colleges; and that, while most jobs in the 21st century would not require four-year college degrees, most jobs would require at least two years of some sort of education and training after high school. And we already saw in the difference between the '80 and the '90 census what's happening to the earnings of people who don't have post high school education and training.

Therefore, in terms of the long-term stability of a middle-class lifestyle in America -- that is, the idea that if you work harder and smarter, you might actually do a little better year in and year out -- this School To Work system, the idea of putting into some sort of apprenticeship development system in America, may be the most significant thing we can do to raise incomes. And so what our system does is to provide funds to states to help to build their own systems according to the best information we have and to build on the systems that states are working on.

And your right. I did a lot of work on this at home because I became so alarmed, even as we got the college going rate up, that, though we increased it quite a lot, there are all these people out there that were still just cut loose after high school. And we have to put an end to that. The best way to protect that program here is to -- for every state to aggressively get with the Department of Education and begin to participate as quickly as possible.

That's the same thing with the Goals 2000. Secretary Riley's probably going to talk about this tomorrow, but I think we're on track for over 40 states to be involved in that pretty soon. And so the more states get involved, the more people get involved at the local level, the more it's Democrats and Republicans and independents, it's not a political deal, it's education, the more likely we are to continue to go forward with this.

Q Good morning, Mr. President, once again. I want to switch gears for just a moment and talk about the entitlement program. Many of us come from states where the entitlement provides very basic services for kids who cannot speak for themselves, such as the housing, health services. These entitlements are always -- are the first ones where people say, we want to cut, we want to cut, we don't need them; we want to get rid of the lazy parents, and all this. What can we do as a PTA to ensure those parents and those kids that there kids will not be forgotten in this political atmosphere that we're facing now?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think, first of all, it's important for me to point out to all of you, if you talk about the entitlements, that an entitlement -- let me say, an entitlement is a program in which there is no predetermined amount of money to be spent. That is, if you need it under certain circumstances, the money will flow. A nonentitlement is a program where the Congress appropriates a certain amount of money every year and you spend that, and it runs out and you don't spend anymore.

Entitlements basically fall into three categories. One is -- the best example is agricultural entitlements, where the farm programs are set up like that because the farm economy will change from year to year, you know, based on not only weather conditions and crop conditions in the United States, but all around the world. And it's necessary to sort of even out the farming cycle.

The other programs, and by far the biggest entitlements today are Medicare and Medicaid, the medical programs. And the main problem with the federal budget today is not discretionary spending and education, is not defense spending -- both discretionary spending and defense spending have been going down for the first time in 25 years -- it's entitlements in health care, health care costs going up by more than the rate of inflation and the accumulated interest payments on the debt run up between 1981 and 1993, when I took office. That's basically what the big problem is with the budget.

The other entitlements are entitlements basically for poor people, generally. And except for Medicaid, they, by and large, have not kept up with inflation, but they do provide a safety net. So if there is going to be a move away from those entitlements, the burden is on those who would move away to say, how are you going to care for these poor children?

Now, I like the Women, Infants and Children program, I like the School Lunch Program. I think these programs have worked pretty well for us over time. And we have an interest -- all of us do -- in not going back to the days when children were basically living in very brutal conditions. And I think there is a national interest in the welfare of the children.

I'm all for having the states have more flexibility about how to do these things, but I think there is a national interest in helping states to keep a floor under the lives of our children. Not every state is as wealthy as every other state. Not every state has the same priorities. So, having a system that uniformly says we ought to have a quality of life for our poor children that we believe that all of our children ought to have a chance to get to the starting line is pretty important.

What does the first education goal say?

Q Ready to learn.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Every kid ought to show up ready to learn, right? Not just intellectually, but physically able to learn. My argument is, if I were making your strategy, I would say that we represent the PTA, and our schools can't succeed if, by the time our kids show up for school, their deprivations have already been so great that they will never overcome them, and that the rest of us will pay a whole lot more in tax money and social misery later on down the road if we back away from our obligation to get these kids to school ready to learn. (Applause.)

Q We want to thank our panelists this morning, to our board of directors. And to you, President Clinton, our very deepest gratitude for being with us and talking to us about these issues that are so vital to all the young people in our country.

I know that I speak for everyone in this room when I say how much we appreciate what you've done and what you're going to continue to do -- (laughter) -- to protect the rights of children -- (applause.) And in return, we pledge to you our help, because we want to make sure that things are right for them. Children are first on our agenda, and we know that they are first on yours. And we appreciate that.

And just as a memento, we have a little paperweight, with PTA on it, so that you can have a memento of this occasion of the time that you spent with us this morning. And again, thank you, sir. (Applause.)

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

END

10:00 A.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 1, 1995

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT EMILY'S LIST EVENT

Grand Ballroom
Washington Hilton
Washington, D.C.

1:02 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: That may be the best introduction I ever received. (Laughter.) And if I had really good judgment, I'd just sit down. (Laughter.)

Thank you, Ellen Malcolm, Senator Mikulski and Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, and members of Congress who are out in the audience. My longtime friend, Ann Richards. I met Ann Richards over 20 years ago. And I think she was living in a place called Lacy Lake View*. And it was easy for me to see even then and even by Texas standards, she was a little bit larger than life. (Laughter.) Humor and empathy, grit and grace, courage and decency, I respect her, and I envy her. Her jokes are always better than mine. (Laughter.) And you'll all remember that she delivered one of the best political lines ever. (Applause.) It perfectly captured the mood of America. Do you remember? "Pass the Doritos, Mario." (Laughter and applause.)

Didn't you always want to do one of those commercials? I did. (Laughter.) I'm also indebted to Ann Richards for another reason. She and Hillary went out to dinner last night, and by apparent happenstance, Julia Child was eating at the same restaurant. So the people who were running the show decided that they should have everything Julia was having, plus whatever they ordered. According to my wife, anyway, they had a 10-course, four-hour meal -- (laughter) -- after which they were wheeled out on gurneys. (Laughter.) The good news is, I got home from New York last night about 1:30 p.m., and it was perfectly easy to get Hillary up to talk with me. (Laughter.)

I want to say a special word of appreciation to Ellen Malcolm for her vision and her work, her phenomenal energy have played an immeasurable role in electing more women to high public office in this country than would have been conceivable before she began her important work. (Applause.)

I thank her for her recitation of the work that our administration has done. We have tried to involve women at an unprecedented level. I notice when I started this administration, people were even some of the great establishment newspapers, they were always criticizing me for trying to have a diverse administration, as if there were something wrong with it. Well, I never had any quotas, and evidence of that is, we still only have only 44 percent of my appointees are women, but that's about twice as good as anybody else ever did, and I'm proud of that. (Applause.)

But I have always believed we could achieve excellence with outreach and effort without quotas, and I always thought we had kind of a stupid quota system before. It was just never stated. There were just some things that weren't women's work. Now, that's a

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quota system, and we paid for it. And our country's better off now that we're scrapping it. (Applause.)

In the beginning, they used to criticize the judicial appointments process. But after two years, mercy, they looked up, and we'd named more judges in that time period than previous administrations, and more women and minorities than the three previous presidents -- Democratic and Republican -- combined. But the thing that was interesting and important to me is, we had the highest percentage of people rated well-qualified by the American Bar Association of any administration since they'd been keeping the records.

So, under the leadership of Erskine Bowles, who is now my Deputy Chief of Staff, the Small Business Administration increased loans to women businesses by over 80 percent in one year. (Applause.) And they did it without reducing the number of loans to white males, and they did it without making a single unqualified loan.

We can do this, folks. The old system was the quota system. We need a system where everybody in America has a chance to serve and live up to the fullest of their God-given abilities. (Applause.)

Women's health is a terribly important issue to me. Ellen talked about it. My grandmother and my mother were working women and nurses. And this morning Hillary kicked off a new chapter in our campaign against breast cancer. The most important issue in women's health this week is the need to raise our voices in support of Dr. Henry Foster to be our Surgeon General. (Applause.)

He is a good man. He is a good doctor. He has spent his entire life delivering babies, bringing health care to people who wouldn't otherwise have it, training doctors to go out and help give health care to people who otherwise wouldn't have it, and spearheading a nationally televised -- nationally recognized program to reduce teenage pregnancy. It received one of President Bush's Point of Light awards. Henry Foster is a pro-life, pro-choice doctor who deserves to be confirmed as Surgeon General. (Applause.)

Henry Foster's record should be seen in the lives of thousands of babies that he has helped come into this world in a health way and the people he has tried to educate and the people he has tried to help. And he deserves to be more than a political football in the emerging politics of this season. (Applause.)

We are on the verge of a new century and a difficult and different time where everything is changing and everything, including our politics, is somewhat unpredictable. As we look into the next century, we have a lot to be happy about -- the end of the Cold War, the receding of the conventional nuclear threat, the emergence of the Information Age, and all the exciting possibilities of a global economy.

But the great challenge of this age and the great challenge I predict to you of the next 50 is that all the forces that are lifting us up and opening unlimited possibilities to our children and our grandchildren, all the forces that are driving us toward a more integrated and cooperative world have a dark underside of disintegration because of so many of the things that are happening, we are lifting people up and seeing people beat down at the same time. There is great economic division in all the advanced countries. Why? Because more than ever before, education determines income and future prospects. So there is a great fault line in the great American middle class today which is responsible for a lot of the anxiety and a lot of the political issues and a lot of the

divisiveness in our country. Those that have a good education are being lifted up; those that don't are being left behind.

More than half -- more than half -- of the male workers in this country are working a longer work week for a lower wage than they were making 10 years ago. That is a phenomenally important fact, not just economically, but psychologically. All over America, men come home from work at night and sit down across the table with their families and know they're working as hard as they can and they feel less secure and they wonder if they've let their families down.

We have to do things that will change that. We have to bridge the economic divide and unleash the potential of all of our people. And the key issue there is education. Constant, unrelenting dedication to excellence in education for a lifetime. It is necessary if we're going to bring this country back together. (Applause.)

We have these profound social divisions in our country. We have so much diversity now it is really a -- it's a gold mine for us. Ann Richards took the lead in trying to get the Congress to ratify the NAFTA agreement because she knew that we had to be more closely connected with other countries in the world, and that our ethnic and racial diversity is a gold mine. But when people are frightened, it's easy to focus that fright on people who look different than we do, or who think differently than we do about certain things. So there is this great social division -- will our diversity become a source of unity and strength, or will it be a source of our undoing?

And then there are deeper moral divisions that I want to talk about today which are most clearly manifested in the varying attitudes in this country toward violence. And it's something we're all living with in a very personal and human way because of the way we have shared the grief and outrage of Oklahoma City.

The condition of women in all three of these areas is profoundly important. And the response of women to all of these changes is important. As Ellen said, we've made a good beginning to try to help deal with these problems, to strengthen families and support incomes with the Family and Medical Leave Act. The earned income credit this year will give the average family of four with an income under \$25,000 an average tax cut of \$1,000. We have set in motion a plan under the leadership of Secretary Shalala to immunize all the kids in this country under the age of two by 1996. Those are important things. (Applause.)

This Congress of the last two years voted virtually to fully fund the Women, Infants and Children program to make sure that child nutrition and care for pregnant women was on the front burner. (Applause.) We have had dramatic expansion in our education efforts, from Head Start to apprenticeships for young people who don't go to college but want good jobs, to more affordable college loans for millions of people, to the national service program which has enabled young people to serve their communities and earn money to go to college. All these things are terribly important.

We have a future economic agenda and a families agenda that involves raising the minimum wage, which I hope you will all support. (Applause.) Two-thirds of all the beneficiaries of an increase in the minimum wage will be working women -- working women. (Applause.)

There was a remarkable show on one of our television stations up here the other night, a news program on a little town south of here that had a lot of minimum wage workers. And they went and interviewed a woman working in a factory. And the news reporter said, now, you know, your employer says that if the minimum wage goes

up that they'll either have to put more money in machines or they'll lose business. In any case, you might lose your job if the minimum wage is raised. And she looked at him and said, "Honey, I'll take my chances." (Applause.) Which I thought was the best one-line response I've seen on the news in a long time. (Laughter.)

If we don't raise the minimum wage next year it will be at a 40-year low. That is not my idea of what America should look like as we move into the global economy.

We ought to have welfare reform, but it ought to be the right kind of welfare reform. We shouldn't be punishing people for mistakes in the past. We should be giving them opportunity and imposing responsibility as they move into the future so people can succeed as successful workers and successful parents. It ought to be work-based, parent-based strong program that lifts people, not puts them down, basically, just as a guise to save money. That is very important. You should be involved in the welfare reform effort. (Applause.)

And we should continue to invest more in education, not less. I say to the Congress over and over, we have two deficits, not one. Yes, we've got a budget deficit, but we've also got an education deficit, and if we try to solve the budget deficit at the expense of the education deficit, we will be cutting off our nose to spite our face because we will lower the incomes of America and their capacity to pay taxes. (Applause.)

So there are things we can do to deal with the economic divide where the fault line is education. And we are working to do things that will bring us together and to lessen these social tensions by lifting up everybody in their work and in their family life.

But we have to say that America has special problems which we have all begun to think more about because of the heartbreak of Oklahoma City, and that is violence. It has many forms. We live with it in our streets and our schools and our homes, where we work, where we live, where we play. Yes, we see it visibly if there is an action against a clinic where legal abortions are performed. But we also see it in some of our churches and synagogues. I never will forget being in Brooklyn one day with Congressman Schumer and driving by a synagogue with a big swastika on it -- in the United States in 1992.

We also see it, unfortunately, in our families. Violence can do a lot of damage in a country and it certainly has here. In Oklahoma City, we suffered a terrible wound because it was an act of terrorism. And as we mourn the dead and heal the injured, console the grieving and begin the rebuilding, we must also spare no effort to bring to justice those responsible. We must also understand that even punishing the guilty will not be enough if we cannot protect the innocent and the future.

So I say to you my fellow Americans: I take a back seat to no one in my devotion to the Constitution. But we can protect the Constitution and our freedoms and be tougher on terrorism in America, and we must. (Applause.)

I have sent to Congress a large number of suggestions that will strengthen our hand in dealing with this issue. And, again, I urged them to act on it and act on it without delay. The stories you do not read in the newspaper are those that are most important -- the bombs that don't go off, the schemes that are thwarted before they succeed -- and we must be better and better and better at that. Whether terrorism is hatched abroad or within our borders, we must do better.

But we must also stand up against those who say that somehow this is all right, this is somehow a political act -- people who say, I love my country, but I hate my government. These people, who do they think they are saying that their government has stamped out human freedom? (Applause.)

Do you think -- I don't now if there's another country in the world that would, by law, protect the right of a lot of these groups to say what they want to say to each other over the short-wave radio or however else they want to say it, to assemble over the weekend and do whatever they want to do, and to bear arms -- which, today, means more than the right to keep and bear arms, it may mean the right to keep and bear an arsenal of artillery. Is there a -- who are they to say they have no freedom in this country? Other countries do not permit that. (Applause.)

I plead with you -- do not lose your concentration on this issue. This is a big issue. Remember what I said earlier: The forces that are lifting up the world have a dark underside. What makes the global society work? What makes the Information Age work? Openness. Free movement. Low barriers to the transfer of people, ideas and information. What does that mean? You can have a terrorist network on the Internet exchanging information about building bombs. What does that mean? You can build a bomb in one state and get in your truck and drive somewhere freely and without being interrupted. What does it mean? It's easier to get into the countries, other countries where you want to make mischief.

The open society is at more risk to the forces of organized evil. Don't forget about the people in Oklahoma City. Don't forget about their families. Don't forget about what they need to rebuild, and don't forget about what we need to try to prevent future incidents of this kind. Do not lose your interest in this issue as it fades into the past. We have a lot of work to do.

Let me also say that I hope that this incident will focus us a little more on the general problem of the extraordinary level of violence in our society, to find its common roots as well as to understand the differences in the different kinds of violence we have. I have to say this, and maybe it's an old-fashioned view, but I believe that it is innate in human nature that there is the capacity to do wrong and to harm others. And we are all balanced in different ways, subject to different forces. There are always excuses or reasons that can be given. I'm sorry for whatever terrible thing happened to the suspect in the Oklahoma City bombing case, but we have to stop making excuses and start thinking about what we can do to build a responsible, nonviolent society. (Applause.)

There is a lot of good news out there. I was in New York yesterday, where the crime rate has been going down for several years, and where this year the murder rate is -- so far, knock on wood -- more than a third below what it was last year. And this is happening all over the country. But violent crime is much higher today than it was a generation ago. There's been rising incidents of sexual assaults, muggings, homicides. Some of it caused by street gangs, which themselves systematically terrorize law-abiding citizens in their area of operation; first in our inner cities, and now spreading more and more to suburbs and to small towns.

Increasingly, the victims of crime, and the culprits alike, are young people -- even children. Today, believe it or not, there are thousands of children who stay home from school every day in America because they're afraid that violence will await them there. And even more children go, and learn about fear in their classrooms and hallways.

Sometimes the sole motivation for crime is hate or racial prejudice or extreme ideology. We've seen people killed and others wounded only because they were working at clinics. In the last decade we've been forced to acknowledge the full extent of reality about which we had long remained in denial which may not be able to be explained in terms of hate, racial prejudice or extremist ideology, and that is the epidemic violence visited on women and children often in the home.

I have known about this problem for a long time. I understand how it rips up families. Hillary and I were regular visitors at a shelter for battered women and their children when we lived at home. I have talked with abused children. I know that this problem of domestic violence is a difficult one. We have begun to be aggressive with it. America must be aggressive with it.

We see how much of crime among our young people is still due to drugs. And it's shocking to me that, for reasons that are not entirely understandable, as the economy has gotten better, but some places have been left behind, casual drug use among some of our young people is going up again. This is a bad thing. We must speak against it. It will lead to more violence.

If you look at the profile of every penitentiary in the country, every governor in America, including Ann Richards and Bill Clinton -- every governor in the country in the last 15 years has given speech after speech after speech about how tough we were on crime and how many prison cells we've built. If you go behind those bars you'll see them just full of people who basically had two problems. They had no education and they were either addicted to drugs or alcohol. Now -- and so we continue to pay the price in violence and wrecked lives.

All of you have cared a great deal about making democracy work for all Americans. And you've done a good thing. And when we change our economic policy, when we broaden the doors of opportunities for people and permit more women and others who have been traditionally denied a chance to live up to their fullest capacities a chance to do it, we're all better off and we're all strengthened. But when this country has the plague of violence we endure in so many ways, we are all weakened.

The most tragic thing outside the human loss in Oklahoma City itself to me was seeing the absolute terror that inflicted the lives of millions of American children who felt vulnerable, who felt that they somehow no longer understood what the rules were, didn't know if their parents could protect them, didn't know if right and wrong would reign in America.

So I say to you, we need to take a serious look at this whole issue of violence. We tried to address it in the crime bill last year with more police on the street because we know that that prevents crime; with the assault weapons ban and the Brady Bill; with stronger sentences and prevention programs for our young people, and programs for drug education and prevention and treatment.

We also understand that poverty breeds crime. That's why I worked so hard on the earned income tax credit, to say that if you do work you shouldn't be still in poverty. We ought to reward work. All those -- the real heroes in this country today are people who are being pounded by this global economy, who are living in neighborhoods that are difficult and still get up every day and go to work and raise their children the best they can, obey the law, pay their taxes, and try to make things work. They deserve economic policies and security policies that give them a chance to be honored for their work. (Applause.)

I do want to say again, though, we have to try look deeper at the cause of the violence. Ellen mentioned that I recently appointed Bonnie Campbell, of Iowa, to direct our Office of Violence Against Women. (Applause.) And one of her most important jobs will be simply to educate the American people about the scope of this problem and what should be done and how to root it out. But our goal must be not just to punish people who do this, but to stop it from happening in the first place -- to change the spirit and the culture of America. (Applause.)

Yesterday -- or, excuse me, late last week, I met with Eileen Adams, another distinguished appointee at the Justice Department, who runs our Office of Victims Rights. And we honored people who spend all their time working with victims of crime. I met mothers who'd lost their children. I met a woman who had been victimized by a repeat sex offender who was released on parole who molested her, poured gasoline over her body, set her afire, and left her to die. And this young girl, having literally had her body burned beyond recognition, and her brave mother have worked for more than a decade after this child was maimed and wounded and burned almost beyond recognition, put her life back together physically and spiritually. And now the mother and the daughter spend all their time trying to help victims of crime.

We must address what is causing the United States to commit the whole range of violence that we see. And none of us can escape our responsibility. We have to say: What do we expect from individuals? And we're not going to tolerate the defense that somebody else made me do it. What will families have to do? What will community organizations have to do? What must the churches do? What must the government do? Where have we been wrong? What must the media do? And what must the culture do -- the influence centers in our culture, the entertainment industry, the sport industry?

There have now been -- the Vice President told me this morning before I left to come over here, there have now been 3,000 studies on the relationship between violent behavior and exposure to violence through entertainment in ways that desensitize people to it, and they all show that there is a connection.

Now, that doesn't mean that we should have all movies and books without violence. This is a violent country. It's a part of real life. It doesn't mean they can't be exciting, but it does mean when we desensitize and deaden people to the reality of violence, we cannot be surprised when our children, who do not know right from wrong and are not as well developed as those of us who are older, have a desensitized reaction to their own conduct.

So we must all say: What is our responsibility? We must all accept the fact that our words do have consequences. We must accept that. (Applause.)

We must ask, without pointing the finger of blame necessarily, we say, do you say things or do things that either reinforce violent behavior, encourage violent behavior, act as it at least it doesn't matter to you, or numb people to what it's really like? And what could we do to deal with this in a comprehensive way? We don't need to make this a political issue. We must not make it a partisan issue. But neither can anybody run and hide under the sheet and say, well, I didn't do this, that or the other thing; therefore, what I did do was fine.

This horrible thing that has happened to us in Oklahoma at least imposes on us a responsibility to all examine the roots of violence in this country. We need not be more violent than other countries. We need not abuse our freedom so cavalierly. We need not snuff out more lives. But above all, if we do this, we can't be selective. We can't condemn one act of violence and condone another.

That would be like trying to put out a fire by just watering one room and leaving the others to burn.

For too long, people, I think, have taken the easy way out and blamed violence only on the environment in which a person grows up. Well, that's, doubtless, true. But if that's true, why do most people who grow up in horrible environments turn out to be law-abiding citizens? Why do some people succeed against all the odds? Other people, because it lets them off the hook, just want to blame the individual and ignore the root causes. Well, if that's true, why are some groups of people so much more law abiding than others and so much less violent than others? We've got to set aside our preconceptions and our ideological baggage. And I say again, we don't need partisanship here; we need to look at violence with new and fresh eyes. (Applause.)

My administration has worked to make our country safer. It's worked to give more people the liberation of education. It's worked to make the economy stronger. And we can do more on all these fronts. But the thing that is driving violence in America is deeper than that -- deeper than all these things.

So I ask you to work on this, to work on this with me. Yes, continue your passion for the cause of violence against women and children. Yes, continue your passion for the proposition that people who only perform legally under the law should not have their places of business bombed.

But be concerned about the political violence that makes people believe that they can literally claim to be political prisoners when they murder innocent children. And be concerned about the violence that grows out of our total insensitivity to the welfare of all these children who are growing up on the meanest streets in America. Be concerned about the violence that may at least be legitimized by the cultural forces and the daily words that all of us endure and sometimes enjoy.

We all have a role in this. This is a big issue. It will not be solved overnight. But it will be hard enough -- I will tell you again -- it will be hard enough for us to combat the forces of disintegration and organized evil into the 21st century if we are at our best. If we are at our best, it will be hard enough. If we continue to be insensitive to the role all the forces in our society play to the environment in which we operate, it may be a battle we can't win.

I honestly believe that the years ahead of us will be the most exciting, most productive, most rewarding years in all of human history, especially for people who historically have not been able to live up to the fullest of their capacity. But to do that, we must -- we must -- root out this scourge of darkness within our country, and we can do it.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

END

1:35 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 21, 1995

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT EVENT

The East Room

1:11 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Sarah, for your wonderful remarks and for the powerful example of your life. I was watching you speak today, thinking of your story, wondering how many other stories like yours there might have been if our society had responded more properly, and how many more there will be now because we are going to do the right things.

I thank Attorney General Reno and Secretary Shalala, and of course, Senator Biden and Senator Hatch and Senator Boxer, Senator Harkin, Senator Kerry, Senator Moseley-Braun, Senator Wellstone -- we've nearly got a quorum. (Laughter.) Congresswoman DeLauro, Congresswoman Mink, Congresswoman Morella, Congresswoman Blanche Lambert-Lincoln. I thank you all for being here.

This is an important day for me. This is an issue with which I have dealt as President, as a governor, as an attorney general, as a citizen, going for years with my wife to the shelters in our state for battered women and their children, and as a human being. And I have looked forward to this day for a very long time.

We spend a lot of time in Washington, and we are now having a great and fascinating debate about what the role of this government ought to be and how we're going to get into the next century, and how we're going to create opportunity for all the American people. This is a good thing that we're doing. It's exciting. And I'm having a good time. But, you know, let's be honest with each other. If children aren't safe in their homes, if college women aren't safe in their dorms, if mothers can't raise their children in safety, then the American Dream will never be real for them, no matter what we do in economic policy, no matter how strong we are in standing against the forces that would seek to undermine our values beyond our borders. This is key to everything else we want to do.

So I applaud the members of the Congress, and especially those who have been recognized already -- especially Senator Biden and Senator Hatch -- for recognizing that we had to take responsibility for trying to come to grips with issues that we ordinarily would think of as issues that belong to local law enforcement or local social agencies, or even to the privacy of the home.

When we were fighting so hard last year to pass the crime bill, with the emphasis on more police and more punishment and more prisons and more prevention, one of the things that almost got lost was the Violence Against Women Act. I think it almost got lost for a very regrettable reason in this day and time -- the Republicans and the Democrats weren't fighting about it. We really had a national consensus that we had to do something. And because we knew we had to do something and it passed, it was almost unnoticed.

MORE

But, you know, domestic violence is now the number one health risk for women between the ages of 15 and 44 in our country. If you think about it, it's a bigger threat than cancer or car accidents. The incidents of rape is rising at three times the rate of the crime rate. The FBI estimates that a woman is beaten in this country once every 12 seconds. And we know, too, that often when a spouse is beaten, the children as beaten as well.

For too long, domestic violence has been considered purely a private matter. From now on, it is a problem we all share. (Applause.) What are we going to do about it? The first thing we have to do is do what we can to prevent violence. One part of the crime bill I am proudest of will help in our efforts to stop repeat offenses against women. It will prohibit individuals with a restraining order against them from purchasing or possessing a gun. No ifs, ands or buts. (Applause.)

When crimes do occur, we must restore the rights of victims to their proper place. That means giving them the right to speak at sentencing hearings. And above all, it means helping victims rebuild their lives. We'll require sexual offenders to pay restitution to their victims. We must help people who suffer violence put their lives back on track and put the burdens on the criminals where they belong.

To help in prevention and in assisting victims, the crime bill establishes a Violence Against Women Office at the Department of Justice. Today I am pleased to announce that Bonnie Campbell of Iowa will be the first director of that office. As Iowa's first female attorney general, Bonnie Campbell helped to enact strong domestic violence and anti-stalking laws in that state. She worked with counties and college campuses to raise awareness about domestic violence. And she endorsed a victims rights amendment to the state constitution. A big part of her new job will be helping states and communities to deal with domestic violence.

Today we are making available \$26 million to help the states open rape crisis centers, to staff domestic violence hotlines, to provides victims advocates, to pay for more officers and more training. This is the first down payment on a six-year commitment of \$800 million for this purpose. (Applause.)

This is part of a report I should make at least to these members of Congress who are here about the crime bill. The work has already begun. In just four months we have awarded more than 16,000 police officers to half the police departments in America. We're taking guns and criminals off the streets. The three-strikes-and-you're-out law is being enforced in Iowa and in many other states throughout the country. In short, we are under budget and ahead of schedule. And I want more of that from our government.

We passed this crime bill with bipartisan support. And I'd be the last person to say that it's the end-all and be-all, the ultimate answer to all the problems of crime in America. But I will not permit the crime bill to be undercut. It is just starting to make a difference in the lives of America. We have to keep going. We have to make a difference in the lives of everyone, but especially the women and the children we are called here today to pledge our allegiance to protect.

Let me begin this introduction of Bonnie Campbell and end it with a simple thank you. It's hard to get anybody with good sense to leave Iowa to come to Washington. (Laughter.) And I thank her for doing it and for the shining example she has set in public service and for the excellent work I am confident she will do in this important position.

Bonnie. (Applause.)

END

1:20 P.M. EST

ORGANIZING PRINCIPLES CRIME AND VIOLENCE

"The Administration has got to examine everything we can do to . . . challenge every community in this country and every organization in this country and every individual in this country to make a contribution with us in restoring the conditions in which civilized life can go on. . . . There are 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. . . .

"What you will see from us over the next several months is a sustained, organized, disciplined approach. . . . 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."

President Clinton
News Conference, November 10, 1993

Our long-term challenge as a nation is to restore the conditions of civilized life: work, family, community, order, personal security, and a common set of rules and values on what is acceptable and what is wrong. Our immediate challenge is to restore order in the streets and safety in our schools, and to help Americans take back their neighborhoods, community by community.

A sustained, organized, disciplined approach to this challenge should stick to clear, well-defined themes:

1. Personal security has become the most pressing concern in the everyday lives of millions of Americans and their families. People have a right to feel safe, and the first duty of government is to keep them safe.

2. The old debate between prevention and punishment is a false choice; we need both. We are in the midst of an epidemic of violence in this country. It is time to put politics and ideology aside and start providing real answers to the real fears of real people. We need more cops, more boot camps, and relief for an overloaded criminal justice system. We also need stronger families, better schools, and more work in our communities.

But there is no debate about our attitude toward crime, violence, and those who commit it. **As President Clinton said in his campaign, "We need to prevent crime and punish criminals, not excuse away their behavior."**

3. It's not enough to change laws -- we have to change behavior. We must do everything we can to prevent crime and violence, but government cannot solve this problem on its own. We have to change "from the inside out," as the President said recently in Memphis.

Families need to take responsibility for their children. Individuals need to take personal responsibility for their own actions. And communities need to challenge their citizens to stand up for common decency, and refuse to accept the unacceptable anymore. **Together, we must confront what the President called "the great crisis of the spirit" that is gripping America today.**

4. We will use every tool at our disposal to break the epidemic of violence and keep people safe:

*** Community Policing:** Congress is on the verge of passing a crime bill that will help communities put 100,000 new police officers on the street.

*** Gun Violence:** Congress is also close to enacting the Brady Bill and a ban on handguns for minors. The Senate should pass an assault weapons ban. Federal firearms licensing reform is also possible.

*** Boot Camps / State Prisons:** The crime bill includes a major expansion of boot camps for young offenders -- an idea the President pioneered in Arkansas -- as well as other measures to help states deal with their overcrowded criminal justice systems.

*** Drugs:** The crime bill provides substantial funds for drug courts and drug treatment for criminal addicts. The health reform benefits package covers some drug treatment. Congress will take up more extensive drug legislation next year.

*** Safe Schools:** In addition to banning handguns for children, Congress is close to passing Safe Schools legislation to help schools reduce violence through the use of metal detectors, additional police, etc.

*** Other Justice Department Initiatives:** The Justice Department is working with state officials to convene state law enforcement summits. The Department has also undertaken anti-gang initiatives and efforts to restore healthy neighborhoods through Weed n' Seed and other programs.

*** National Service:** Public safety is one of four priorities for service in the President's national service program. The National Service Corporation will be working with police departments and community organizations to develop innovative public safety, law enforcement, and crime prevention programs for young people. The Senate crime bill also includes the Police Corps, which provides college scholarships in return for police service.

*** The Health Care Costs of Violence:** The President and the First Lady have devoted considerable attention to the impact of violence on the health care system. We spend an estimated \$4 billion a year on health care for the victims of violence.

*** Work and Economic Opportunity:** Later this year, the Community Enterprise Board, chaired by the Vice President, will announce selection criteria for Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities. Public safety will be an important component. The Administration has several other initiatives aimed at improving economic opportunity and self-sufficiency, including community development banks, microenterprise, and welfare reform.

*** Values:** The President will continue to use the Bully Pulpit to call attention to crime, violence, and the collapse of social institutions essential to civilized life: family, community, work.

CRIME AND VIOLENCE

"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."

President Clinton
State of the Union Address
January 25, 1994

IT'S TIME TO PASS A CRIME BILL. AMERICANS HAVE WAITED LONG ENOUGH.

* Personal security has become the most pressing concern in the everyday lives of millions of Americans and their families. People have a right to feel safe, and the first duty of government is to keep them safe.

* We are in the midst of an epidemic of violence in this country. It is time to put politics and ideology aside and start providing real answers to the real fears of real people. We need more police, more drug courts, more boot camps, and a criminal justice system that keeps violent criminals off the streets. We also need stronger families, better schools, and more work in our communities.

FIGHTING CRIME IS A CENTERPIECE OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S DOMESTIC AGENDA.

* President Clinton made crime a centerpiece of his State of the Union Address, and challenged Congress to move quickly to pass a crime bill that will reduce and prevent crime and violence.

* The Administration is seeking action on all fronts:

Put 100,000 More Police Officers on the Street in Community Policing. Putting more police on the beat will do more than anything else to catch criminals and prevent crime from occurring in the first place. In December, the Administration awarded grants to 74 cities and towns to expand community policing.

Put Violent, Repeat Offenders Away for Life. Most violent crimes are committed by a small percentage of criminals. We need a criminal justice system that makes sure those who commit crimes serve their sentences, and says to repeat offenders: When you commit a third violent crime, you will be put away, and put away for good -- three strikes and you're out. The Senate crime bill includes more money for prisons.

Pass an Assault Weapons Ban. No other nation allows teenagers to roam the streets with assault weapons, better armed than the police. The President has challenged sportsmen and others to join in this effort to build on the Brady Bill and keep guns out of the hands of criminals. The Senate crime bill includes a ban on the manufacture and sale of assault weapons, the gun of choice for drug dealers and gangs.

Expand Drug Treatment. Drugs are a factor in an enormous percentage of crimes. Recent studies indicate that drug use is on the rise again among young people. The crime bill contains more money for drug treatment for criminal addicts and boot camps for youthful offenders, and the Administration FY95 budget will contain a large increase in funding for drug treatment and drug education.

Give Young People Something to Say Yes to. In America's toughest neighborhoods, meanest streets, and poorest rural areas, we have seen a stunning breakdown of community, family and work -- the heart and soul of civilized society. This has created a vast vacuum into which violence, drugs and gangs have moved. So, even as we say no to crime, we must give people -- especially our young people -- something to say yes to. The Administration has undertaken many initiatives to help rebuild distressed communities, strengthen families, and provide work, including: job training, welfare reform, health reform, Empowerment Zones, reform of the Community Reinvestment Act, and legislation to launch a national network of community development banks.

PRESIDENT CLINTON ON CRIME (since Memphis, 11/13/93)

REMARKS AT EAST LOS ANGELES CHURCH SCHOOL

Los Angeles, California

November 21, 1993

I talked to people who are worried about the violence and the crime, about the pressures on the families and the dangers for the children. And I want you to know that every night when I go to bed in the White House, I think of the children of this country, of their future, of the dangers and the problems, of the hopes and the dreams. We are working now in Washington to pass a bill which will make a big step toward making our streets safer, something that Mayor Riordon ran on when he ran for mayor. If the bill passes, the crime bill which has now passed both houses of the Congress, we may be able to give our cities in this country up to 100,000 more law enforcement officers to protect people, to keep crime from occurring in the first place.

All these things will help, but in the end, my fellow Americans, we have to take our communities back community by community, neighborhood by neighborhood, block by block, family by family, child by child. Our disregard for life in this country is seen coast to coast.

What we want America to look like is what we see here today: the faces of these children safe and secure, learning and whole, looking towards the future, believing in their lives, living by their values. That's what we want America to look like. So I tell you we are doing everything we can to try to give you the tools you need to make your community safer, but we have to make up our mind that we will no longer tolerate children killing children, children having guns and being better armed than police officers, neighborhoods unsafe. We can do better, and we're going to have to do it for all of our people without regard to race or income or region. You deserve as much. And we have to do it.

REMARKS AT EVENT FOR SENATOR DIANNE FEINSTEIN

San Francisco, California

November 21, 1993

You know, sometimes I feel like I'm in a time warp. We live in a wonderful country, but there are a lot of kids in trouble, and you've got streets where the gang members are better armed than the policemen and innocent people are getting shot in the crossfire.

You listen to these debates on the Crime Bill, the kinds of things we're trying to do, and it sounds like some people are just literally in another world. Well, I've got to give the Senate and the House credit. They passed the Brady Bill, they passed the Crime Bill that will give the cities of our country the actual means to reduce the crime rate. Don't let anybody kid you that more police officers properly deployed won't reduce the crime rate -- not just catch criminals, but reduce the crime rate. There is no question that it will work.

This will make a difference, this Crime Bill. But it makes a difference also that there are boot camps as opposed to prisons for youthful offenders to give them a chance to do something constructive with their lives, and it makes a difference that the Brady Bill passed.

SATURDAY RADIO ADDRESS
November 27, 1993

The Crime Bill has been passed in both Houses. It will put more police officers on the street -- up to 100,000 of them; build more prisons; establish boot camps for young, first-time offenders. It will ban assault weapons.

We're making progress in the fight against crime. Just before the Congress left, it adopted legislation requiring a five day waiting period before anyone can purchase a handgun, so there can be a check for someone's age, mental health history, and criminal record. This action was a national victory in the fight against crime and violence, and a very personal victory for Jim and Sarah Brady. Their family, touched by violence, who turned tragedy into crime by fighting for seven long years to pass this important legislation to protect the rest of us from individuals who shouldn't be permitted to possess or use handguns.

We have to be concerned that, in both our cities and our rural areas, the value of life has been cheapened, that too many children are killing children with weapons of destruction that are even more efficient and sophisticated than the police -- who are supposed to protect the people -- have.

**REMARKS TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF
THE DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**
The Sheraton Washington
Washington, DC
December 3, 1993

We recognized in this organization a long time ago that if people didn't feel a certain level of basic security, it was very difficult for them to make the changes we need to make. If you want to challenge people to seize opportunities and to assume more responsibility, if you want people to be able to live with, basically, the chaotic nature of the world in which we find ourselves -- a very exciting world if you can figure out to win in it -- there has to be some sense that the basic fabric of society is being maintained, that there is some order, some security, some discipline which we need to observe.

That is why this crime and violence issue is so important. Huge increases in violent crime in many communities in this country. Police at an increasingly disadvantageous issue -- now over three violent crimes for every police officer in the country, where it used to be the reverse, three police officers for every crime just 30 years ago. And all the stories you know about children killing children, or young teenagers being better armed than police officers.

We know there are some things that work. We know -- the DLC does, we've been advocating this for years -- that community policing works. Mayor Lanier, in Houston, just proved it in the ultimate way, by getting over 90 percent of the vote. I was trying to think of who else could get 90 percent of the vote for anything. It

tells you how passionately people care about this public safety issue.

We are trying our best in these difficult budget times to get a crime bill out that will produce 100,000 new police officers. But they must be properly trained and properly deployed. That is a challenge for you in the DLC. It is a challenge for us as Americans to make sure not only that we pass a bill in Congress that provides the police officers, but that when they get down to whatever town or city they're in, that they are properly trained and properly deployed. Community policing works. You can lower crime, not just by catching more criminals, but because it actually helps to prevent crime from occurring in the first place. It really matters.

There are some other things we ought to do in that crime bill, too, and I'll just mention two. We need to provide alternative punishments for youthful offenders so that we can use the prison space we have to keep people who shouldn't get out for as long as they should stay in. The boot camp proposals are in this crime bill, another DLC idea that we have advocated for years and years, something that I tried to do at home when I was a governor. And it's an important part of the bill.

There are two other things in the bill. Senator Kohl, from Wisconsin, has put an amendment in to ban the ownership of handguns by young people under 18, and to limit access to them to properly control circumstances by minors. And it passed overwhelmingly.

Then there was an amendment by Senator Feinstein to ban several assault weapons and to specify a number of hunting weapons that cannot be restricted at all because they're hunting rifles and they are things that people use for sporting purposes. I think it is a good, balanced amendment and I hope it will be in the final provision of the crime bill.

REMARKS DURING CREATIVE ARTISTS AGENCY RECEPTION
Beverly Hills, California
December 4, 1993

We have to face the fact that millions and millions and millions of our fellow Americans are caught, not only in an economic under class, but almost in an outer class totally apart from the life that the rest of us take for granted. And it is because they are the ones who have been hardest hit by the combined force of a loss of economic opportunity, the destruction of community support, and the erosion of family itself. And the vacuum that is created has been filled for all too many of them by organized violence, organized around guns and gangs and drugs with no offsetting forces.

Some of that has been aggravated by the fact that there are not sustaining forces in our culture, which tend to offset that. As I told the ministers in Memphis a few weeks ago at the Church of God in Christ Convention, when they invited me into the pulpit where Martin Luther King gave his last sermon, there are problems this nation has that cannot be fixed by the passage of a law, or by an official decree from the President of the United States. They require us to change from the inside-out and to change family by family, community by community.

I have a good friend with whom I grew up at home who wrote me of a

conversation she had with some other people who were bemoaning the fate of all these kids in trouble, and this person said, well, how in the world are we going to save these kids? And my friend said, we're going to save them the same way we lost them, one at a time. If you think of that -- if you think of that, society is largely organized around work and family. We have too many people today living in this world without either. And nature, and to be sure they represent nature, abhors a vacuum. And that vacuum is being filled by all kinds of forces which are fundamentally destructive of those people ever becoming what they ought to be.

Now, we are trying to deal with that as much as we can through public policy -- through the Brady Bill and through Senator Feinstein's effort to ban assault weapons. And I met your distinguished police chief for the first time tonight, even though I've been bragging on him for years now. Through the effort to provide another 100,000 police officers in properly-trained, properly-deployed in community policing settings throughout the country, because that will actually diminish crime and provide alternative role models for young people.

There are a lot of other things we are trying to do. But I am telling you, the fact is it is awfully hard to put lives back together in an environment in which there are no lives organized fundamentally by work, by family, and by other community organizations that shape values and behavior.

When impulses govern the lives of young people who cannot even fully understand the implications of what it means often to pick up a gun and pull the trigger; and when madly we permit many of these children, who themselves were never even given the fundamental basics of self-esteem and self-control and respect for others, weapons that make them better armed than the police who are supposed to be patrolling their streets.

But the fundamental problem is what has happened to all of them inside, and what does not happen to them day by day. One hundred and sixty thousand kids in this country stay home from school every day because they are afraid of being shot or not knifed on the way to school or in the schoolhouse.

Now, what's all that got to do with you? First of all, you have the capacity to do good -- culturally to help to change the way we behave, the way we think of ourselves. You have, clearly, many of you, reinforced the awareness of our obligations to our environment and we have begun to change in fundamental ways. Look at the way we changed our ideas about smoking in recent years. Culturally, not because laws made us do it but because as a people we just decided to move in a different direction....

But you think of it.... How is our life organized? We spend most of our time working. We spend a lot of free time, most of us, with our families. We have other ties to a community which shape our values, our conduct, our priorities, what we do with our money, how we think about our obligations. But what might be entertaining to us -- a violent, thrilling movie or television program, a torrid but fundamentally amoral use and manipulation of people in what may be for us just an entertaining 30 minutes or an hour. If it's 10 or 11 hours a day of relentless exposure into the minds of people who have never been taught to understand the consequences of their action, never had any kind of internal

structure motivated and driven by seeing their parents go to work everyday and having a regular relationship with family and having other institutions, then these things can unintentionally can set forth a chain reaction of even more impulsive behavior, even more inability to deal with conflict in nonviolent ways and to pass up the aggressive influences and impulses that all of us feel but most of us learn at some point in our lives not to act on. And it all gets worse if the void left by the loss of family and work and other institutions is filled by gangs and guns and drugs.

So, what I ask you for tonight is not to wear a hair shirt and say, mea culpa, I wish I hadn't done this, that or the other thing, but to recognize that what may be one person's moment of entertainment, even exhilaration, that's taking your mind off the pressures of the day, can, when multiplied by 1,000, have a cumulative impact that at the very least does not help to bring a whole generation of people back from the brink. I'm telling you, if we don't find a way to deal with this, the rest of these endeavors ultimately will fail. We will not be able to make a strength out of our diversity. We will not be able to restore the ladder from poverty to the middle class that can be climbed through work and education. We will not be able to put our people back together again and use our money on education and opportunity instead of crime and jail.

So what I ask you to do is to join a partnership with me, not to stop entertaining or even titillating, not to stop frightening or thrilling the American public, but to examine what together you might do to simply face the reality that so many of our young people live with, and help us as we seek to rebuild the frayed bonds of this community; as we seek to give children nonviolent ways to resolve their own frustrations; as we seek to restore some structure and some hope and some essential dignity and purpose to lives that have been dominated by chaos of worse.

We must do this. Make no mistake about it. No society, no society can prosper allowing huge pockets of people to go on forever without the opportunity to work; allowing huge pockets of children to go on without the opportunity to get a decent education; allowing huge sections of cities to be no-man's lands, where the law of the automatic assault weapon controls. We cannot do well if we permit that to happen...

For 30 years the American family has been under assault. The assault attacked black families first because they were most vulnerable economically. The same thing is now happening to other families. More and more children are born out of wedlock. More and more children are being born without parents, more and more children being abandoned, more and more kids growing up in violent neighborhoods. The racial differences were largely determined first because of economic vulnerability. But now it is happening to everybody. So 30 years of family assault, 20 years where most working people had stagnant wages, 20 years of developing huge pockets where no one had a job. There have always been poor people in this country, but most of them have always been able to work. Twelve years in which we exploded public debt by consuming in the present instead of investing more in the future. These things happened over a long period of time.

And so I ask you, while you entertain the rest of us, let us together do something

to rebuild the bonds of community; to restore the spirit of these children; to give people a chance to build whole lives around solid values so that they, too, will have internal structures that will permit them the luxury of the diversion some of us call entertainment.

We must rebuild this country fundamentally. And we have to have the support of people who can shape our culture to do it. It is our job, and if we do it, we will be proud we did.

REMARKS TO PRESS POOL
The Blair House
December 8, 1993

Q Give us your reaction, sir, to the shootings on Long Island -- in the shootings.

THE PRESIDENT: First of all, it's a terrible human tragedy and my sympathies go out to all the families involved.

I will say, I think we have to note that the gun that was used contained, apparently, two 15-round clips that were expended while this man, in a manic state was walking down the subway isle. And one of the reasons we ought to pass the crime bill is that Senator Feinstein's amendment to limit assault weapons would make those 15-round clips illegal. They're not necessary for hunting or sports purposes, and it simply -- allows you to shoot and wound more people more quickly.

So, I hope that this will give some more impetus to the need to act urgently, to deal with the unnecessary problems of gun violence in the country.

The second thing I would say is that while no one believes that there is anything we can ever do to solve every problem of someone who snaps mentally and does something terrible like this, and we have to acknowledge that honestly, there are a lot of things that we're going to have to do in this country to get violence under control that relate to rebuilding our communities and healing across racial lines and economic lines. But we need to start with public safety. Put those 100,000 police officers on the street. Pass this ban on assault weapons and these multi-round clips. And let's get about the business of making the country safer.

Q-- requirement for licensing and testing to purchase a gun?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that was recommended to me, as you know, by the Mayor-Elect of New York and the Mayor of Los Angeles, and I've asked the Attorney General to review it and make a recommendation to me on it. I think I should wait to hear from her on it. It is interesting that -- how we regularly have requirements, for example, for getting and driving cars that don't apply to the use of guns that -- when I was a boy and first started to hunt, you know, one of the first things I was told was you have to learn how to use a gun safely and responsibly. And it's something I think we ought to look at. But I want to ask

the Attorney General for an opinion before I discuss it further.

REMARKS IN MEETING WITH MAYORS AND CHIEFS OF POLICE
The Indian Treaty Room
December 9, 1993

I believe that this nation is really prepared in a way that it has not been before, at least in my experience, to do something about violent crime; to do something about all of its causes; and to try to come together across the lines of region and party and the size of the units in which we live to deal with these things that are tearing the heart out of our country.

I think the rapid change of opinion and movement on the Brady Bill at the end of the last session is an example of that. I think the size of the margin by which Senator Feinstein's amendment was added to the crime bill in the Senate to ban 35 kinds of assault weapons was evidence of that. And so I think we are prepared to begin.

The first thing is that it is important that we get a good crime bill out early when the Congress comes back. And we'd like your help in defining what that is.

The Senate and the House versions are different. The most clearly manifest difference is that the Senate version has more money in it, and therefore would enable us to fund in this crime bill the full 100,000 extra police officers that I have supported since I began running for President.

As you point out in your report, it will take some time to train and deploy those people, but I know that it makes a difference. I think the margin of Mayor Lanier's reelection is evidence that people know that if you properly deploy trained personnel, not just -- it just doesn't serve to catch criminals quicker, but because of the relationships they develop in the community and their visibility, it actually reduces crime. I think there should be some alternative punishments for youthful offenders -- boot camps and perhaps other things. I think that is very important.

Beyond that, we ought to talk about what else we do and where we go. But I want to emphasize that this -- even with intense commitment in this city, you have to do the things that are before you. You have to get done what you can do at the moment, and then move on to what's next on the agenda. So I think it is imperative that we move on the crime bill and the 100,000 police officers in the street and the boot camps as soon as we can when the Congress comes back.

I also think we ought to recognize that we don't have all the money in 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.

The last point I want to make is that this is the first step, but only the first step we have to take in restoring the conditions of civilized life to a lot of our cities.

The reason a lot of these things are happening is that there has been a simultaneous decline of work, family and community -- the things that really organize life for all the rest of us. And we are going to have to rebuild them all. And it is not going to happen overnight, because these deteriorations have happened over a period of decades. But people can sense whether you are going in the right direction or the wrong direction, and I think we have to work together to change the direction. I am confident that we can.

There are also maybe some things we can do administratively. And you have the people here who want to hear from you about that, and we want to go forward with that.

And finally I want to say that I think we ought to set up an ongoing relationship so that you can continue to work with us, get input and help us to work through some of the difficult decisions that are always required when you move from the level of speaking to doing. And so we would like very much to have some sort of ongoing mechanism that this administration can relate to from the membership of this group.

Lastly, let me say that I'm grateful for the participation here, not just of the mayors but of the several police chiefs. It's good to see all of you here. I think we can do something. I think the American people are tired of hurting, and tired of feeling insecure, and tired of the violence, and it makes such a huge gap between what we say, and what we do, and how we want to live and how we are forced to live. And it's affected now so many more people beyond the immediate victims of crime. It's changing everyone's life in ways that are quite destructive. We have to move. And I think we're prepared to move. And I think with this document you've given us a good basis to begin.

SATURDAY RADIO ADDRESS
The Oval Office
December 11, 1993

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

On Tuesday evening in Garden City, New York, a gunman shot and killed five rush hour commuters on the Long Island Railroad, and wounded 20 others.

On Thursday night in California, there was a memorial service for 12-year old Polly Klaas. She'd been kidnapped from her bedroom two months ago. Her little body was found last Saturday.

These tragedies are part of the epidemic of violence that has left Americans insecure on our streets, in our schools, even in our homes. The crime rate has hit every American community from our oldest cities to our smallest towns to our newest suburbs.

As a suburban California woman, the mother of a 10-year old girl, said a few days

ago, "There's no safe place to go. There's no place that's safe."

If our nation is to find any meaning in these tragedies, we must join together to end this epidemic of violent crime and restore the fabric of civilized life in every community. There is now some hope amidst the horror because decent people are fighting back against crime.

Just before Thanksgiving I signed the Brady Bill into law. It requires a five-day waiting period before anyone can purchase a handgun so there can be a check of someone's age, mental health and criminal record. The Brady bill became law because you, the American people, were stronger than the gun lobby.

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.

I want to put 100,000 new police officers on the streets of our communities so they can walk their beats and work with neighborhood people. Putting more police on the streets will do more to reduce crime than anything else we can do.

The ban on assault weapons and the restrictions on semi-automatics are important because they'll stop criminal gangs from being better armed than the police. And these restrictions would have prevented the gunman on the Long Island Railroad from having two 15-round clips of ammunition that enabled him to maim and kill so many people with such deadly speeds. Assault weapons and 15-round clips have nothing to do with hunting or sports. They just let criminals shoot people more quickly. A recent study in one of our major cities showed that the increasing death rate among young people hit with gunshots was due almost entirely to the fact that the weapons themselves were more likely to be semi-automatic and, therefore, more deadly.

Boot camps have been endorsed by every major law enforcement organization in America. They give first offenders a second chance to learn some discipline. And they open more space in the prisons for hardened, violent criminals.

Now that Congress is home for the holidays, tell your senators and representatives to pass a strong crime bill so your family can be safer. You know, the new year begins just three weeks from today. I'd like to suggest a new year's resolution for every senator and every representative: let's pass the crime bill as soon as you return.

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.

Next summer, in our National Service program, AmeriCorps, thousands of young people will help with community policing, escort older people and board up abandoned buildings so they can't be turned into crack houses. The young people in the Summer of Safety will be an inspiring example for Americans of all ages to work together to make our streets safer by acting on our finest values.

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.

In recent weeks, I've spoken to leaders from the religious community and the entertainment community about the obligation we all share to fight violence with values. Last week I was proud to hear that the Inner City Broadcasting Corporation of New York, which owns five radio stations throughout the country, will no longer play songs that advocate violence or show contempt for women. And I understand that two stations in Los Angeles -- KACE, owned by former Green Bay Packer Willie Davis and KJLH, owned by Stevie Wonder -- have also adopted this policy.

Whether we're ministers or moviemakers, businesspeople or broadcasters, teachers or parents, we can all set our sons and daughters on a better path in life so they can learn and love and lead decent and productive lives.

In this holiday season, as we rejoice in the love of our families and hold our children a little closer, we should also strengthen the bonds of community. We can make our neighborhoods and our nations places of shared responsibility, not random violence. The tragedies of this week remind us that there is no place to hide. The lessons of our history remind us that Americans can accomplish anything when we work together for a common purpose.

As we begin this season of celebration and rededication, let's remember the words of Theodore Roosevelt, a great president who was once a police commissioner, too: "This country will not be a good place for any of us to live in, unless we make it a good place for all of us to live in."

REMARKS AT RECEPTION FOR SENATOR MOYNIHAN
The Waldorf Astoria Hotel
New York, New York
December 13, 1993

The economic opportunities that once beckoned people to our cities have long gone for many middle-class people who didn't have a lot of education. When you lose both family and work -- the two things that most of us organize our lives around -- you create a vacuum in any society. And, as with any other vacuum, nature

abhors it; it will be filled. People cannot live in total chaos. Some alternative organizations will take root. And what has happened in our country is that in places which we have permitted to be without family and work, where the community organizations have folded up tent and left behind them, where very often only the churches are there standing alone against the deluge, and the people in the social services overpowered, and the police outmanned, what happens is that gangs take root as a form of social organization and drugs take root not just as a form of self-destruction, but as an economic endeavor.

And then, as an enforcement mechanism, violence comes along in even greater amounts. And now, because we have permitted by a flight of -- in my view -- collective insanity, even teenagers to be better armed than police in most of our big cities, you see a dramatic increase just in the last decade in the death rate of young people who are shot. Why is that? Because they're more likely to be shot by assault weapons like the kind that was used on the Long Island Railroad a few days ago.

A study came out right after that horrible incident, chronicling one of our biggest cities in the Middle West, saying that 100 percent of the increase in the death rate from gunshot wounds among teenage boys was due to the use of assault weapons with rapid cartridges so they had more bullets in their bodies. it wasn't very complicated.

So I would argue to you we have, first of all, seen a vacuum develop. It happened over a generation and anybody that tells you it can be turned around with a lot of words or even good actions in a moment is wrong. There are good people out there now standing against the tide doing their best. I call to your attention the article on the cover of the New York Times Sunday Magazine yesterday about that brave policeman. If you haven't read it, you ought to go read it; talking about how one person still can make a difference in restoring some sanity and safety and reinforcing values in people's lives...

I don't want to get into a lot of programs tonight. We got the Brady Bill done. We've got the crime bill coming up. It really does make a difference how many police are on the street if they are well trained. We have to do more on the drug front. We have to deal with health care in part, because this crime and violence is a public health problem. But I don't want to talk so much about programs. It is just to ask you to leave here tonight, if you are really going to give your money to re-elect this man, which you must do because he is a national treasure -- you should leave here tonight determined to do what you can to create a political constituency to make it possible for him to make the ideas that have been popping in his mind for a generation real in the lives of our people.

In other words, what I'm asking you to do tonight is you don't have to agree that whatever we decide to do on the assault weapons ban is right around the edges, or whatever. But you should leave here tonight far more intolerant than you came here of some of the conditions which obtain in this country. Last winter Senator Moynihan wrote, and I quote, "We have been redefining deviancy so as to exempt much conduct previously stigmatized." We have been, quote, to use his phrase -- "defining deviancy down" below the threshold of acceptability. Then he said in more blunt language, "We're getting used to a lot of behavior that is not good for

us."

Why aren't we free enough to know that we have got to invest in policies that will promote work over welfare and family over solitude, and community over division? We know better than this. And we have just become so callous because basically, this country has worked pretty well for the rest of us. But I'm telling you, it's coming back on the rest of us.

REMARKS IN CONFERENCE CALL WITH MAYORS

The Oval Office
December 20, 1993

Today I'm proud to announce that the six of you on this phone, along with the leaders of 68 other cities and towns all across the country, will receive the first grants to put more police on the street and expand community policing.

The Justice Department received applications from more than 1,000 communities across our nation, and the proposals we got for community policing from your police departments were truly outstanding. I know these grants are simply a down payment on our pledge to put 100,000 new police officers on the streets. It's just the beginning. As soon as Congress comes back in 1994 I want them to send me a crime bill that finishes that job and puts 100,000 more police on the street, expands boot camps and drug courts like the one the Attorney General started in Miami, gets handguns out of the hands of minors, and bans assault weapons.

Earlier this month, as all of you know, I signed the Brady Bill which broke seven years of gridlock on this issue. And we just can't afford to wait any longer for the crime bill. In the meanwhile I'm excited about what you're doing because we know community policing works. It worked for our Drug Director, Lee Brown, in Houston and New York, and it's working all across the country.

So I want to just thank all of you very much and say that I wish I could be there with you today. I wish I could see your police officers, and I hope you'll tell them all that help is on the way and we'll do our best to be there for you, to be good partners with you. And I know I'm speaking for the Vice President, the Attorney General and Lee Brown in saying we'll stay after this until the job is done.

BILL SIGNING OF THE NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION ACT

White House
Washington, DC
December 20, 1993

The holiday season is a time for sharing the warmth of human contact with families and friends, and making this a joyous and safe time for children everywhere is important. That makes this legislation, the National Child Protection Act, especially significant. With it we can give a great gift -- a much improved system for protecting our children from being abused or harmed by those to whom we have entrusted them. Not unlike the Brady bill, this law creates a national data base network. This one can be used by any childcare provider in America to conduct a background check to determine if a job applicant can be

trusted with our children and, if not, to prevent that person from ever working with children. For the first time, we'll have a system in place to protect the many millions of American children who receive care and supervision in formal day care and in other settings from other organizations. This law will give us the tools we need to safeguard children from those who have perpetrated crimes of child abuse or sex abuse or drug use or those who've convicted of felonies. It's very important that we give working parents peace of mind about childcare. The majority of mothers with young children now work outside the home. Six million children are placed in formal day care settings every day. Balancing work and family is hard, and parents are worried about their personal security and the security of their children in an increasingly violent world. Like the Brady bill and the Crime bill, which I hope and believe will pass soon, this act will help us to take our streets, our neighborhoods, the institutions we rely on back for American values and American children. There's nothing more important that our government could be doing now.

SATURDAY RADIO ADDRESS January 1, 1994

After seven years of gridlock, Washington finally awoke to the growing fear of violence on our streets, when Congress passed and I signed the Brady Bill. All over America, beyond Washington, people are beginning to take more responsibility for themselves, for their children, and for their communities, working to save jobs, improve schools, and make our streets safer. In 1994, we must resolve to do even more to help the middle class with more jobs and with income growth, to help the poor who are trapped in whole neighborhoods where there's no work, few stable families, and where violence is the norm. There's still a great deal to do. So, in 1994, let us resolve to improve the health security, the personal security, and the job security of the American people who work hard and play by the rules. With all the changes sweeping our nation and the world, let us resolve to make these changes our friends and not our enemies. ...

I want Congress to pass the crime bill without delay. Our proposal will put 100,000 more police officers on the street, expand boot camps for young offenders, get handguns out of the hands of minors, ban assault weapons, and have stiffer sentences for violent repeat offenders.

In 1993, I met a lot of Americans who made a vivid impression on me and whose impression caused me to redouble my determination to face the problems which our country has too long ignored. I met a young man in California who changed schools to go to a safer school, but whose brother was shot standing in front of him in the safer school as they tried to register.

The stories of real people inspire the struggles and the efforts that drive my administration. We've got to keep working to rebuild the American economy, to revive the middle class life and middle class values in America, and to restore our sense of community. We have to recognize that all these problems are interrelated. You can't just solve one without the other. We have to remember that these problems developed over a long period of time; they can't be solved overnight. We have to remember that government can't do everything alone; everyone must play his or her part. But we must remember, too, that we can

make a difference and we can do better.

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 heart 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, PREVENTION AND CHILDREN

Remarks at the Pinellas Marine Institute, St. Petersburg, FL, September 24, 1993.

Now, one of the things that our health care reform package and the crime initiatives that the Attorney General is leading have in common is a focus on prevention. I got a great hand the other night talking to Congress, and I said, you know how your mother said an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure; well, your mother was right? Well, that's the truth....

The same thing is true in crime...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.

Now, we can decide again what to do with this. Are we going to hunker down and turn away and pretend it's not happening? Maybe it will go away -- we've got a one chance in a hundred that will happen. Or we can face it, and we can face the problem in all of its human manifestations, just the way the Attorney General said.

These kids we just met out here who got in trouble and now they're in this program, pretty good kids. They've got a whole life ahead of them. They've got contributions they can make. And we need to see what we can do about preventing the life that might happen that none of us want to occur.

This initiative that we have undertaken in our administration to give more security and to make this society safer include at least three forms of prevention I want to emphasize, because we know they work and because they are rooted in getting people at the grass-roots community level more power over their own lives.

First is giving these children who get in trouble something to say yes to and some order and framework in their lives. Senator Moynihan said on television last Sunday -- the distinguished Senator from New York who's been a student of American social history for 50 years -- we have gotten used to accepting a lot of behavior from people in this country that's pretty destructive. We have gotten used to the fact that a lot of kids grow up alone or almost alone in conditions that are very damaging to themselves and aren't conducive to learning good things and good habits. And we have let it happen. But all over America there are programs like the boot camp program -- one of these young men just came out of the boot camp program of this program, and he told the Governor that he liked the program; more people ought to be in it. Because, he said it used to be you could -- he knew this. He said it used to be you should ship kids my age off to the service, but we're going down. We don't have a draft anymore. We're going down -- the number of people in the service. So we've

got to have a substitute where people can learn discipline and order and be able to see the future as something that happens three years from now, not three minutes from now. And we have to have programs like this Marine Institute, which now is spreading across the country.

This program is giving young people a chance to take their future back, a chance to understand that there is good inside them, that they can do things that are useful and productive and profitable, and a lot more fun than whatever it is that got them into this program in the first place.

Those young people told me what it was like to learn how to give CPR, to learn how to scuba dive, to learn how to repair a boat and fix it so it would sail, to learn how to deal with each other and with adults so that they could get jobs. This program now operates in partnership with grass roots people in seven other states nationwide. They've taken 20,000 young people at risk and helped them to become responsible citizens. And so far, after they leave this program 75 percent of the young people that go through this program never have any criminal convictions again. If every young person in America that got in trouble had a chance to be in a program like this, think what a difference it would make.

It's very important. How many times do you pick up the paper and read about somebody finally did something terrible after they had been arrested 13 times or 15 times or 20 times. We need a system in this country, and the national government cannot do it, but we can help you do it. We can help provide funds and support and technical expertise, but people at the grass roots level have to do it. We've got to have systems in this country where everybody in those critical young years has a chance to be in a boot camp like this -- like you have in Florida -- or a program like the Marine Institute, or both if they need it.

We have an experimental program we started last June. Ten military facilities have been enclosed across the country where kids who are high school dropouts are able to come back and get their GED and have the benefit of military-type training. And a lot of these kids just love it. It's just changed their whole outlook on life. We have got to understand that we are raising a generation without the structure and order and predictability and support and reinforcement that most of us just took for granted. We took it for granted.

And there's no use in us pretending that some national government program and money alone will fix it. But there's no use in us pretending that just preaching at people will fix it, either. We have to actually change the conditions of opportunity for these young people...

...These are things we have to do...There worth a pound of cure. Have more programs like this one. Give these kids a chance to have something to say yes to, not just telling them what they have to say no to; and a chance to order their lives and to fill themselves from the inside out. A lot of these programs don't deal with people from the inside out. That's the only way you can really change people's lives.

Remarks at the Robert Wood Johnson Hospital, New Brunswick, NJ, October 8, 1993.

...Another part of the crime bill gives states funds to establish innovative programs for kids when they get in trouble before they do shoot somebody to try to get them back into the mainstream of life. After all, a lot of these young people who get in terrible trouble are not really bad people, they have no structure, no order, they cannot imagine the future. There are no rules that bind them internally to the things the rest of us take for granted and we've got to try to get as many of them back as we can before they do something terrible which will require us to put them away for a long time.

Remarks During 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...

A: ...Let me tell you what I think we can do together. First of all, we've got to strengthen our law enforcement forces...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 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...

Remarks to the U.S. Conference of Mayors, January 28, 1994.

...This administration does favor stronger punishment when it's appropriate. I do believe in the three strikes and you're out concept for violent criminals...But I think every one of us know, if you've ever walked the streets -- really walked the streets -- of a crime-infested area; have ever really talked to the people who live there; who ever really focused on the fact that most people in the highest crime areas of America still obey the law, get up every day and go to work, try to raise their kids, try to the very best they can. What they really want is safety in the first place, which means that we have to follow strategies that can also prevent crime and we have to bring hope back to those places. We have to support the families and rebuild the communities and give people work.

Remarks to the Peace Officers Academy, London, OH, 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, we want a drug strategy that gets hard-core drug users who cause most of the drug-related crimes off the streets, out of crime, into treatment. Second, we want a tough, smart crime bill that puts 100,000 more police officers on the street and violent criminals behind bars. Third, we want to use every resource at our disposal to fight crimes and drugs from public schools to public housing. Fourth, we want to give our young people something to say yes to, by putting hope and opportunity back in their lives. And finally, we want to challenge every American to work with you, the law enforcement community, as partners, to put the values of work and family and community back at the center of the lives of our young people before it is too late for them.

...We need to...make our schools gun-free, drug-free and violence-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...

...We have got to make the schools safe. 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. There's a lot of schools in America today where there is nothing for these kids to do anymore, where all the tough financial problems have found their way into just taking out things that would give the kids something they can do.

I've said this many times, but if you think about it, all of us are part of gangs; we just need to be in good gangs. We all have a need to be a part of something. A local police force is a gang; you're on a bowling team it's a gang. Right? Your church is a group of people who think like you do. I mean, people are social animals, they have to be part of something, and we have to do that.

And the final thing I want to say is there's lots of evidence that young people can be taught to find ways that are non-violent to resolve their conflicts and their frustrations. They can do that. We have run across at least one school in the last year that had a wonderfully successful program for reducing violence, and it had to be suspended after a year because someone had given them \$3,000 to bring in someone to run the program, and they didn't continue the gift. We ought to be able to build that in. If we know you've got kids coming out of difficult circumstances, every school that needs to do it should have someone who is trained who can teach kids how to find non-violent ways to deal with their frustrations and resolve their conflicts...

Radio Address to the Nation, April 9, 1994.

The crime bill I have proposed to the Congress is both tough and smart...It will help us to lock the revolving door that swings too freely on serious criminals, and give young people a chance to avoid a life of crime...

...Preventing violence from occurring in the first place is also an important part of our crime bill. It encourages young people to stay off the streets, offering employment opportunities, after-school activities and good role models who teach strong values. These boot camps and other similar operations will give us a chance to send first-time offenders to a disciplinary setting who might otherwise go free. But they'll also give these young people a second chance to avoid a lifetime of trouble, a chance to learn new discipline and how to behave responsibly.

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.

Remarks to Mayor and Law Enforcement Officials on South Lawn, April 14, 1994.

...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.

So I would ask you as you go to the Hill today, if you believe that, as every law enforcement official I've ever spoken with does, tell the Congress that prevention is an important part of this.

On Monday at the Justice Department, a young man from Boston named Eddie Cutanda stood up and said he used to hate the police. Pretty brave kid. There were about 500 police officers there when he said it. And he said he used to hate the police, because he used to run the streets with his friends. And he got away from gangs and drugs, thanks to a community policing program, and the kind of after-school activity that the officers were able to bring to the young people of Boston -- a prevention program that worked, that made this

young man and his friends go from hating the police to loving the police, and had him standing up in the Justice Department with the Attorney General and the President of the United States, saying, we are not part of a lost generation; we want to have a life and a better future.

There are all kinds of prevention strategies in this bill including the opportunity for some of our communities to offer larger numbers of jobs to teenagers who are today out of work, just to test to see whether that will lower the crime rate dramatically. We will be able to experiment with a lot of different things as well, as building on what works in community after community.

Remarks in MTV's "Enough is Enough" Forum on Violence, April 19, 1994.

Q Mr. President, my name is Brock Leonard and I'm 18 years old. The crime bill's a great first step in the fight against crime and violence. But what plans are you trying to implement that's going to stop the violence before it starts -- in homes and neighborhoods where kids grow up thinking violence is the only way to solve problems?

THE PRESIDENT: Perhaps the best thing about this crime bill from that point of view is that this is the first crime bill in my lifetime that -- as far as I know, anyway -- that has a huge amount of money allocated to crime prevention; to programs that work in the neighborhoods. For example, before and after school programs; programs to keep young people active; programs to give young people jobs in the summertime or after school; programs to give people something to say yes to, not just tell them something to say no to.

There's also a huge amount of money in this crime bill for drug and alcohol education and prevention, as well as treatment. And there's some money in there that can be -- for example, suppose in your community you've got an innovative project that you want to try. Under this crime bill, the states and the localities will be able to have the flexibility to try some things that they know work and expand them.

One other thing I want to say -- just put a plug in because it hadn't come up yet -- I believe that a lot of the violence that happens among young people your age and younger, where people just pull out knives or guns and shoot each other because they've been fighting over something -- I think people can be educated out of that. There's a lot of evidence that you can teach young people who grow up in tough environments that there are other ways to solve their problems other than shooting or cutting up each other or beating each other. And there's some money in this crime bill to do that in schools all across this country. I also think that's very, very important.

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MS. SOREN: Today we've heard a lot of frustrating talk about how criminals are getting off too easy in this country sometimes, and that tougher punishments might deter crime. But we've also heard from many in our audience who think that we should focus on programs and education that would prevent people from preventing crimes in the first place.

By a show of hands, how many of you think that government's priority should be -- if you had to choose one -- prevention.

All right. How many are for punishment?

MS. STEWART: Somewhat overwhelming for prevention in the room, President Clinton. Are you surprised by that at all?

THE PRESIDENT: No, because I think a lot of young people know others who have been to prison and haven't been deterred, and because I think the problem seems so overwhelming. People know that you've got to change behavior, you have to change people from the inside out. You have to change community by community, school by school.

My own belief is that we shouldn't make a choice, because the two things can work together. You can be tough and you can be compassionate. You can be oriented toward prevention, but when somebody does something really horrible, you just can't walk away from it. You can't. So I think you have to do both.

But one thing I'd like to say to all of you who are here -- there is a limit to what the government can do unless people are working at the grass-roots level. And everyone of you, if you really care about this, could make a contribution to making the problem better. Is there an organization in your school? Is there an organization in your community? If you believe in prevention, are you doing something to try to touch somebody else? Because most people have to be rescued one at a time, just the way they get lost one at a time. And there will never be enough police officers, there will never be enough government workers to do this. So I would just urge you -- we had one young lady from Baltimore there who said she was going to work on setting up a community center.

I think that there are things that you can do to give people something to say yes to that will make this prevention strategy work. And all the crime bill funds are basically just designed to give you the right -- you and people like you all over America -- to get together with people who care about this and do something about it in school after school and neighborhood after neighborhood.

Remarks at the Fraternal Order of Police Peace Officers Memorial, May 15, 1994.

..And we recognize, too, something that Congress will be called upon to grapple with as we finish this crime bill. And that is that we must invest in prevention and use law enforcement officials in the work of prevention.

Law enforcement officials tend to be much more supportive than many politicians in the work of keeping young people away from crime in the first place, because people in law enforcement know how some tender, smart, intelligent act to a young child may head off a whole life of crime and another tragedy one or two or five or 10 or even 15 years down the road. And I thank the law enforcement community for their leadership to keep prevention a part of our efforts to make America a safer place.

I also want to thank all of you who personally give your time to that. I'll never forget the first time my daughter came home from school and talked to me about her DARE officer in her fifth grade class. And I'll never forget in that year how I learned more about that man and his work and his family than I did about anything else going on in the school. Do not ever think that you don't have a big impact on the young people of this country when they see you in the uniform, standing up for what's right and showing that you care for them. There are so many kids in this country in so much trouble. They need you, and you can make a difference.

Radio Address to the Nation, June 18, 1994.

...But providing more police and tougher punishment isn't enough. 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.

Those on the front lines of crime -- our police officers -- have witnessed first-hand the explosion in youth crime and violence. And they know this is true. A coalition representing more than half a million law enforcement officers nationwide has just written to me and said, "We support the inclusion in the crime bill of substantial funds for prevention programs. They can help make a difference."

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. We can only do it if we keep the prevention component of the crime bill.

Radio Address to the Nation, July 18, 1994.

In the past, Congress has been stymied by an either-or debate over the false choice between tougher punishment or smarter prevention. One of the first things I noticed during the presidential campaign was that every place I went Americans -- and police officers, especially -- rejected that argument. Our citizens want criminals to be punished. They want young people, particularly in our poorest communities, also to have something to say yes to, to turn away from a life of crime.

The crime bill before Congress does both. It provides tough punishments for violent criminals...But it also provides about \$8 billion for effective prevention programs, like the Youth Employment and Skills Program that will give youth in high-crime areas a chance to learn skills on the job; midnight basketball programs; after-school programs; summer jobs programs -- things that our young people can do to avoid getting into trouble.

Press Conference Following House Vote on Crime Bill Rule, August 11, 1994.

Q: Mr. President, on the issue of the specific complaints that the opposition made, that there was too much money -- pork, if you will -- they claim on crime prevention and that the ban on 19 kinds of assault weapons -- are you prepared to compromise on those two points, the crime prevention programs and the gun control, in order to get the more prisons, the 100,000 police, and everything else you want?

THE PRESIDENT: First of all, I believe that all of these elements can pass, and I believe that they will. Let's wait and see what they have to say. There were -- let me say again --there were 11 votes, Republican votes, for this rule today. There were 38 Republican votes for the assault weapons ban. There were 65 Republican votes for the crime bill with about the same dollars' worth of prevention programs we had. So I don't see how, when we're spending two-thirds of the money in this bill on prisons, police and punishment, we can possibly walk away when we've got the toughest punishment that any federal bill ever had -- three strikes and you're out, tougher penalties for serious offenders, tougher penalties for serious juvenile offenders -- how we can walk away from the prevention programs when the police have told us that that's what we have to do.

Remarks to the Nat. Assoc. of Police Organizations, Minneapolis, MN, August 12, 1994.

When I ran for this office, and when I went to Washington, I had dreams that many said were naive. I really dreamed that we could govern in Washington the way most mayors and governors do; that somehow we would be able to go beyond the labels that colored our view of the past, beyond Republican and Democrat and liberal and conservative, and whether you were for punishment and prevention in this case.

Those old left-right deals, they make great headlines, but they often don't do anything to solve people's problems. They're great in 30-second ads, throwing those rhetorical bombs over the wall at your opponent, but they don't keep any kids alive, or help any families to get through the day. And we're in a whole new era in which everything in the world is changing, and we cannot afford to be bound by the categories of the past.

The thing I like so much about this crime bill --Mayor Giuliani's right -- if he sat down alone and wrote it, it wouldn't be just like it is. If I sat down alone and wrote it, it wouldn't be just like it is. But the thing that's so good about it is that it rejects all those false choices that the politics of the past always tries to impose on ordinary people in our complicated lives. It says, no more false choices, let's do what common sense dictates.

And the reason it does is that this bill was largely the handiwork of people in law enforcement. We never had a bill before that was endorsed by every major law enforcement group in the entire United States. So it puts 100,000 police on the street. It says three strikes and you're out is the law of the land, and makes available more funds for prisons to house serious offenders. It bans handgun ownership for juveniles and bans assault weapons that gangs and thugs use to outgun the police. But it also protects 650 specifically named hunting and sporting weapons, something the American people too often are not told.

It imposes tougher penalties for violent crimes, all right. There is a death penalty for killing an officer of the law in the line of duty. But it also has the prevention funds in there. You heard these people in law enforcement talking about it. It makes my blood boil when I hear people talking about pork. Because, you see, I have seen the eyes of schoolchildren after the DARE officer has talked to them.

I remember when the DARE program came into my child's elementary school and how it affected the way she looked at the whole issue of drugs and her personal responsibility, and how it affected all those kids who never had a daddy at home to say this is right, or this is wrong, who didn't have a job in the home to say, this is the future you can have.

Who are we trying to kid with all of this rhetoric? Talk to people like us, who have been to the funerals of police officers gunned down in the line of duty, and I dare you to find one person who knows anything about this, who's not for tougher punishment and more prevention.

Radio Address to the Nation, August 27, 1994.

Good morning. This has been an historic week for the American people. After six years of talking about crime, members of Congress in both houses from both parties overcame their partisan divisions and the false choices of the past to pass the toughest attack on crime in history.

...The crime bill answers the call of police officers everywhere to do more to prevent crime from happening in the first place. It will help to steer young people away from gangs and drugs by helping them learn right from wrong and giving them something to say yes to, as well as something to say no to.

Radio Address to the Nation, September 10, 1994.

By now, nearly all of us know the story of Robert Sandifer, known as "Yummy" to his friends. He was first arrested when he was eight years old. A couple of weeks ago, when he was only 11, he became a suspect in the gang shooting of an innocent girl named Shavon Dean. Several days later, that boy died himself in what Chicago police say was yet another gang-related killing.

The number of gang homicides has nearly tripled since 1980 in Robert and Shavon's hometown. And all across America, too many decent people have felt the anguish of losing a child to the meanness of the streets. At younger and younger ages, boys and girls are turning to gangs and to guns.

For a child without an involved family, a gang offers a feeling of belonging. For a young person without options for tomorrow, a gang offers a sense of purpose. For anyone born in a home barred and chained off from danger, life on the streets seems like a taste of freedom they've never known.

But America knows how to use its freedom better than that. We see it every day in big cities and small towns as Americans do come together to take up their responsibilities, and to put the spirit of community to work. And I believe we have many opportunities right now to do just that, and to turn around the scourge of violence in the lives of our children. Much of that work begins with what each of us can do as caring Americans.

Today I'll sign a proclamation designating next week as National Gang Violence Prevention Week. I'm asking Americans to address this profound problem, each of them in their hometowns, to save a generation of our children. Every parent, every teacher, every person who has the chance to influence children must force a change in the lives of our kids. We have to show them we love them, and we have to teach them discipline and responsibility. Robert Sandifer's grandmother despaired at his funeral because she said, "I couldn't reach you." We must keep doing everything we can to reach those children. And we must help them respect the law and keep them safe.

Next week I'll sign into law the historic Crime Bill that will be a tough, but smart tool in every community's 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. It bans 19 assault weapons and goes a long way toward keeping the guns out of the hands of our children. 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.

Finally, we have to show our children before they enter gangs that they already belong to a community larger than themselves in which they can feel important and serve a larger purpose. On Monday here at the White House and at sites all across America, we'll kick off AmeriCorps, our national service effort.

AmeriCorps is America at its best -- people rolling up their sleeves and assuming responsibility to make our country better. At a time when so many of our people feel alienated or alone, the 20,000 new members of AmeriCorps will work closely with neighbors and fellow citizens all across this country to make our communities places where children can grow up to realize their God-given potential. They'll help make schools safe in Los Angeles, tutor second graders from Kentucky, repair neighborhoods in Philadelphia. Instead of just talking about problems, they'll be solving them. AmeriCorps will call upon the best of a generation to reclaim what has always been best about America.

Remarks at the Signing of the Crime Bill, September 13, 1994.

The American people have been waiting a long time for this day. In the last 25 years, half a million Americans have been killed by other Americans. For 25 years, crime has been a hot political issue, used too often to divide us while the system makes excuses for not punishing criminals and doing the job, instead of being used to unite us to prevent crime, punish criminals, and restore a sense of safety and security to the American people...

...We will cut the federal work force...to its lowest level in 30 years, and take all that money to pay for this crime bill... The savings will be used to put 100,000 police officers on the street, a 20 percent increase. It will be used to build prisons to keep 100,000 violent criminals off the street. It will be used to give our young people something to say yes to, places where they can go after school where they are safe, where they can do constructive things that will help them to build their lives, where teachers replace gang leaders as role models. All of these things should and will be done.

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.

Here in Washington there is more that we can do. Today I am naming Vice President Gore -- whose reinventing government report first proposed the cuts in the bureaucracy that will pay for this bill -- to head the President's Prevention Council. I want him to work with every department to make this a coherent and cost-effective effort to give communities the tools they need to prevent crime from occurring in the first place.

Remarks at NAPO Top Cop Awards Dinner, October 14, 1994.

...And let me just say to all of you, you mustn't give up. The truth is, we're making progress in this fight. And we're fighting against big, deep, sweeping trends. For 30 years or more, America's neighborhoods have been growing more violent as families have broken down and community institutions have broken down and traditional avenues of opportunity and education and work have broken down and the vacuum has been filled by guns and gangs and drugs and violence. This has been happening a very long time. But we are actually learning things that we can do about it, things that people in uniform can do not only in punishment but in prevention, things that community leaders can do. And there is city after city after city, town after town after town in this country where the crime rate is going down.

Remarks to the Inter. Assoc. of Chiefs of Police, Albuquerque, NM, October 17, 1994.

We also know that even as overall crime rates drop, the rate of random violence among young people, people under the age of 18, is going up dramatically in sickening ways that we have all seen again in recent days...

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...

I was in Detroit the other day doing an editorial board meeting, and The Detroit Free Press had done a program with children in the area and had taken letters from children. And a little girl named Porsha, nine years old, wrote me a letter and said, I just want you to make me feel safer. I don't feel safe.

Many of you saw the reports that I gave when we were debating the crime bill about that nine-year-old boy in New Orleans who wrote me a letter saying, can't you make me feel safe? And we was killed on the street in a random shooting just a few days after he wrote me. A 10-year-old son of a member of my administration, a young man brought up in a well-to-do home, goes to good schools, and lives in a beautiful neighborhood, wrote me a wonderful letter the day after the Crime Bill passed -- a 10-year-old boy saying, I know you think that I wouldn't be afraid of this, but every time my friends and I go downtown to a movie, I am afraid I will be shot before I get home. And I feel so much better now that this Crime Bill has passed.

These are the voices of the children of America across racial and income and regional lines, telling us that we have to do better. That is what this is about. Well, we are doing better, but there's more to be done...

...You now have the tools to deal with this problem. But you've got a whole country out there full of people who have to help. Parents have to recognize that the real war on crime begins at home. If the first responsibility of government is to provide law and order, the first responsibility of parents is to teach right from wrong.

We've got to have more folks turning off the TV and knowing where their kids are, and spending time reading and doing homework, and accepting personal responsibility. And we've got to have more folks helping them, like those wonderful police officers in the D.A.R.E. programs all across America.

Kids are going to look up to somebody, and it's up to the adults in this country to decide who they're going to look up to. What do you think about those two kids, 10 and 11 in Chicago that threw that five-year-old boy out the window? A five-year-old kid, who knew right from wrong, lost his life at the age of five because he wouldn't steal candy, because he knew right from wrong -- and his brother, only three years older, knew right

from wrong and he wouldn't steal candy, either -- trying desperately to save his little brother's life.

Who did the other two kids look up to? Who did they come in contact with who could have taught them right from wrong and didn't? Who did they come in contact with who taught them wrong? What about that little kid that was set on fire? Burned over 85 percent of his body; 3 years old, not even big enough to do anything wrong. Who taught those children right from wrong?

You know, we see all these stories about these kids doing these things, and then we see that they apparently feel no remorse. At that age in their development, it is a question of where they got the message. Where did it occur to them to hang somebody out of a window in a high rise? How do they learn to pick up a gun? Where do they know that a fast buck today is better than 10 years or 12 years or 16 years of hard work and school to make something of yourself? These kids are looking up to somebody. Who are they going to look up to? How are they going to learn this? We can hire 5 million police officers, and if we keep losing the battle for what these kids think is right and wrong, we're going to be in a lot of trouble.

I know we grown-ups sometimes -- we're too negative sometimes -- we're too cynical sometimes. A good Catholic friend of mine and I the other day were having a theological discussion and he said, you can never get discouraged, Bill, because the only truly unforgivable sin is despair. That's why I preach hope all the time.

...And we need not be worried about that if we just roll up our sleeves and face our challenges and go on. But what we must be worried about is wave upon wave upon wave of these little children, who don't have somebody both good and strong to look up to. Who are so vulnerable that their hearts can be turned to stone by the time they're 10 or 11 years old. And when there is a good one -- a 5-year-old kid in difficult circumstances, blooming like a flower in the desert, knowing that it's wrong to steal candy. He actually has his life at risk.

That's why all of you wanted these prevention programs. But I am telling you, you've got to go home and you've got to say, okay, I'll wear my DARE uniform, I'll do my part, but every last citizen in this country has got to do more than look at you and demand that you do something about crime. We have got to teach our children and lift them up.

Interview with Black Entertainment Television, November 2, 1994.

Q. ...Many people suggest that the crime bill was all well and good, but it wasn't remedy-based.

...On the crime bill, if you'll remember -- all the big battles on the crime bill were on the prevention programs, on the positive programs, where the Democrats stuck up for them and the Republicans attacked them viciously and for pure political benefit. Some of those prevention programs had been sponsored and put into the bill by Republican Members of Congress. And then as soon as we got close to the election, they turned like a dog in the

night on that bill and started talking about how it was just a pork bill and just a giveaway and how midnight basketball was terrible. They did that. It was the Democrats that stood for the prevention programs, for giving our kids something to say yes to, for some remedy-based solutions, to use your phrase, in that crime bill -- again showing that it makes a big difference who is in and who is not. That crime bill gives communities the tools to make a difference in young people's lives, if they will use it...

...Now, in the crime bill, one of the things we did which I am proud of is we made church groups and community groups eligible to get that prevention money so that they can go out and do the right things. There's not a lot of Federal rules and regulations.

We also made, in our national service program, community groups eligible to get young people to work in national service. We pay them, and then -- we pay most of the costs -- and then we pay them a college scholarship; we give them whatever they'd get doing the GI bill. So we're trying to do some things that specifically give more opportunity to young people out there.

Remarks at the Democratic Leadership Council Gala, December 6, 1994.

...And we still have to implement that crime bill, folks. A hundred thousand police means that cities will get an average -- and small towns and rural areas -- of 20 percent more police. We know if they're deployed properly, that it will lower the crime rate. Community policing, a DLC idea; we've been advocating it for years. And we believe in the prevention programs; read our record. They don't. We're right. The police are on our side. Let's fight to save those prevention programs. Let's get those police in place. Let's have the tougher punishment. If they have more ideas on crime, let's have at it. But let's not stop implementing the crime bill until we lower the crime rate and make streets safe for American families and their children again. And don't forget that we passed it.

Remarks in Announcement of Top Cop, December 19, 1995.

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...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.

...So the last thing that I'd like to say is that if community policing is more than a deployment of police officers, and is really a philosophy of law enforcement, it is two words: police and community. That means that neighbors have to help neighbors; parents have to raise kids; that schools have to do things they didn't used to have to do. But if we do this together, then this community policing can be the banner of a safety America. And if we can lower the crime rate again, and make people feel safer on their streets, in their homes, and in their schools, we will begin to see this country coming together as a community again, we will begin to see people believing in our country again, we will begin to see people willing to make sacrifices for the common good again.

State of the Union Address, January 24, 1995.

There may be other things we can do to be tougher on crime, to be smarter with crime, to help to lower that rate first. Well, if there are, let's talk about them, and let's do them. But let's not go back on the things that we did last year that we know work, that we know work because the local law enforcement officers tell us that we did the right thing, because local community leaders who have worked for years and years to lower the crime rate tell us that they work. Let's look at the experience of our cities and our rural areas where the crime rate has gone down and ask the people who did it how they did it. And if what we did last year supports the decline in the crime rate -- and I am convinced that it does -- let us not go back on it. Let's stick with it, implement it. We've got 4 more hard years of work to do to do that.

Remarks to the U.S. Conference of Mayors, January 27, 1995.

Finally, let me say some things about the crime bill. I very much hope that we will be able to work through, in this session of Congress, a good faith carrying forward of the crime bill that was passed last year. It became unfortunately embroiled in politics; you know that better than I do. And I think you also know that the prevention programs that were passed were programs that were recommended to us in the strongest possible terms not only by mayors, not only by community leaders but by the leaders of the law enforcement community and that a lot of those prevention programs that were later labeled as pork were cosponsored, the first time they came up, by people who later said they were pork.

Well, all that's behind us now, and the only thing that matters now is, what is the best thing for the people of this country?

...Now, the crime bills now being considered in Congress have some things that I think may be superficially appealing but need to be thought through. If you scrap the \$ 8.8 billion cops initiative, as some suggest, and replace it with a \$ 10 billion block grant which also has to include prevention programs, the good news is you'll have a block grant. The bad news is there'll be a lot less money in it than was provided for.

Now, to make matters worse, some have suggested that the \$ 10 billion block grant to fund police and prevention could only be funded if we first fund \$ 10 billion in new prisons. So that's a decision that some would make against the unanimous advice of every police

officer in the country who has testified. So that -- if we make that decision, that would be like people saying, "We don't care what lowers crime; we don't care what makes people safer; we don't care what people in law enforcement who vote Republican and Democrat say. This is what we're going to do. It will make us feel better, and we can claim that it was the best thing to do."

We should not do that. This ought not to become a political issue. That crime bill had a balance of police and prevention and prisons. We shouldn't take all the prevention money away through the back door and put it into prisons. And we shouldn't say that the prisons are more important than the police and the prevention. I had no objection to getting into the business of helping States with their prison construction, even though it was totally unprecedented, but there is no evidence that that is the way to lower the crime rate. The American people want to be safer at night; they want their kids to be safer on the streets and at school. And we ought to be driven by what is best for the American people.

Remarks to Mayor's Youth Council, Boston, MA, January 31, 1995.

[A participant stated that many after-school programs to keep children away from drugs and gangs were oriented toward boys rather than girls and asked about planned support for these programs.]

Well, most of those decisions have to be made by the local school districts and the local communities. What we do is to try to provide the funds, like, for example, in the crime bill, one of the more controversial parts of the crime bill, were the funds that Congress voted for and that I supported to provide cities, for example, monies that they could use in after-school programs and other preventive programs, to try to give young people something positive to do.

The content of those programs, exactly whether there are enough programs for girls and they're as good and fair as the ones for boys and all that, all those are things that you have to work out here. So my answer to you is, that's what this youth council's for. You should -- if the city controls the programs, talk to city about it. If there are local groups who make the decision, but they don't work for the mayor, call them into your council and ask them to come testify. Tell them what you don't like about the program.

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 and penalties 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.

Good morning. I always like to hear from young people across our country. After all, they're at the heart of our efforts to build America up, to face the demands and the challenges of the 21st century. The responsibility of my generation is to leave those young people a better world, and to make sure that they're prepared to succeed in that world.

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 and she lives in America's heartland, she's a recovering drug addict. She's been drug-free for two years now, but she still sees other children going down the road to drug abuse, and she's very worried.

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's all right to use drugs, that they're not really dangerous. But they're wrong. Too often, they're dead wrong.

Now, 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 standards 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 off. I know that.

But we here in Washington have a responsibility, too. All of you know there's a big debate going on in Washington now about what the role of the government ought to be. The Republican Contract says we should cut just about everything to pay for big tax cuts that go mostly to upper income people. Well, I think we should cut government. We have. There are over 150,000 fewer people working here than there were when I took office. I think we ought to reduce the burden of unnecessary regulation, and we are.

But I think we need a government that's lean and not mean, one that offers opportunity and challenges people to be more responsible; one that's a partner in increasing opportunity, empowering people to make the most of their own lives, and providing more security for our people. The fight against drugs and the fight for safe schools does all of 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 the warning signs of drug use. All of this is a very good and 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.

CRIME BILL PREVENTION RELATED PROGRAMS WITH FY95 FUNDING

- **The Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Program** -- to put 100,000 police officers on the streets and otherwise promote and expand community policing. Competitive grants will allow states and communities to hire and train new police officers. Many grant awards have already been announced. 17,000 new officers have been funded since last fall. \$1.3 billion appropriated.
- **The President's Crime Prevention Council** -- to coordinate the administration of federal crime prevention programs, catalog prevention programs, assist communities and community-based organizations seeking information about these programs, and develop services for program integration and grant simplification. The Council has been staffed since mid-February. \$1.5 million appropriated.
- **The Violence Against Women Act** -- to develop and strengthen law enforcement strategies to combat violent crimes against women and to improve victims' services. Proposed regulations published in the Federal Register on December 28, 1994. Final regulations and formula grant application kit will be distributed to states in late March. \$26 million appropriated.
- **Community Schools and Family and Community Endeavor Schools (FACES) Program** -- to bring together community-based organizations and schools in communities with high poverty rates, violent crime, and significant juvenile delinquency to prevent the involvement of children and youth in violent crime and other negative behaviors and to support their positive and healthy development. A joint program announcement was published in the Federal Register on March 6, 1995. \$36.9 million appropriated.
- **Drug Courts** -- to fund state and local drug courts that provide service, treatment and continuing judicial supervision for non-violent offenders with rehabilitation potential. Proposed regulations published in the Federal Register January 26, 1995. Application information has been approved and will be disseminated in March. \$29 million appropriated.
- **National Domestic Violence Hotline** -- to provide crisis counseling and assistance and referral services to victims of domestic violence and their children, families, and friends through a 24 hour National Domestic Violence Hotline. The announcement was published in the Federal Register on March 6, 1995, and will be awarded in the late Spring. \$1 million appropriated.
- **Gang Resistance and Training (GREAT) Project** -- to implement school-based programs designed to resist emerging or existing gang activity. Instructed by uniformed police officers, children will learn to set goals, develop self esteem and respect, resist negative peer pressure and peacefully resolve conflict. Grants have been distributed to cities. \$16 million appropriated.
- **Boot Camps** -- to construct, develop, expand or improve correctional facilities, including boot camps and other alternative correctional facilities. Funds will be provided to state and local governments for planning, development and construction costs. Interim final regulations published in the Federal Register on December 7, 1994. Guidelines/Application dissemination began March 1, 1995. \$24.5 million appropriated.

CRIME BILL PREVENTION RELATED PROGRAMS WITH FY96 FUNDING

- **Battered Women's Shelters** -- \$325 million authorized for FY 1996-2000 for battered women's shelters and other domestic violence prevention strategies.
- **Capital Improvements to Prevent Crime in Public Parks** -- \$15 million authorized to increase safety in urban parks and recreation areas.
- **Education and Prevention to Reduce Sexual Assaults Against Women** -- \$205 million authorized for FY 1996-2000 to fund efforts to increase awareness about or help prevent sexual assault.
- **Crime Prevention Block Grants Program** -- \$377 million authorized for FY 1996-2000 to fund units of local government for crime prevention, intervention and treatment initiatives.
- **Delinquent and At-Risk Youth** -- program will provide \$36 million during FY 1996-2000 to public and private non-profit organizations to support the development and operation of projects that provide residential services to at-risk youth.
- **Model Intensive Grant Program** -- \$625.5 million authorized for the U.S. Attorney General to establish model crime prevention programs in 15 chronic high-crime areas.
- **Residential Substance Abuse Treatment** -- will provide funds to states to develop and implement residential substance abuse treatment programs in state and local correctional facilities. \$270 million is authorized for FY 1996-2000.
- **Urban Recreation for At-Risk Youth** -- \$4.5 million is authorized for FY 1996-2000 for at-risk youth recreation grants in neighborhood and communities with a high prevalence of crime.
- **Local Partnership Act** -- a revenue sharing program to support education, substance abuse treatment and job programs to prevent crime. \$1.62 billion is authorized for FY 1996-2000.
- **Education and Prevention Grants to Reduce Sexual Abuse of Runaway, Homeless, and Street Youth** -- will provide funds to non-profit agencies for street-based outreach and education and referral for runaway, homeless, and street youth who have been subjected to or are at risk of being subjected to sexual abuse. \$30 million is authorized for FY 1996-1998.
- **Youth Education and Domestic Violence** -- to select, implement, and evaluate four model programs for the education of young people about domestic violence and violence among intimate partners. \$400,000 is authorized for FY 1996.
- **Demonstration Grants for Community Partnerships** -- to fund projects in local communities that develop a coordinated community plan for intervention in and prevention of domestic violence. \$10 million is authorized for FY 1996-1997.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 15, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT NATIONAL POLICE OFFICERS MEMORIAL SERVICE

Capitol Hill

10:22 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you so much, Dewey Stokes, not only for that very fine introduction, but for the 13 years that the Fraternal Order of the Police has sponsored this National Police Officers Memorial Service, and for your many terms as leader of this distinguished organization.

Thank you, Karen Lippe, for your service. It's an honor for me to be here with so many of our distinguished federal law enforcement officials, including Chief Gary Albrecht, the chief of the Capitol Police; John Magaw, the Director of the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Bureau, formerly the director of the United States Secret Service, and once a member of the FOP as a trooper in Ohio --a person who's given his entire life to law enforcement.

I'd like to say a special word of thanks, too, to our Attorney General for bringing to the national government a real understanding of what it's like to be involved in the world of law enforcement at the grass roots level -- where the crimes are committed, where the violence is greatest against our law enforcement officials, where so much of our work needs to be done.

My fellow Americans, you know better than anyone else for every name that is added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, there's a face, a family, and a human tragedy.

Three months ago in Columbus, Ohio, I met the widow and the precinct sergeant of police officer Chris Klites, who was shot to death on duty after he stopped a suspicious car. He had married just a month before he was killed. This morning I met the families of police officer Stephen Faulkner of Kansas City; and I had met Mrs. Faulkner

earlier at a health care forum. I saw her two fine sons today. And Deputy Sherriff Norman Tony Silva of Denver -- I met his wife and his wonderful young son today. Raymond Silva wrote me a letter at age seven, which I still have and which I reread this morning before I came over here. He said in his letter, my dad was 30 years old when he got shot. He used to play games with us and make us laugh. His badge number was H7048. I wish you could know him; he was the best dad ever.

We owe a lot to that young boy. We owe a lot to every spouse, every child, every grandchild, every parent, every uncle, every aunt, every brother, every sister, every friend of all those whom we come here to honor today. We pay tribute not only to those who have died, but to those who have lost them, to the survivors. And we pay tribute to the more than half million law enforcement officers who still go to work every day, not knowing for sure if that day they will be required to make the ultimate sacrifice.

I hope all of you today who come here with your personal grief bear also a continuing pride in the work that your loved ones did. I hope those of you who come to honor others will not flinch in your pride and will continue to pray for the safety of those who serve.

Today, I would say that, more than anything else, we ought to rededicate ourselves to becoming a country worthy of the heroes we come here to honor. Every day, law enforcement officers take the oath to uphold the law and defend citizens. Fear is a constant companion; still, law enforcement officers go out every day wearing the badge and the uniform that symbolize that commitment.

These are -- these commitments, in a way, acts of faith that most Americans, most of the time are going to do what is right and deserve to be protected, deserve to be honored, deserve to have the risks of life as we all work together to be the country we ought to be.

That is why I say today as citizens, we are the ones who should be taking a solemn oath to the law enforcement community that this next year we will all work harder to be the country we ought to be. Because if we don't restore the fabric of civilized life in this country, then it is ultimately futile for us and unfair for you to ask you to go out on the streets and risk your lives. We must determine that we are going to become a less violent, less dangerous, less crime-ridden, more hopeful, more unified society. We owe that to the people who we will honor today, to their families and to the future of this country.
(Applause.)

We are clearly moving in the right direction, but sometimes it takes us too long to do the right thing. I appreciate what Dewey said about the Brady Bill. Those of you who understand how it works know it

is already moving to save lives, but it should not have taken seven years and a whole national election to get that done. We are moving in the right direction, but we must move more quickly.

Under the leadership of the Attorney General, the Justice Department has already granted funds to 250 American communities of all sizes to increase their police staff. Much of what we still need to do is in the crime bill now before the Congress to which Dewey Stokes referred.

If we pass it, as we should, it will put another 100,000 police officers on the street in community policing settings, not only working to catch criminals, but to work with each other to make policing safer and to reduce crime before it occurs.

This bill will take assault weapons off the street -- 19 different ones -- making sure that police officers will not be outgunned by criminals armed with weapons of mass destruction. It should not have taken this crime bill five years to get this point; but it has, and now we are moving. Against enormous odds, 216 courageous members of the House of Representatives stood up and were counted in favor of the assault weapons ban. I hope all of you in law enforcement will go home to the districts of those 216 representatives without regard to their political party, and stand up for them because they stood up for you. (Applause.)

Many of them put their political lives on the line in the hopes that it would help you never to have to put your life on the line. That is the sort of attitude we need among the American people today. This bill has tougher penalties, including the "Three Strikes and You're Out" provision. We recognize that there should be capital punishment for people who kill law enforcement officials in the line of duty. And we recognize, too, something -- (applause) -- that Congress will be called upon to grapple with as we finish this crime bill. And that is that we must invest in prevention and use law enforcement officials in the work of prevention.

Law enforcement officials tend to be much more supportive than many politicians in the work of keeping young people away from crime in the first place, because people in law enforcement know how some tender, smart, intelligent act to a young child may head off a whole life of crime and another tragedy one or two or five or 10 or even 15 years down the road. And I thank the law enforcement community for their leadership to keep prevention a part of our efforts to make America a safer place.

I also want to thank all of you who personally give your time to that. I'll never forget the first time my daughter came home from school and talked to me about her DARE officer in her fifth grade

class. And I'll never forget in that year how I learned more about that man and his work and his family than I did about anything else going on in the school. Do not ever think that you don't have a big impact on the young people of this country when they see you in the uniform, standing up for what's right and showing that you care for them. There are so many kids in this country in so much trouble. They need you, and you can make a difference. (Applause.)

The job of law enforcement is so dangerous today not only because criminals are better armed, but because our society is too often coming apart when it ought to be coming together; because too many of you deal with the wreckage coming from the breakdown of family and work and community. And I think you know that we all have to do something about that.

Just yesterday I saw the tragic story of the young 13-year-old boy here in a community near Washington, D.C., who came from a poor family and had just won a scholarship to a fine school to give him a chance to live a better life. And he was standing, waiting for a bus when he got caught in the crossfire between two gangs --senselessly killed, his whole life taken away just when so much hope was opened up.

There is something profoundly wrong when so many children are out there killing other children with no thought --apparently no understanding -- of the consequences. And I tell you, my fellow Americans, it is still true that the vast majority of us are law-abiding, God-fearing, family-loving, hard-working people. But too many of us are falling between the cracks of life.

And so I say again, today we must dedicate ourselves --all of us -- to making America worthy of the sacrifice of the law enforcement officials who have fallen, and those who still risk their lives every day. I ask today that we say a prayer on this beautiful Sunday for the law enforcement officers and their families who paid the ultimate sacrifice; for our fellow citizens who have been victims of crime and violence; and for those who live halfway in prison, behind locked doors and barred windows; and a prayer, ultimately, that somehow we can change the heart and mind of America. We must change our country so that more of us live up to its best hopes and its ideals.

I am encouraged that we are moving in the right direction. The Brady Bill, the grants to communities for police, the crime bill -- this means America is awakening to this problem. But in the end, it is you -- the people who live in our streets, in our neighborhoods, who work in our communities, who go to our churches on Sunday -- who must help to teach America to keep faith with justice, with our fellow citizens and with our country's proud heritage. The whole future of America is riding on it. We have turned the tide, now we must continue until the work is done.

Thank you all, and God bless you. (Applause.)

END10:36 A.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Columbus, Ohio)

For Immediate ReleaseFebruary 15, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO MEMBERS OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

Ohio Peace Officers Training Academy
London, Ohio

12:25 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you, Ray Skeltor (phonetic), for that introduction and, even more important, for your personal endorsement of community policing. I'm glad to be here with John Lenhardt (phonetic) and Greg Merritt and my longtime friend, Attorney General Lee Fisher. I thank him for what he said and for the work he is doing with all of you here in Ohio with Operation Crackdown and with many other anticrime initiatives.

I thank Senator Glenn and Senator Biden for coming down here. Senator Biden doesn't represent Ohio, except he represents all the law enforcement people in Ohio as the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, and I appreciate him taking a whole day off from this break and coming down and being with Senator Glenn and me and being here with your Congresswoman Deborah Pryce. The three of them will have to vote to produce a crime bill that will deal with the issues I came here to discuss with you today.

I also want to say a special word of appreciation to all the state officials who have come out either here or at the airport, and to Ron Noble, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury who came down with me. He has a lot to do with not only the Secret Service, who are my law enforcement detail -- that's a job in itself from time to time -- but also with the work we're doing to try to stiffen the regulations on gun dealers. I want to say a little more about that in a moment.

And finally, let me thank the leaders of the police associations who are here -- the FOP president Dewey Stokes, from Ohio; the head of the National Association of Police Officers, Bob Scully, who came down with us; and your state FOP president Steve Young. I thank all of them.

I came here today because your work, all of you who are in law enforcement, is probably more important to most Americans today than it has ever been in the whole history of the country. We know what crime and violence is doing to our people. The good news is that they know what it's doing to them and they really want us to do something about it. And maybe for the first time, the American people are willing to do their part, too.

This is a moment of great hope and opportunity for America. Everywhere I go it's what people want to talk to me about. The other day I flew into Shreveport, Louisiana, and the front page of the newspaper had a letter that a teenage girl had written to me. So she came out to meet me at the airport -- this young girl. And her letter said this: "If I could meet the President, I would ask him to make his top priority crime. Crime is so bad I'm afraid to go outside. I really didn't pay attention to crime until someone shot and killed my friend who was one of my church members. My concern is," -- listen to this -- "My concern is I won't have anyone to marry because all the nice young men will have been killed, incarcerated, or in a gang.

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if I could give only one gift to America and the world, it would be no guns, no killing, just peace."

Over the weekend, four people were shot and a little girl was killed in an apartment complex in Bucyrus (phonetic), not too far from here. This morning I met the widow and the father of Officer Chris Klietz of the Columbus Police Department who was killed in the line of duty. I met a 14-year old girl named Sarah Johnson from Cleveland who saw a friend of hers being beaten by three juveniles and two adults, and she ran into the crowd and threw herself on the body of her friend; unfortunately, too late to save his life. Too bad no adults would follow her example -- maybe the child would be living today.

I met a woman named Anne Ross from Dayton, whose life has been threatened repeatedly because she began a program called Ravenwood 2000 that works with police to close crack houses in her neighborhood -- something the attorney general has worked so hard on. I met a man named Jim Johnson, who's from the Driving Park area of East Columbus, who's devoting much of his life now to crime patrols and helping citizens work with police officers to reduce the crime rate.

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. Yesterday was the 65th anniversary of the Saint Valentine's Day Massacre in Chicago, which captured the entire nation's attention. The country was riveted by the Saint Valentine's Day Massacre. Some of you may be old enough to remember it as children; I have seen movies about it. It absolutely galvanized the nation. In 1929, seven people were killed -- that was a massacre in 1929. In most cities today, it's a normal weekend.

What are we going to do about this? Here is what our administration is trying to do. First, we want a drug strategy that gets hard-core drug users who cause most of the drug-related crime off the streets, out of crime and into treatment. Second, we want a tough, smart crime bill that puts 100,000 more police officers on the street and violent criminals behind bars. Third, we want to use every resource at our disposal to fight crime and drugs from public schools to public housing. Fourth, we want to give our young people something to say yes to, by putting hope and opportunity back in their lives. And, finally, we want to challenge every American to work with you, the law enforcement community, as partners; to put the values of work and family and community back at the center of the lives of our young people before it is too late for them.

I care a lot about this problem. The first elected job I ever had was as attorney general of my home state. I was a governor for a dozen years. I know what it means to double the prison capacity of a state, and to sign laws toughening crimes, and to carry out the death penalty, to add to the stock of police officers and try to deal with all the problems that are facing them. I know this is a tough problem. I also know it is a complicated one. It's easy to demagogue, easy to talk about, and quite another thing to do something that will make a fundamental difference in the lives of the people of this country.

You have to help us to do something that is tough, but that is also smart; something that will actually make a difference to every one of you when you get up in the morning and you put on your uniform and you put on your weapon and you go out and put your life on the line -- you need to work with us to make sure that what we do makes a difference to you and to what you're doing; that it's not just another bunch of political speeches that sound good and score 90 percent in the polls, but may not make a difference. You need to make sure we make a difference.

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You have to help us to do something that is tough, but that is also smart; something that will actually make a difference to every one of you when you get up in the morning and you put on your uniform and you put on your weapon and you go out and put your life on the line -- you need to work with us to make sure that what we do makes a difference to you and to what you're doing; that it's not just another bunch of political speeches that sound good and score 90 percent in the polls, but may not make a difference. You need to make sure we make a difference.

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The purpose of all public service -- your work and mine -- should be to get people together and to get something done. That is what we are trying to do here. (Applause.)

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 -- last week 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 Skeltor talked so eloquently about, announced, along with me, our strategy on drug control and drug abuse. It focuses on hard-core drug use because that's the worst part of the problem.

Heavy users can -- 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. But 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. (Applause.)

There are two other things that we have emphasized. First of all, there is a disturbing bit of evidence in this last year that casual drug use among young people is beginning to rise again. And we have to get the message out to them. The only policy to follow is no use. Drugs are dangerous. Drugs are illegal. It cannot become acceptable among young people to use drugs again. We have got to send the message out loud and clear.

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 5th grade I heard her and her classmates give me no less than 10 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.

And finally, we're going to try to alter our policy relating to controlling the supply of drugs coming into this country. We spend a lot of time trying to patrol our borders. We spend a lot of time trying to patrol the high seas. We want to spend more money, more resources and more efforts going after the drug dealers and the drug kingpins in their home countries. They come after us at home; we should go after them at home. (Applause.)

The drug strategy must work with the crime bill. And the most important message I have to say to you again today is we need your help to pass a crime bill that makes a difference.

Last summer I stood with police officers and leaders of police associations, along with Senator Biden as the Chair of the Judiciary Committee and the longtime strongest, most consistent proponent of getting a new crime bill, to propose a comprehensive plan to put more police on the streets, more criminals behind bars, and to do more than we'd ever done before to prevent crime. Just before Thanksgiving, as Lee Fisher said, the Congress passed the Brady Bill, which requires a five-day waiting period before purchasing a handgun so we can check into criminal records.

Meanwhile, in the Senate Senator Biden introduced our anticrime bill, working with the Attorney General and with members in both parties of the Senate. It went through the

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Senate and it provides, among other things, for another 100,000 police officers on the street, for a ban on assault weapons, for an enormous increase in the investment that the federal government makes to the states for alternatives to imprisonment, like boot camps for young people, and more help for states -- it's a big deal in Ohio -- to deal with prison overcrowding and for some other things that I'll talk more about in a minute. It's a very good bill.

In the House, there were important parts of the program which were adopted, but the House has not yet succeeded in passing all the elements of the crime bill so that the Senate and House can then get together, agree on a common bill, pass it and send it to me for signature.

The American people have waited on this bill long enough. It was almost passed -- or a previous version of it -- in 1992, and it didn't pass. This bill needs to be passed, on my desk for signature soon. This is not something we should take all year doing. We should take a few weeks, do it right and send it to the President's desk. (Applause.)

I'll make this commitment -- if Congress will pass the bill soon, I will respond by cutting through the red tape and the bureaucracy in Washington so that within a year 20,000 new police officers are hired and start the training that they need to make our streets safer. (Applause.) We need some clear things in the crime bill that come out of both the Senate and the House.

What's the bottom line? One, we've got to have a stronger police presence, not only to catch criminals, but to prevent crime. The Senate's approved and the House should approve another 100,000 police officers over the next five years. It will be paid for not by new taxes, but through a violent crime trust fund that will pay for the entire crime bill through reductions in the federal bureaucracy -- reductions by attrition. We have proposed to reduce the number of federal employees over the next five years by 252,000. That's a 12-percent reduction. It would make the federal government the smallest it's been in 30 years and take the entire amount of money we get from the savings and put it into fighting crime. I think it's a good swap. (Applause.)

But if we do it, then it's important that the local departments do what Ray Skeltor (phonetic) talked about. We've got to have more police officers on the street; people who know their neighbors and know the children and understand when there are problems, and listen to people when there's a stranger in the neighborhood, and do things that are necessary to keep crime from happening in the first place as well as to catch criminals quicker. We know that works. We know that works.

The Mayor of Houston was recently reelected with 91 percent of the vote. You can't get 91 percent of the people to agree that the sun's coming up tomorrow morning. (Laughter.) Why? Because he put another 655 police officers on the street and in one year -- 15 months -- crime dropped 22 percent and the murder rate dropped 27 percent. Why? Because the police officers did two things -- they got back in touch with the community and they were heavily deployed toward the areas where they knew the biggest problems would be. We can do this. We can do this. We'll provide the people; you have to deploy them properly. But we can do it. (Applause.)

Now, once again, this is an issue where the people may be ahead of Washington. We've got a smaller program that the Attorney General runs that the Congress has provided for us to put more police officers on the street. It's a grant program, and communities of all sizes all across America apply for it. We have given out 100 grants to cities and communities nationwide, including four in Ohio -- to Cleveland, Mansfield, Newark and

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Zenia. Now, that's the good news. The bad news is, we have received applications from 3,000 communities. And instead of making people happy, every time -- because there's so much focus on this at the grass roots -- every time we announce these grants I get 10 calls from mayors saying, I helped you in 1992. I've got a problem. Where's my money? The answer is, your money is in the crime bill. Help us pass it, so we can help all of America and not just a few. (Applause.)

Second, the crime bill stiffens penalties. It does add capital punishment for a number of crimes and some of them are quite appropriate. When someone kills a law enforcement officer in the line of duty, I think the penalty for that ought to be death. There ought to be a deterrent that is clear and unambiguous. (Applause.)

But even more significant perhaps is the concept that is now sweeping America that is known under the slogan, "Three strikes and you're out." And I want to talk about it because I support it. A significant percentage of the violent crimes in this country are done by a very small percentage of the total criminal population. Most criminals are nonviolent -- most criminals who commit violent offenses are not committing life-threatening offenses or rape. We know that. We know that there are a core of people who are predisposed to do things which are horrible, and that is the genesis of the "three strikes and you're out." If people cannot stop doing things that threaten other people's lives, they simply shouldn't be eligible for parole.

Now, the important thing about this is, if we're going to pass it in the Congress we ought to do it right. There should be no partisanship in this, no politics, no posturing. We ought to do what is right for America. We ought to pass a tough, good, clear bill, but we shouldn't litter it up with every offense in the world that the average police officer will tell you in the front end shouldn't be part of it. In other words, we need to draw this properly and right so we can set a standard that says three strikes and you're out, and it means something that every American can agree with.

And then we have to recognize, as all of you know, that most laws -- criminal laws -- are state laws and most criminal law enforcement is done by local police officials; and therefore, we have to hope that what we do in the Congress will set a standard that all other states then across the country will embrace -- so we can identify the relatively small number of people that are wreaking heartbreak and devastation and death and put them behind bars and keep them there. (Applause.)

When we do that we also have to help you with more space for dealing with some of your prison problems. And we are debating what the best way to do about that is. I want to say, on the way down here today, Senator Glenn gave me a speech -- I could tell he'd given it before, but it still was good -- (laughter) -- about the Ohio prison overcrowding problem and how we ought to have nonviolent offenders and less expensive construction.

He said, "You know, when I was a Marine, a quonset hut was good enough for me, and it ought to be good enough for criminals as well." I think that's -- (applause.) Because I was a governor and an attorney general I could write you a book on the cost of building penitentiaries and what's wrong with it, but I won't do that today.

The fourth thing we need to do is to make sure the criminals are not better-armed than police officers. We ought to pass the assault weapons ban. The Senate bill that your other senator who is not here today -- Senator Metzenbaum -- has worked so hard on bans the manufacture, transfer and possession of deadly military-style assault weapons, and large-capacity

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ammunition-feeding devices. These weapons have become the weapons of choice for drug traffickers, street gangs, and paramilitary extremists groups.

Just ask the leaders of the police organizations that are here -- ask Bob Scully and Dewey Stokes what they know about this as a national problem, not just an Ohio problem -- as a national problem. The leaders of the police organizations in this country have told Congress time and time again until they're blue in the face that these weapons cannot be allowed on the street; that it is wrong to send police officers out to fight people who are better armed than they are. This has nothing to do with sportsmanship. (Applause.)

Now, the fifth thing we need to do is to make our schools gun-free, drug-free and violence-free. If kids can't go to school safe, this country cannot move into the 21st century in good shape. (Applause.)

It sounds like a simple thing, but there have been schools in this country where people do bullet drills. There are -- I met at one of my town meetings in California -- this really eloquent young man stood up and said, "My brother and I, we don't want to be in a gang. We don't want to have guns. We don't want to do wrong. We want to stay in schools and make something of ourselves. And we left the school in our neighborhood because it wasn't safe. We went to another school because we thought it was safer, and a nut walked in that school when we were registering, shooting a gun, and shot my brother standing right in front of me to register for school."

There are hundreds of stories like this, all over America. We have got to make the schools safe. 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 to 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 into a lot of these schools. There are a lot of schools in America today where there is nothing for these kids to do anymore, where all the tough financial problems have found their way into just taking out things that would give the kids something they can do.

I've said this many times, but if you think about it, all of us are part of gangs, we just need to be in good gangs. We all have a need to be a part of something. The local police force is a gang. If you're on a bowling team, it's a gang. Right? Your church is a group of people that think like you do. I mean, people are social animals; they have to be part of something. And we have to do that.

And the final thing I want to say is there is lots of evidence that young people can be taught to find ways that are nonviolent to resolve their conflicts and their frustrations. They can do that. We have run across at least one school in the last year that had a wonderfully successful program for reducing violence, and it had to be suspended after a year because someone had given them \$3,000 to bring in someone to run the program and they didn't continue the gift. We ought to be able to build that in.

If we know you've got kids coming out of difficult circumstances, every school that needs to do it should have someone who is trained who can teach kids how to find nonviolent ways to deal with their frustrations and resolve their conflicts. (Applause.)

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And let me say, when I see what has happened in the crime area -- three times as many murders today as in 1960, three times as many violent crimes per police officer as there were 30 years ago, and three times as many births outside marriage -- where there has never been a marriage -- also related to the ultimate crime problem, I realize that a lot of these things are going to require the American people to get together and get something done.

They can't just look at you. They can't just look at me. They can't just look at your members of Congress. We have to look inside, too. Yes, there's a role for the Congress; yes, there's a role for the police. But there's a role for the American people, too. You can't make me believe that we can't take our streets back and give our kids their futures back. And we're going to do our best, starting with the crime bill. We want you to help us.

Thank you and God bless you. (Applause.)

END

12:56 P.M. EST

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Another thing that's in this crime bill that's been a cause for Senator Biden I wanted to mention is that it makes a special effort to prevent crimes of violence against women, who are especially vulnerable to violent crime. This crime bill increases sentences for rape, requires rapists to pay damages to victims, protects women against domestic violence and creates training programs to help judges learn more about this because a lot of judges don't know how to handle these things as well as possible. You haven't read much about this, but this provision dealing with crimes against women I think is one of the more important things in the crime bill over the long run. We have got to be more sensitive to this. (Applause.)

Again let me say, finally, we have to do more to prevent crime. There have got to be more things done that provide alternatives for kids. This crime bill has summer youth activities, recreation programs in high-crime areas and after-school programs. We need to do more on that.

This year the National Service Program that I worked so hard to start has 3,000 young people going out all across America in their communities to work on trying to give young people something to do that will prevent crime; a summer of safety in service to America. I'm very proud of it; we need more of that all across the country.

Now, let me say, I know the crime bill won't solve all the problems, but it will make a beginning. Our HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros, have a Safe Homes initiative in public housing projects. The Treasury Secretary is tightening up on federal licensing of firearms dealers. There are more gun dealers in America than there are people running filling stations -- or something I know more about -- people who own McDonald's. (Laughter.) You laugh about it, but that's stunning, isn't it? It's stunning. And we have to do something about it.

We are doing what we can to try to deal with it. We also recognize that crime is highest in areas where families are weakest, communities are weakest and where there are the fewest jobs. We know that. We know that a lot of these problems move in, almost pulled in by the vacuum created by the breakdown of family, community and work. And we have some strategies designed to encourage the business community in this country to invest in putting people back to work in these areas where chronic unemployment is so high. (Applause.)

America, out of its generosity, has spent a lot of your money in the last 10 to 15 years trying to get American businesses to invest in the Caribbean, to invest in the developing world, to give people a chance to grow in the idea that it was good for our long-term self-interest; that if these people had jobs and incomes, they would buy more American products. In America's cities today and in our devastated rural areas, there are people who would love to buy American products if they had the jobs. We ought to have the same policy for them we do for countries abroad. (Applause.)

The last thing I'd like to say is, we need help. We need you to help us pass the crime bill. But we also need the American people to recognize that you cannot do this alone. The most law-abiding societies are not necessarily those with the biggest police forces; they are those that have the strongest families, the strongest values, the strongest code of conduct against hurting their neighbors. We need help. And every American that is willing to support this crime bill and stand up and shout, hallelujah, when more police officers are hired on the street needs to be not only law-abiding, but law-supporting.

Every American can be part of a crime control unit. Every American can be part of doing something in the neighborhood school to help those kids who don't have parents to teach them right from wrong. Most of them are still real good kids and they're doing the best they can early on, and they need help. Every American can do something to restore these values.

- 6 -

JOSE
Thanks

ammunition-feeding devices. These weapons have become the weapons of choice for drug traffickers, street gangs, and paramilitary extremists groups.

Just ask the leaders of the police organizations that are here -- ask Bob Scully and Dewey Stokes what they know about this as a national problem, not just an Ohio problem -- as a national problem. The leaders of the police organizations in this country have told Congress time and time again until they're blue in the face that these weapons cannot be allowed on the street; that it is wrong to send police officers out to fight people who are better armed than they are. This has nothing to do with sportsmanship. (Applause.)

Now, the fifth thing we need to do is to make our schools gun-free, drug-free and violence-free. If kids can't go to school safe, this country cannot move into the 21st century in good shape. (Applause.)

It sounds like a simple thing, but there have been schools in this country where people do bullet drills. There are -- I met at one of my town meetings in California -- this really eloquent young man stood up and said, "My brother and I, we don't want to be in a gang. We don't want to have guns. We don't want to do wrong. We want to stay in schools and make something of ourselves. And we left the school in our neighborhood because it wasn't safe. We went to another school because we thought it was safer, and a nut walked in that school when we were registering, shooting a gun, and shot my brother standing right in front of me to register for school."

There are hundreds of stories like this, all over America. We have got to make the schools safe. 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 to 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 into a lot of these schools. There are a lot of schools in America today where there is nothing for these kids to do anymore, where all the tough financial problems have found their way into just taking out things that would give the kids something they can do.

I've said this many times, but if you think about it, all of us are part of gangs, we just need to be in good gangs. We all have a need to be a part of something. The local police force is a gang. If you're on a bowling team, it's a gang. Right? Your church is a group of people that think like you do. I mean, people are social animals; they have to be part of something. And we have to do that.

And the final thing I want to say is there is lots of evidence that young people can be taught to find ways that are nonviolent to resolve their conflicts and their frustrations. They can do that. We have run across at least one school in the last year that had a wonderfully successful program for reducing violence, and it had to be suspended after a year because someone had given them \$3,000 to bring in someone to run the program and they didn't continue the gift. We ought to be able to build that in.

If we know you've got kids coming out of difficult circumstances, every school that needs to do it should have someone who is trained who can teach kids how to find nonviolent ways to deal with their frustrations and resolve their conflicts. (Applause.)

- 8 -

And let me say, when I see what has happened in the crime area -- three times as many murders today as in 1960, three times as many violent crimes per police officer as there were 30 years ago, and three times as many births outside marriage -- where there has never been a marriage -- also related to the ultimate crime problem, I realize that a lot of these things are going to require the American people to get together and get something done.

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Thank you and God bless you. (Applause.)

END

12:56 P.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 1, 1993

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN SWEARING-IN CEREMONY FOR
FBI DIRECTOR LOUIS FREEH

FBI Building
Washington, D.C.

10:16 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, General Reno, for that fine introduction and for your exemplary work. I want to thank, as the Attorney General did, Floyd Clark for his distinguished work over a lifetime for the FBI and his work as the Acting Director.

Also, I think bound to thank Judge Freeh's family, his wife, his children, his parents who are here, for their willingness to support him and for the work they did to make him what he is today.

Finally, let me say by way of introduction, I am profoundly honored to be here in the presence today of the person Judge Freeh picked to swear him in -- Judge Frank Johnson. To those of us who grew up in the South, Frank Johnson was a symbol of respect for law, the determination to live by it, and the belief that all of us who live in this country without regard to the color of our skin are entitled to a fair shot at life's brass ring. And I thank you for being here today, Judge. (Applause.)

I am also honored to be here today among the thousands of brave men and women who make up our FBI -- people who continue to be our elite force in the fight against crime. You should know that I have special respect for FBI agents. When I was governor of my state, a former agent served as my Chief of Staff and other former agents served in my administration.

Today we come to celebrate the elevation of a genuine law enforcement legend, Judge Louis Freeh, to take the reins of this great agency. It is a new day for the FBI.

Judge Freeh has agreed to take on a difficult task, but no job is more important. And I want to thank the leaders of the Congress on a bipartisan basis, beginning with Senators Biden and Hatch and Mitchell and Dole, for their historic and rapid move to confirm Judge Freeh virtually as soon as I nominated him.

The FBI's mandate is broad. its reach is sweeping. Its 24,000 employees track down violators of civil rights, people who defraud the health care system, those who run drugs ultimately into the veins of our children. The FBI scientists and technicians perform feats of investigative wizardry that can find wrong-doers through a fragment of a fingerprint or a shard of a bomb. Its agents

show commonly that bravery is uncommon everywhere but the FBI, the armed forces and a few other places in our country.

There are many heroes that do their work in the ordinary course of business -- people like Special Agent Daniel Miller of Minneapolis, who subdued an armed bank robber by hand to ensure that no one else got hurt. Special Agent Neil Moran of New York, who was severely injured when he used his car to block a suspect's getaway vehicle rather than risk wounding his colleagues with colleagues with gunfire. People like the 45 others who received agency medals over the past three years. All of you have served well, and America is justly proud of you.

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 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.

The FBI has always worked at the cutting edge of law enforcement technology. Today, the scientists and technicians are exploring new frontiers, pioneering the use of DNA analysis to ferret out the guilty and to protect the innocent.

And in the interest of justice and effectiveness, the agency has begun to open its doors to full equality for minorities and for women. We must do more, and we will.

Now, amid this swirl of change, a new era at the FBI is about to begin. The FBI has passed through some troubled times, but I believe those times are over. The men and women who work day and night to protect the public never let us down. And now, a vigorous new director is going to lead the FBI into the next century so that the men and women who work for the FBI will be led and not let down.

In a few moments, Judge Freeh will take the oath of office. He is, as has been widely chronicled and now is as widely known by his fellow Americans, a brilliant investigator, a tough prosecutor, a born leader. He has the unique combination of experience, courage and prudent judgment that I believe the directorship of the FBI demands. A career as the scourge of drug-runners and terrorists, tempered by his service as a federal judge in my judgment makes him the ideal director of the FBI. He does have, as the Attorney General said, both humanity and humility to go with experience and brilliance and toughness and judgment.

Even those who serve with him respect him and also notice these qualities. I must say, I have been overwhelmed by the

outpouring of support for Judge Freeh, and I have to say -- I have to tell you one example which may surprise even the biggest supporters of the judge. One fellow wrote in and told us that he'd had a lot of experience with the criminal justice system. I'd like to paraphrase the letter we received -- the judge received.

He said, "Earlier thi As we move forward to the year 2000 we need to keep an open mind on the remarkable strengths, as well as some of the failings of our past. The FBI must always serve the course of justice by upholding the Constitution and the rule of law. Yet our operations and methodologies must be constantly subject to review and renewal. As we prepare to deal with the application of vast and complex new technologies to our work, we need also to keep in mind our basic mission, a lawful investigation of matters within our jurisdiction and the proper gathering and use of information.

This essential work takes place primarily in our field offices and on the streets of America. It must, therefore, be the purpose of this headquarters to support and guide the basic mission.

Do we require more than eight percent of our agent force at headquarters when parts of the country are virtual war zones? If we're accumulating the right information and expertise to have an impact on crime, are we also utilizing and distributing it in the best way? Are we following the legal requirements of protecting confidential information and doing enough to guard against the kind of leaks which destroy investigations and lives?

We should be measuring our progress and diversifying by substantive changes in our leadership, career advancement, and recruitment programs. Is our administrative advancement system designed to identify and to promote our best leaders as well as managers? Do we have an inspection system that correctly evaluates whether we're doing the most significant cases in the field in the best possible way? We have to be concerned about serving the law enforcement needs of our varied communities and not focus simply on the last time the oil was changed in the Bureau car.

To answer these questions and carry out my new responsibilities, I will need the help of every person in the Bureau and everyone in the extended FBI family. And we should all remember that to do this important job well and effectively, we must have the support and love of our families, which deserve extraordinary credit for making the sacrifices that enable us to function. And I want to thank all of them this morning for those sacrifices.

In closing, I want to tell you how honored I am to serve with you, and how proud I am of the FBI. Your job requires immense sacrifice, dedication, and what's known as grace under pressure. It's a high-risk job belied by your bravery. More often than not, it's a thankless job. And yet I cannot think of a more critical and satisfying thing to do for your country. I salute you today.

I can make only one certain promise to all who work for the FBI and to the American people: I will do the best I can. And that means I will resist any effort from any source to impair the integrity of the FBI. I'll hold you only to the same standards to which I hold myself. Meanwhile, I can't forget where I came from or what a street agent does for a living. And I can't forget the dangers and frustrations which you face on a daily basis.

All of us in the FBI, no matter what our jobs, must be absolutely honest and fair in everything we do. We must carry out the responsibilities given to us by the President, the Attorney General and the Congress. We must effectively and fairly enforce the law. We must be beyond reproach in our own hiring, promotion and diversity programs.

We must make certain that we care about and protect everyone in this country to the best of our ability, including those who now feel most helpless, frightened and neglected. I also want to thank Floyd Clark for the leadership and counsel which he has shown, and I look forward and am delighted that he will remain here as my deputy.

I look forward to working with the Attorney General, the Congress and the President in the days to come.

Thank you very much, and may God bless you all.
(Applause.)

END

10:44 A.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

December 19, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN ANNOUNCEMENT OF TOP COP

Great Hall
The Justice Department

2:28 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Chief Brann, for your remarks and your commitment. We're delighted to have you and your fine family here and on board.

Chief Sanders, thank you for your remarks and for your work. To General Reno and to Director and former Chief Brown, and Deputy Attorney General, the Associate Attorney General; to the members of Congress who are here, and the mayors, and other leaders of people who will benefit from this work that is being done. This is a very happy day for the people of the United States.

I ran for President because I wanted to restore the American Dream and bring this country together as we move into the 21st century. And there were three sort of slogans that, from time to time, I used to try to capture what I thought we ought to be about. One was "Putting people first," restore the values of middle-class America. The other was, "Don't stop thinking about tomorrow," which basically means we're hurtling into the future at a rapid rate and we better prepare for it. The third was the idea that we needed a covenant in this country, not just a deal but a covenant -- a solid agreement that we would attempt in the government to provide more opportunity, but that the citizens of America would assume more personal responsibility for themselves, their families; and then, in the process we would build the American community again.

We can't do any of that if the people of this country feel afraid on their streets, in their homes and in their schools. And we are taking a stand against that. But we're also doing it in a way that reenforces our commitment to thinking about the future and the need for people to assume more personal responsibility -- all of us.

When I had the honor of addressing the nation last Thursday night, and I was able to outline the Middle Class Bill of Rights, which will be at the center of our agenda when the Congress comes back -- to give people the opportunity to invest in their children's education, in the raising of their children, in savings so that the money will be there if it's needed for health care or caring for a parent or preparing for future education -- I said that we were going to do that not by increasing the government deficit or raising taxes, but by reducing the size of government, by paying for it.

The deficit of this country quadrupled in the 12 years before I became President, and I want you to think about this when you make out your income tax check in April: 28 cents of every dollar you pay to us next April will go to pay for the interest run up on the debt accumulated between 1981 and January of 1993.

So, today, the Vice President and I announced some dramatic changes in reductions in the federal government, cutting

MORE

yesterday's government so we could invest in tomorrow's community empowerment, through the Middle Class Bill of Rights. But the first example of doing that is what we're here to celebrate today -- the crime bill. Cut and invest.

We did not raise the deficit a penny to pay for the crime bill. We did not raise taxes a penny to pay for the crime bill. The Congress supported a reduction in the federal government to its smallest size in 30 years so that we could put these 100,000 police on the street. That is an example of what the government should be doing to exercise its responsibility to give people at the community level and law enforcement and the local leaders the power they need to move forward.

I'd like to say that I'm very proud of everything that was in that crime bill. I'm proud of the 100,000 police. I'm proud of the punishment and the prevention. I believe in three strikes and you're out, and I believe in trying to keep kids from making the first strike. And I think most law enforcement people do, as well. And I believe that those of you who live and work in our communities, know best what your problems are, and can best solve them.

One of the things that I learned as a governor for a dozen years is that we really do need national leadership in many areas, but when it comes to deciding exactly how to solve problems, and how to seize opportunities, there's very little I can do in Washington, D.C. that will solve the problems that Chief Sanders deals with in San Diego, except to give him the tools to do the job. That is the ultimate decision that the Congress made in the crime bill.

I want to say a special words of thanks to Chief Brann for agreeing to come all the way across the country to the most regularly condemned city in America -- Washington, D.C. -- to do this job. He was selected in part because he believed in community policing. And you heard that today.

One of the new ideas that I came across as I travel the country was this whole idea of community policing, not just as a device for patrolling the streets, but as the Chief said, as a philosophy of law enforcement. And it makes so much sense. You've already heard that we have now put about 10,000 of our 100,000 police officers in process to be on the street. And we're going to keep going until it's all done.

Today we have over 600 jurisdictions in our country who are going to get police officers: over 300 in Chicago; almost 50 in San Diego -- that's not why the chief came here to brag on this, though; he really believes in it. Almost 100 in Detroit; nearly 80 in Baltimore; over 150 in Philadelphia.

Not long ago, I received a letter jointly signed by the mayor and the police chief of Odessa, Texas. That was one of the first cities to receive community policing money from the crime bill. They told me that since they began to institute aggressive community policing, serious crimes have dropped 43 percent -- fewer murders; fewer rapes; fewer robberies; fewer assaults. I say this to make this point: One of the things that I saw happening out in America when this crime bill was being debated in Congress is that the American people one day would wake up and they would cheer the Congress for trying to deal with crime. And then someone would raise a question about this effort or that effort or the other effort, and their cynicism would rise up because they said, oh, the crime rate has been going up for 30 years and it's terrible and it's never going to get any better and nobody can do anything about it.

That is wrong. The crime rate can go down, just as it came up. And we are committed to taking it down. Ultimately, the purpose of the crime bill is to give people at the grass roots the power to lower the crime rate; not to hire more police, to have fewer

crimes. That is the purpose of what we are doing. And it can happen. It's happened in Odessa, Texas. It's happened in a lot of big cities around this country. It can happen all over America.

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. (Applause.)

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. (Applause.)

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. (Applause.)

I think all of you know that there's one thing the skeptics said during the crime bill debate that was right. It wasn't an argument to vote against the crime bill, but it was true. We can pass all these laws, and come up with all this money and all these prohibitions, but if we don't implement it right at the grass-roots level, the crime rate won't go down. That is true. We could have 50 crime bills and a million police officers, and if the American people don't join in the fight, the crime rate won't go down.

So the last thing that I'd like to say is that if community policing is more than a deployment of police officers, and is really a philosophy of law enforcement, it is two words: police and community. That means that neighbors have to help neighbors; parents have to raise kids; that schools have to do things they didn't used to have to do. But if we do this together, then this community policing can be the banner of a safety America. And if we can lower the crime rate again, and make people feel safer on their streets, in their homes, and in their schools, we will begin to see this country coming together as a community again, we will begin to see people believing in our country again, we will begin to see people willing to make sacrifices for the common good again.

For all that all of you have done to that end, I thank you very much. (Applause.)

END

2:40 P.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 24, 1993

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN MEETING WITH NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS

The Indian Treaty Room

1:43 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: First, let me welcome you here. And this is our replay from the time we got weathered out in March. And I'm glad you could all come back. I want to thank you for the work you do and for the support that you gave to me last year when I was attempting to become President and for the support you have given so many of our initiatives in the last five months.

I have been busily at work for the last several days working with the United States Senate in our attempt to pass our economic plan, which will reduce the national deficit by \$500 billion and provide some significant incentives to turn this economic around, including keeping interest rates down, which is critical to our future. We've had a dramatic increase in the number of ordinary Americans -- I imagine, including some people in this room who have, for example, refinance their homes in the last five or six months because we've got interest rates at a 20-year low, 130,000 new construction jobs in the economy, 755,000 jobs overall. It is critical that we pass this. And that's what we're primarily involved in today, as I'm sure you understand.

I also asked the Congress to adopt a modified bill for making a down payment on our investment package, which they did, which included, as I'm sure you know, some \$200 million for communities to hire police officers. That is a down payment on the campaign commitment I made to empower our communities to hire another 100,000 police officers over the next four years -- to go to more community policing; to provide for safer streets; and to support you in the work you're doing.

I also want to tell you that we have been working -- the Attorney General and I, have been working hard for the last several weeks with interested members of Congress to bring up a crime bill this year. Sadly, it did not pass last year, for all kinds of reasons. That crime bill is still to be finally defined, but I can assure you it will include the Brady bill; it will include a provision for boot camps as alternative punishment for first-time nonviolent offenders; it will include a continuing effort to hire more police officers on our streets and to expand community policing.

I welcome the ideas, the expertise and the advice of all of you in putting this bill together and in pushing it through the Congress. It will be a high priority for the administration. And I expect it to begin soon.

We can't really revive the whole fabric of our economy until we put the society back together in the places where it's broken. One of the things that we're attempting to do in this economic bill is to finally test the proposition of whether the private sector can revitalize the most distressed areas of our big cities or our small towns and rural areas with an empowerment zone concept that would offer real big incentives for people to go into a lot of the meanest streets in this country and invest their money to put people to work, to start businesses, to try to make those place come alive again in positive ways.

We also, as all of you know, are committed to doing the things that we've been talking about. I think it's worth, just closing, with the thought that there are a lot of people in this country who 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 of 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 in the 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 others issues. And I assure you that I welcome your input into all of them.

I think I'd like to close just by saying a special word of appreciation to the Justice Department and the FBI, to the United States Attorney, and to the New York City Police Department, for the work that they have done in making the arrests that broke up a terrorist gang in New York. It was a very impressive piece of work and a real tribute to the local folks and to the cooperation that the federal government and the local people had. And I thank them for that, and thank you. (Applause.)

Now, the Attorney General and I are here. We're going to answer your questions. But first we're going to answer a few from the press.

Q Mr. President, can I follow up --

Q To follow up on that, do you support a federal law for the death penalty for terrorists? And can you tell us how and exactly when you found out about this plot?

THE PRESIDENT: First of all, I support the crime bill. I supported the crime bill last year which expanded the death penalty

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 11, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

The Justice Department
Washington, DC

12:36 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Officer Williams. If you just keep doing your work, and I'll be glad to carry your notebook anytime. (Laughter.) There are a lot of days when you do more than we do up here anyway. (Laughter.)

I want to thank you, and thank you, Earline Williams, for your commitment and your remarkable statement and the work you and your husband are doing. Thank you, Eddie, for reminding us that we have an obligation to fight for your future. Thanks for bringing your friends, and thank you, officers for giving him something to look up to and believe in. (Applause.)

I want to welcome the new officers from Albany, Georgia, and thank them for their commitment to law enforcement and thank all the other people in law enforcement who are here at the local and state and federal level.

In the last congressional recess, like the Attorney General, I got out around the country and listened to people; talked to them about a lot of issues. And I found that all over the country in every region, among people from all walks of life, all races and income groups and political parties, there is a deep concern about the tide of crime and violence in this country and about the underlying strains on our fabric as a common people that these have imposed.

We have simply got to do everything we can to move forward in helping the American people to reduce crime; to say no to those things which they ought to say no to; and to give our young people some more things to say yes to.

I came here today to emphasize how terribly important it is that the House of Representatives consider the crime bill immediately on its return. The Speaker has agreed to do that. I then want the Senate and the House to get together and resolve their differences and send me the crime bill as soon as possible. The American people have waited long enough. We don't need to waste their time with frivolous or political amendments and delay. We don't need to take months on a task that can be done in a couple of weeks. If the bill is on my desk in weeks, I will only take a minute to sign it. And then the American people will begin to have the tools they need to solve so many of their problems.

This has been a good year for us in this country. Our deficit is going down, and our economy is going up. Twice as many private sector jobs have come into this economy in the last 14 months than in the previous four years. After seven years of gridlock, the Brady Bill became the Brady Law, and is already working to stop felons and fugitives from purchasing handguns. And I'm proud that it was passed with the help of America's law enforcement officers.

MORE

But everything that we are trying to do to move this country forward and to bring this country together will be undermined unless we can give the American people a greater sense that they are secure in their homes, on their streets, and in their schools. The number of murders has tripled since 1960, so has the number of crimes per uniformed police officer. Death by gunfire will soon surpass death by car accidents. Almost a third of all of our families have had someone victimized by crime. Today, one in 20 American children carry a weapon to school, and over 150,000 stay home every day because they're afraid of what might happen to them in school.

We know the crime bill cannot solve all these problems. We know many of them will have to be solved by those people who are here today in uniform and people like them, and the friends and neighbors they have, like Mrs. Williams. We know that. We know that unless there are young people like Eddie and his friends who are willing to work and be role models themselves and make something of their own lives, that everything we do here in Washington will be limited. But we know, too, that we have to take the lead. We have to take the initiative. And that we can give people like these people the tools they need to seize control of their lives and make their communities safer and better places to learn, to work and to grow.

The crime bill provides funding for another 100,000 police officers over five years for community policing because it works. It will make a difference. You already heard what Officer Williams said about 12 officers in Albany, Georgia. The Mayor of Houston put 655 more police officers on the beat. In 15 months, crime dropped 22 percent, murders went down 27 percent.

This can be done everywhere. This bill, with community policing will help the police officers of our country not only to catch more criminals and put them behind bars, but to reduce crime and to connect with more young people before it's too late.

I was very moved by what Eddie said about his attitude about the police, because of the work of these two fine police officers. We know that crime can be reduced and that lives can be enhanced. So as the Attorney General said, policing is a big part of this crime bill.

If Congress passes the bill soon to give the American people more police officers, I'll make this commitment to you: I'll cut through the bureaucracy and the red tape in Washington so that within a year 20,000 of these new officers will actually be hired and trained and working to make our streets safer. If they'll send me the bill, we'll cut the red tape. No more politics in Congress; no more red tape in the bureaucracy. Let's give the police to the American people, and let's do it this year. (Applause.)

The second thing this bill is about is punishment. And I want to emphasize, if I might, three things. There's been a great deal of debate, and much honest disagreement about whether we ought to have some sort of three-strikes-and-you're-out bill. I would like to make two points about that, as someone who started my public career as a state attorney general almost two decades ago now. First of all, an overwhelming percentage of the really serious violent crimes are committed by a relatively few people. Even a small percentage of the criminals in our country commit an overwhelming percentage of the really serious violent crimes.

Secondly, this law is designed to be directed, if it's properly drawn, against a narrow class of people -- those who do not commit crimes for which it's already one strike and you're out. Keep in mind, many of our crimes today can get you a life sentence or a very long sentence just by doing it one time. But there are people

that are clearly and demonstrably highly likely to take life or to commit serious, horrible crimes. We know them by their profiles -- who do things which clearly indicate this, and still they can wind up being paroled after relatively modest sentences.

This bill is designed, if properly drawn -- and the Attorney General has done a fine job of working on the bill that is coming through the House -- to be directed against that narrow class of people. I do think those folks, you can say, if you do this three times, we do not think you should be paroled. And I believe it will enable us, for those who think this is too harsh, to create more enlightened attitudes about other people who may be put in prison for too long a period of time, or who may need alternative rehabilitation strategies. But these police officers are out there putting their lives on the line, oftentimes in the face of people who are back on the street that they know are highly likely to do something that is life-threatening.

So respectfully, I dispute those who believe that we can't have a three-strikes-and-you're-out law that is good, that is properly drawn and that makes a difference. We shouldn't let a small percentage of even the criminal population terrorize the country if we can find a way to stop it. And this is our best effort.

The second point I want to make is that this bill does some other things about punishment, too. This bill encourages states and localities to find alternative punishments for first-time nonviolent offenders, for young people -- boot camps or other kinds of community-based programs which may reconnect people to their communities before it is too late, and which will give them a chance not only to be punished but to learn something while they're doing their respective sentences. So this is a smart punishment bill.

The third thing this bill is about is prevention. We know these programs work, too, especially for young people. And I want to say a special word of thanks here to the Attorney General. When I appointed her, I wanted someone who had actual experience on the front lines fighting crime and who understood that you have to be both tough and smart. And her relentless, constant, compassionate but tough-minded advocacy for a sensible prevention strategy is critical to the fact that we now have about a billion dollars in this plan for jobs for young people in high crime neighborhoods and recreation programs and summer programs and opportunities for young people to bond with caring, concerned adults who care about their future. I thank her for that. And that's a very important part of this bill. It will make a huge difference to young people of America. (Applause.)

A big part of that is making the schools safe and drug-free and free of violence again. If our children can't be safe in school and going to and from school, they're going to have a very hard time. After all, a lot of the young people most at risk of being victims of crime as well as at risk of becoming criminals at a young age, live in communities very different from those that most of us grew up in -- communities where the family structure has been weakened; communities where other organizations are weaker than they once were; and communities in which there is almost no work for people to do. When you take work and community and family out of a neighborhood, you create an awful vacuum in which only bad things -- only bad things -- can occur unless someone moves in to fill the vacuum.

Our schools are trying. But we are asking them to do in many of our communities today, we are asking them to do things that no one ever thought the schools could do alone. And we have got to continue to support them through these safe school initiatives and the other prevention plans. So that's what we're trying to do in this crime bill -- more police, more punishment, more prevention.

In this time of budgetary constraints, the very idea that we're about to pass a program that will involve over \$20 billion in new money is an astonishing thing. It's a lot more money for state and local initiatives, but we have to do it. And I am proud of the fact that it is going to be paid for, not with a tax increase, but with the phase-down of the federal government. We are reducing over a five-year period the size of the federal bureaucracy by about 250,000 people. And all the savings are going to go on into a trust fund to pay for this crime bill, so that at the end of five years we will have a federal government that it is small as it was when President Kennedy was in office; and the money saved from that downsizing will be giving our communities a chance and the money saved from that downsizing will be giving our communities a chance to give our kids a future and our people a chance to be safe on the streets. I think that's a pretty good switch, and I appreciate the initiative in doing it. (Applause.)

Let me say again in closing, there is not a moment to lose. People are trying everywhere to do something about this, and everywhere they are being frustrated. The case of the Chicago Housing Authority has been in the news because just a few days ago, a federal district court declared that the Housing Authority's own policy of sweeping their units for guns, for ineligible people living there and for drugs, was unconstitutional. As soon as I heard about that, I asked the Attorney General and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Henry Cisneros, to develop another policy that is constitutional and effective; because I have been to the Chicago housing projects. And I have been in the places where the sweeps occurred, and where the housing units were cleaned up, and where the people who were living in the housing units were hired to work with the police to ride up in the elevator and walk down the stairs and keep the places clean. And I saw children pouring out of housing units -- pouring out -- to run up to the head of the Chicago Housing Authority, Vince Lane, as if he were their saviour because he simply gave them a safe place to live.

So does this administration want to follow the Constitution of the United States? You bet we do. But I can't believe that we can't find a way to have a constitutional search of places that we know are full of victims of crime because they harbor criminals. We are going to find a way to solve this problem.

Thirteen people died in Chicago violently last weekend -- three of them in the Robert Taylor Homes Project. Last night, Secretary Cisneros spent the night in that project, and he called me today from there and we had a conversation about this. He and the Attorney General are working on it. But I say this just to make this point: Those folks living out there in those housing projects, most of them are not criminals, most of them are good people. They are obey the law; they're doing the best they can to raise their children. They deserve -- they deserve our best and our quickest efforts.

So I say to you again in closing -- I thank you for coming here, but we know we're all preaching to the saved today. Tomorrow when the Congress comes back, there are many other things that will claim their attention. I will ask them to think about many other things. You must say, "Pass the crime bill now."

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

END

12:53 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
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For Immediate Release

October 17, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CHIEFS OF POLICE

Albuquerque Convention Center
Albuquerque, New Mexico

11:38 A.M. MDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Chief Daughtry, Chief Whetsel, ladies and gentlemen of the IACP, I am honored to be here. I love the jacket -- (laughter) -- and I love what it stands for. I thank you more than I can say for your help and support in passing the Brady Bill and the Crime Bill.

I'd like to acknowledge in this audience today the presence of some very important people here in the State of New Mexico and throughout our nation. First of all, behind me, the Governor of the state of New Mexico, Governor Bruce King. (Applause.) Bruce and I are the only -- two of the only three people serving in America who were governors in the '70s, the '80s and the '90s. I don't know what that means anymore. (Laughter.) I can barely remember them.

I'm delighted to be here with the two senators from the state of New Mexico, Senator Domenici and Senator Bingaman who are out there. (Applause.) Congressman Steve Schiff, congressman from this district, is here. Thank you, sir. (Applause.) My good friend, Congressman Bill Richardson, who was very active in passing the Crime Bill. Where's Congressman Richardson -- he's here somewhere. Thank you. (Applause.) And, of course, the mayor, Mayor Marty Chavez, who is one of my jogging partners, is here. (Laughter and applause.)

I want to also say that, you know, I think I have more administration members who have been active in this outfit than previous presidents. (Laughter.) Your ex-president, Lee Brown, is now our Drug Czar. Your ex-vice president, Tom Constantine, is now our DEA Administrator. (Applause.) The head of the U.S. Marshal Service, Eduardo Gonzalez, was Tampa Bay Chief and once active in this organization. So I feel at home here.

I think our FBI Director is here -- I want to tell a story on him. Is Louis Freeh here somewhere? Tomorrow -- he's coming tomorrow? It's the first time I've been ahead of him in a long time. (Laughter.)

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? (Laughter.)

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, 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.

I'd like to talk a little today about the Crime Bill and what it means against the background of the crime problem in America. And the state of play, as you know, is very troubling, because the good news is that in many of our cities, the crime rate is actually going down. The Mayor of Odessa, Texas was in town the other day when we handed out the first wave of grants, police grants, under the new Crime Bill only two weeks after the bill was signed, and she said they'd had a drop in the crime rate in excess of 15 percent for three years running because of community policing, because of what law enforcement officers have done. The Mayor of Houston was reelected with 91 percent of the vote after they had over a 20-percent drop in crime in only one year there.

This is happening in many cities and towns throughout the country. On the other hand, we know that a lot of small towns and suburban areas having rising crime because as cities clamp down on crime, a lot of times the criminals just move their base of operation, and they're not as well equipped to deal with it.

We also know that even as overall crime rates drop, the rate of random violence among young people, people under the age of 18, is going up dramatically in sickening ways that we have all seen again in recent days.

The point I want to make about all this is that this is a manifestation of trends that have been developing in our country for quite a long while now. We have had, really, 30 years -- a whole generation and more -- of these trends that have been developing in a lot of the high-crime areas in America -- the breakdown of families and community organizations and neighborhood organizations; the loss of economic opportunity, creating huge social vacuums into which have moved gangs and guns and drugs and crime and violence.

I wanted this Crime Bill to pass very badly because I believed that the national government had a responsibility to help you deal with it. But we have to look at what we can do together within the Crime Bill and then what we have to do beyond the Crime Bill, because we're going to have to change this country from the grass roots up. We're going to have to change the culture that a lot of these kids live in. And you can do it; I can do it; parents can do it; but we're all going to have to do it. And there is clearly something for everybody to do.

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.

Dealing with all this has made an indelible impression on me. And when I became President, I guess I had in that sense more personal experience with the human cost and the human side of crime and law enforcement than a lot of people who have had this job. I was determined to bring an end to six years of political debate in Washington and to pass the Brady Bill, which had been there for seven years, to pass a crime bill, which had been debated for six years -- because I knew that we had some things that we had to do. I am doing my best where I live and where I work to get this country together and to move our country forward again.

I think my mission as President is to keep the American Dream alive and to help make sure Americans can compete and win as we move into this exciting 21st century by making government work for ordinary people and by bringing this economy back, by making us more secure and more prosperous in our relations with the rest of the world.

After 21 months, I can tell you I think that we've made a good start. America's in better shape than it was two years ago. We've got more jobs, low inflation, a much lower deficit. Over 70 percent of the new jobs coming into our economy this year, according to a report just published today, are higher wage jobs; we're moving away from the time when all of our new jobs were low-wage jobs.

We've got a smaller federal government by more than 70,000 already that's doing more for ordinary citizens. The Congress just passed, and I signed a procurement bill which changes the way we spend your money when we buy things, and it'll put an end to the \$500 hammers and the \$50 ash trays. The Vice President kind of has mixed feelings about that; he'll never get to go on David Letterman again now because of that, but it was the right thing to do. (Laughter.)

Russian missiles are no longer pointed at the United States. We've got big increases in trade that are fueling these high-wage jobs, and now America is leading the way to peace and security and democracy, as you've seen in the last few days in the Middle East and Northern Ireland and Eastern Europe and, of course, in Haiti.

But all of us know, I think, that no matter how much economic progress we made, no matter how much progress we make in dealing with trouble spots around the world, there will be a gnawing feeling that all is not right in America until our children feel safe in their schools and on their streets, and Americans feel secure in their homes and at their work.

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.

I was in Detroit the other day doing an editorial board meeting, and The Detroit Free Press had done a program with children in the area and had taken letters from children. And a little girl named Porsha, nine years old, wrote me a letter and said, I just want you to make me feel safer. I don't feel safe.

Many of you saw the reports that I gave when we were debating the crime bill about that nine-year-old boy in New Orleans who wrote me a letter saying, can't you make me feel safe? And we was killed on the street in a random shooting just a few days after he wrote me. A 10-year-old son of a member of my administration, a young man brought up in a well-to-do home,

goes to good schools, and lives in a beautiful neighborhood, wrote me a wonderful letter the day after the Crime Bill passed -- a 10-year-old boy saying, I know you think that I wouldn't be afraid of this, but every time my friends and I go downtown to a movie, I am afraid I will be shot before I get home. And I feel so much better now that this Crime Bill has passed.

These are the voices of the children of America across racial and income and regional lines, telling us that we have to do better. That is what this is about. Well, we are doing better, but there's more to be done. The Brady Bill has made a difference -- all of you know it. There are thousands of people who have already been denied weapons who were not entitled to them, who had a criminal background, who would have gotten them if it hadn't been for the Brady Bill. (Applause.)

And the Crime Bill will make a difference. We have evidence of that. Before the Crime Bill passed last year, I asked Congress to make a down payment on our commitment to put 100,000 more police officers on the street. And the Congress funded another 2,000 police officers. Last week when we gave out the first police grants under the Crime Bill, Chief David Massey from Ocean City, Maryland came with the police officers he'd hired under the first grant. One of them was an ex-linebacker at the University of Maryland -- the sort of person that you just see and you want to ask permission. (Laughter.)

This young man was in a community policing program riding a bicycle in Ocean City. And very soon after he went to work, he caught a serial rapist -- he did, as a community police officer. Now, all the victims that will never be preyed upon by that rapist will never know what they owe to that one young man who is a community police officer. And now we're going to be able to multiply that by 100,000 in every state in this country. (Applause.)

Something else I think that really needs to be pounded home over and over again is that this Crime Bill was fashioned largely by law enforcement officers -- from the punishment programs, to the policing programs, to the prevention programs, it was the law enforcement officers who shaped what was in it. You said we ought to have three strikes and you're out because there were some violent criminals who kept getting paroled because they were lucky enough not to have severe consequences to the victims of their crimes. But what they tried to do was terrible. That's what the purpose of three strikes and you're out was.

You said that too many people were getting out too quick because there wasn't enough prison space, so there's provision for 100,000 more prison cells in this bill. Never been done before. The federal government had never before helped to build prison space for states. You said that we ought to have capital punishment if someone kills a police officer and it's in the bill. (Applause.)

You said it ought to be against the law for a minor to carry a handgun except when supervised by an adult. It's in the bill. You said we should do more for victims of crime. You said we should make a serious assault on the problems faced by women and children -- the problems of domestic violence and neighborhood violence. You said we should do more to make schools safer. You said we should do more to give our kids some prevention programs, some things they could say "yes" to -- places to go, things to do, good things to do. Maybe most important, good people to look up to when they can't find that at home.

When the NRA tried to take the assault weapons ban out of the Crime Bill, you stood firmly in favor of leaving it in -- not because you were against the rights of hunters and sportsmen, but because you knew that there were 650 weapons in the bill specifically protected from any government interference. And to those of you who come from small town and rural areas, you can go home and tell your sportsmen that we are not going to allow the federal government to interfere with the legitimate interest of hunters and sportsmen, but we do not support leaving weapons in the hands of kids, its only purpose is to kill as many people as quickly as they can. (Applause.)

And you said that we ought to have 100,000 more police. Indeed, we probably ought to have more, but that's all we could figure out how to pay for.

For the American now, that's a number that doesn't mean a lot. That's why last week was so important when we had 400 communities coming up and little towns getting one police officer and bigger places getting 25 or 30, because people began to visualize what that means. There are 550,000 police officers in this country. If you add 100,000 and they all go into beat work, if they actually go into working to prevent crime and to catch criminals, it'll be about a 20-percent increase in the presence of police on the street. It will work. It will work. We've had only a 10 percent increase in police officers in the last 30 years, while we've had a 300 percent increase in violent crime. This was a critical component of the Crime Bill.

And today I want to announce two important steps to get those officers on the streets as quickly as possible. And you will have the release from the Justice Department here today supporting that.

First of all, we're going to make it possible for cities with at least 50,000 people to begin hiring officers immediately, by setting aside some money even before the grants are awarded so that you can know what you're going to get and you can start hiring and training now. And the grants will be there when you put the people on the payroll full-time. (Applause.)

Secondly, for cities and towns of fewer than 50,000 people who don't have a lot of people in clerical departments to help you deal with the federal government, we're going to do for you what we did for small businesspeople applying for SBA loans. We're going to give you a one-page application with about eight questions on it, and you can start filling out them out right now, so that nothing will come between America and the new police officers. (Applause.)

I'd like to end today by asking you to reflect on three things. One is a tribute to how the Congress funded this bill. This is a big bill. It was funded not by raising taxes, not by increasing the deficit, but by reducing the size of the federal government by 270,000 over six years, and giving all the money back to local communities to fight crime. That's how it was funded. (Applause.)

I consider that to be a solemn trust with America that we must not breach. And you will have to work every year for the next six years to make sure that we keep that trust.

The second point I want to make is that for most of its life, this Crime Bill enjoyed broad bipartisan support which dissipated at the end of the debate, as all of you know. It became a political football -- first, because there were some who were honestly willing to sacrifice everything in the Crime Bill to beat the assault weapons ban: to give up the police, to give up the prison cells, to give up the capital punishment provisions, to give up the prevention programs, to give up the violence against women section, to give up the victims against crime section -- to give it all up.

Second, there were some who just thought it was important to kill the bill for political reasons. That's all in the past now; it passed. What I want to say to you is, we have got to make this Crime Bill work -- every provision of it --work. We have got to demonstrate to our people that the money is being well-spent. And we have to find a way to reach out at the grass-roots level across political lines. We have to stop this.

We can't tell the American people they've got to change their behavior to change this country if crime is a partisan political issue. The victims of crime are Republicans, Democrats and Independents. The people who put on uniforms every day are Democrats, Republicans and Independents. This is about America and our future. We must never again permit crime to be divisive in a partisan political way, and you can stop it and I want you to do it. (Applause.)

And I have to tell you -- the only thing that I really worry about now in that regard is that in this election season, there are many who are campaigning on a contract with America which cost \$1 trillion -- to balance the budget, to increase defense, to revitalize Star Wars, to give huge tax cuts. And there is no clear notion of how this is going to be paid for. But the only option to pay for it is the way it was paid for before: higher deficits and cuts in everything else -- from Medicare to veterans' benefits, to this Crime Bill.

So I ask you: Start today. Say we've fought too hard for this bill, we won it fair and square, let's not take it away indirectly by adopting a commitment to a budgetary process that will make it utterly impossible to fund the Crime Bill. The lives and the future of the American people, and especially our children, are too important. This must not become a political football. The bill is long, the trust is there, we must fund this Crime Bill. We cannot back away, and you must see that it is done. (Applause.)

The third thing I want to say -- and probably one of the most important things -- is that we have now done a major thing with this Crime Bill, and you will do major things with it. But the people of this country have a job to do here, too. We're not here giving things out to the American people, we're here challenging the American people to take their streets and their schools and their neighborhoods and, indeed, their homes back.

And if all of us go out here and say the right things and do the right things, and we get no help from the rest of America, we'll be back here next year and the year after, and the year after that, bemoaning the same problems. And you know that as well as I do.

You now have the tools to deal with this problem. But you've got a whole country out there full of people who have to help. Parents have to recognize that the real war on crime begins at home. If the first responsibility of government is to provide law and order, the first responsibility of parents is to teach right from wrong. (Applause.)

We've got to have more folks turning off the TV and knowing where their kids are, and spending time reading and doing homework, and accepting personal responsibility. And we've got to have more folks helping them, like those wonderful police officers in the D.A.R.E. programs all across America. (Applause.)

Kids are going to look up to somebody, and it's up to the adults in this country to decide who they're going to look up to. What do you think about those two kids, 10 and 11 in Chicago that threw that five-year-old boy out the window? A five-year-old kid, who knew right from wrong, lost his life at the age of five because he wouldn't steal candy, because he knew right from wrong -- and his brother, only three years older, knew right from wrong and he wouldn't steal candy, either -- trying desperately to save his little brother's life.

Who did the other two kids look up to? Who did they come in contact with who could have taught them right from wrong and didn't? Who did they come in contact with who taught them wrong? What about that little kid that was set on fire? Burned over 85 percent of his body; 3 years old, not even big enough to do anything wrong. Who taught those children right from wrong?

You know, we see all these stories about these kids doing these things, and then we see that they apparently feel no remorse. At that age in their development, it is a question of where they got the message. Where did it occur to them to hang somebody out of a window in a high rise? How do they learn to pick up a gun? Where do they know that a fast buck today is better than 10 years or 12 years or 16 years of hard work and school to make something of yourself? These kids are looking up to somebody. Who are they going to look up to? How are they going to learn this? We can hire 5 million police officers, and if we keep losing the battle for what these kids think is right and wrong, we're going to be in a lot of trouble. (Applause.)

I know we grown-ups sometimes -- we're too negative sometimes -- we're too cynical sometimes. A good Catholic friend of mine and I the other day were having a theological discussion and he said, you can never get discouraged, Bill, because the only truly unforgivable sin is despair. That's why I preach hope all the time.

I am telling you: this country is coming back economically. This country has resources and character and richness and diversity that will open unparalleled opportunities to us in the 21st century. This is a good country. (Applause.)

When the delegation came back from Haiti yesterday, they said that all the Haitian people had these little signs in Creole, painted, and the most popular one said simply, "Thank you, America." They looked at those young men and women we sent down there in uniform and, just by walking around, these young people -- our kids -- they make a statement about what's right and what's wrong; what's good and what's bad; what kind of a person it's worth being -- just by being there and being who they are. And it is thrilling to other people to see the best of this country.

And we need not be worried about that if we just roll up our sleeves and face our challenges and go on. But what we must be worried about is wave upon wave upon wave of these little children, who don't have somebody both good and strong to look up to. Who are so vulnerable that their hearts can be turned to stone by the time they're 10 or 11 years old. And when there is a good one -- a 5-year-old kid in difficult circumstances, blooming like a flower in the desert, knowing that it's wrong to steal candy. He actually has his life at risk.

That's why all of you wanted these prevention programs. But I am telling you, you've got to go home and you've got to say, okay, I'll wear my DARE uniform, I'll do my part, but every last citizen in this country has got to do more than look at you and demand that you do something about crime. We have got to teach our children and lift them up. (Applause.)

Thank you, and God bless you all.

END12:10 P.M. MDT

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

December 19, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN ANNOUNCEMENT OF TOP COP

Great Hall
The Justice Department

2:28 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Chief Brann, for your remarks and your commitment. We're delighted to have you and your fine family here and on board.

Chief Sanders, thank you for your remarks and for your work. To General Reno and to Director and former Chief Brown, and Deputy Attorney General, the Associate Attorney General; to the members of Congress who are here, and the mayors, and other leaders of people who will benefit from this work that is being done. This is a very happy day for the people of the United States.

I ran for President because I wanted to restore the American Dream and bring this country together as we move into the 21st century. And there were three sort of slogans that, from time to time, I used to try to capture what I thought we ought to be about. One was "Putting people first," restore the values of middle-class America. The other was, "Don't stop thinking about tomorrow," which basically means we're hurtling into the future at a rapid rate and we better prepare for it. The third was the idea that we needed a covenant in this country, not just a deal but a covenant -- a solid agreement that we would attempt in the government to provide more opportunity, but that the citizens of America would assume more personal responsibility for themselves, their families; and then, in the process we would build the American community again.

We can't do any of that if the people of this country feel afraid on their streets, in their homes and in their schools. And we are taking a stand against that. But we're also doing it in a way that reenforces our commitment to thinking about the future and the need for people to assume more personal responsibility -- all of us.

When I had the honor of addressing the nation last Thursday night, and I was able to outline the Middle Class Bill of Rights, which will be at the center of our agenda when the Congress comes back -- to give people the opportunity to invest in their children's education, in the raising of their children, in savings so that the money will be there if it's needed for health care or caring for a parent or preparing for future education -- I said that we were going to do that not by increasing the government deficit or raising taxes, but by reducing the size of government, by paying for it.

The deficit of this country quadrupled in the 12 years before I became President, and I want you to think about this when you make out your income tax check in April: 28 cents of every dollar you pay to us next April will go to pay for the interest run up on the debt accumulated between 1981 and January of 1993.

So, today, the Vice President and I announced some dramatic changes in reductions in the federal government, cutting yesterday's government so we could invest in tomorrow's community empowerment, through the Middle Class Bill of Rights. But the first example of doing that is what we're here to celebrate today -- the crime bill. Cut and invest.

We did not raise the deficit a penny to pay for the crime bill. We did not raise taxes a penny to pay for the crime bill. The Congress supported a reduction in the federal government to its smallest size in 30 years so that we could put these 100,000 police on the street. That is an example of what the government should be doing to exercise its responsibility to give people at the community level and law enforcement and the local leaders the power they need to move forward.

I'd like to say that I'm very proud of everything that was in that crime bill. I'm proud of the 100,000 police. I'm proud of the punishment and the prevention. I believe in three strikes and you're out, and I believe in trying to keep kids from making the first strike. And I think most law enforcement people do, as well. And I believe that those of you who live and work in our communities, know best what your problems are, and can best solve them.

One of the things that I learned as a governor for a dozen years is that we really do need national leadership in many areas, but when it comes to deciding exactly how to solve problems, and how to seize opportunities, there's very little I can do in Washington, D.C. that will solve the problems that Chief Sanders deals with in San Diego, except to give him the tools to do the job. That is the ultimate decision that the Congress made in the crime bill.

I want to say a special words of thanks to Chief Brann for agreeing to come all the way across the country to the most regularly condemned city in America -- Washington, D.C. -- to do this job. He was selected in part because he believed in community policing. And you heard that today.

One of the new ideas that I came across as I travel the country was this whole idea of community policing, not just as a device for patrolling the streets, but as the Chief said, as a philosophy of law enforcement. And it makes so much sense. You've already heard that we have now put about 10,000 of our 100,000 police officers in process to be on the street. And we're going to keep going until it's all done.

Today we have over 600 jurisdictions in our country who are going to get police officers: over 300 in Chicago; almost 50 in San Diego -- that's not why the chief came here to brag on this, though; he really believes in it. Almost 100 in Detroit; nearly 80 in Baltimore; over 150 in Philadelphia.

Not long ago, I received a letter jointly signed by the mayor and the police chief of Odessa, Texas. That was one of the first cities to receive community policing money from the crime bill. They told me that since they began to institute aggressive community policing, serious crimes have dropped 43 percent -- fewer murders; fewer rapes; fewer robberies; fewer assaults. I say this to make this point: One of the things that I saw happening out in America when this crime bill was being debated in Congress is that the American people one day would wake up and they would cheer the Congress for trying to deal with crime. And then someone would raise a question about this effort or that effort or the other effort, and their cynicism would rise up because they said, oh, the crime rate has been going up for 30 years and it's terrible and it's never going to get any better and nobody can do anything about it.

That is wrong. The crime rate can go down, just as it came up. And we are committed to taking it down. Ultimately, the purpose of the crime bill is to give people at the grass roots the power to lower the crime rate; not to hire more police, to have fewer crimes. That is the purpose of what we are doing. And it can happen. It's happened in Odessa, Texas. It's happened in a lot of big cities around this country. It can happen all over America.

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. (Applause.)

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. (Applause.)

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. (Applause.)

I think all of you know that there's one thing the skeptics said during the crime bill debate that was right. It wasn't an argument to vote against the crime bill, but it was true. We can pass all these laws, and come up with all this money and all these prohibitions, but if we don't implement it right at the grass-roots level, the crime rate won't go down. That is true. We could have 50 crime bills and a million police officers, and if the American people don't join in the fight, the crime rate won't go down.

So the last thing that I'd like to say is that if community policing is more than a deployment of police officers, and is really a philosophy of law enforcement, it is two words: police and community. That means that neighbors have to help neighbors; parents have to raise kids; that schools have to do things they didn't used to have to do. But if we do this together, then this community policing can be the banner of a safety America. And if we can lower the crime rate again, and make people feel safer on their streets, in their homes, and in their schools, we will begin to see this country coming together as a community again, we will begin to see people believing in our country again, we will begin to see people willing to make sacrifices for the common good again.

For all that all of you have done to that end, I thank you very much. (Applause.)

END

2:40 P.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 13, 1993

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

Judiciary Square

8:40 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Senator DeConcini, Chairman Floyd, President Young, law enforcement officers and survivors of our fallen brothers and sister. America has more than half a million law enforcement officers who serve proudly and bravely. And every day they carry out their sworn duties, risk is a constant companion.

No one knows that better than those of you who are here tonight and your families. But I can say that there are very few Americans who owe more to law enforcement officers than do I. I'm proud to be joined here tonight by three people who have a very important role in the protection of the American people and who have an important role in my administration and my life. I'd like to acknowledge them if I might.

The Director of the United States Secret Service, whose members put their lives on the line for the President every day, Mr. John McGaw. (Applause.) The Director of the Office of National Drug Policy and formerly the Police Chief of the cities of Atlanta, Houston, and New York, Mr. Lee Brown. (Applause.) And Senator DeConcini just mentioned the Attorney General, formerly the Prosecutor of Dade County, Florida, Ms. Janet Reno, who just came in. She's somewhere here. (Applause.) I like introducing these people.

I'd also like to thank very much the survivors from Arkansas who came here with me tonight; as well as the law enforcement officials; in particular, the two members of the Arkansas State Police, who for a dozen years worked with me and protected me and my family and stood up to unbelievable pressures from radical fringe groups, from organized rioters, from serious organized criminal efforts and the day-to-day hazards of law enforcement. I owe them all a great deal and I'm glad they're here tonight.

More than 13,000 law enforcement officials have fallen in the line of duty. This memorial was dedicated to them 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.

Collectively, we call them our Thin Blue Line. That line is nothing less than our buffer against chaos, against the worst impulses of this society. A shield we may not always think about until it is raised in our own defense. The safety of our citizens in their homes, where they work, where they play -- it all depends on that Thin Blue Line.

And so it behooves us all to reinforce that line to make it as strong as we can. Let us be honest with one another. We know

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that nothing we do will remove all risk from law enforcement, but we can take steps that will make the profession safer and make ourselves safer as well. We could do that by passing the Brady Bill. The American people want it, law enforcement officers have called for it for years. (Applause.) It will save lives and it would be a tribute to those we honor here tonight.

We can also do that by increasing the number of law enforcement officers on the street. Just a generation ago there were three officers for every serious crime in this country. Today there are three crimes for every officer. It makes police work more dangerous. It makes it more difficult to implement strategies that work like community policing. It makes society less safe. Let us do more to do more to put police officers on the street and that will be a tribute to those whom we come here to honor tonight. (Applause.)

Last year federal, state and law enforcement officers were killed in substantial numbers, but they say that fewer were killed than at any year since the mid-1960s. Still one is too many. And statistics -- the numbers like 120 people being killed in the line of duty by violent means -- they belie the real human stories.

In my state, a 74-year-old sheriff's deputy was beaten to death -- that's more than an assault on a law enforcement officer; it's an affront to our common humanity. That officer, R.D. Purifoy, was from a little county next to the one where I was born in Arkansas. He was so dedicated that any time day or night for 26 years, he was always there to answer the call. And on the day he died, last November, he was simply trying to settle a domestic quarrel.

Then there was Jerry Stallings, a police officer from Barling, Arkansas, in the western part of my state, whose family is here tonight. He was investigating an auto accident when he was struck by a drunk driver. It should have been a routine investigation, but as every law enforcement officer knows, there's no such thing as a routine investigation.

Tonight we honor these men and their families. We honor all those who have fallen throughout our nation as they carried out their duties to make our lives better and safer. From the officers on the beat and the street, to the patrols on the highways, to the federal agents in all fields. Tonight we light the darkness with the memories and glories of those who died in the service of their neighbors, their communities, and our nation. Their brave souls are among us; they are carried brightly in our hearts in gratitude, in joy, in sorrow, yes, but also in the certainty that God looks after those who give such a full measure of their devotion.

We honor these valiant men and women not for dying because death comes to us all eventually. We honor them for how they died and how they lived. In life they gave us aid when we were helpless, shielded us when we were vulnerable, lifted us when we had fallen, gave us comfort when we were afraid. In rooting out our lawless they preserved our order. They were our fathers and sons, our brothers and sisters, our mothers and daughters. They were our friends.

Their contribution cannot be measured, nor properly honored by their President or any other citizen except to say a simple thank you and to give a prayer to God for their souls. They will be remembered as all of you knew them -- standing tall and ready, the sentinels of our liberty. Let us live in ways that will honor their ultimate contribution to our lives.

Thank you and God bless you all. (Applause.)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 16, 1995

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATORS

Hyatt Regency
Washington, D.C.

2:20 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Jane Campbell, and thank you, Senator Lack, and thank you to the other leaders of the NCSL for meeting me outside. And welcome, all of you, to Washington. I know you just heard from Secretary Reich. He actually -- he hasn't been here? (Laughter.) That gives me something else to make fun of my staff about. (Laughter and applause.) Let me try -- what else does it say? (Laughter.) Maybe I should put my glasses on and it will come out differently. (Laughter.)

Let me say, I am delighted to see all of you. I'm about as happy to see you as you acted like you were to see me. (Laughter.) I loved the legislative process when I was governor, and in Arkansas we had an interesting system. We were all there in our old state capitol, and the legislature was on the third floor and I was on the second floor. And when the legislature was in session I just sort of kept open house. If a legislator showed up, I saw him or her. And we'd have morning planning meetings at 7:30 a.m. every morning, and half the time legislators just wandered in and sit at the administration's planning meeting. And I must say, I often think in the course of working here both for the last two years and for the last two months, if we wouldn't be better off as a country if we worked more like that up here.

Yes, you can clap for that. That's all right. That's a pretty good idea. (Applause.)

I've even met half a dozen of my state legislators since I've been gone from Arkansas who said they missed me, which is something I never thought I'd hear. (Laughter.) Warm my heart.

We have a lot of former legislators in this administration, as I'm sure you know. I see the Deputy Secretary of Education out there, Madeleine Kunin, also the former governor of Vermont; and Arthur DeCoursey of SBA was a state legislator in Massachusetts. Patrick McGowan with the SBA was a state legislator in Maine. Thomas Redder with the SBA was a state legislator in Colorado. All the other employees for the SBA were actually in small business at one time or another. (Laughter.)

Of course, Secretary Pena was as well, and Gary Blumenthal, the Executive Director of the President's Committee on Mental Retardation. So we're interested in what you're going through and in working with you.

I have said many places, but I'd like to have the privilege of repeating it here today, that I ran for this job because I felt the mission of this country at the end of the 20th century was to get us into the next century with the American Dream alive and

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well and with America still the strongest country in the world, the greatest force for peace and freedom and democracy.

Alive and well means that we have to have opportunities for more jobs and higher incomes. Half the American people are living on less money today when you adjust for inflation than they were making 15 years ago. That's one of the reasons a lot of people aren't happy in the recovery. We've got 6.1 million new jobs, and the lowest combined rates of unemployment and inflation in 25 years, but a lot of folks' incomes are not going up. And they feel uncertain, insecure.

I get letters all the time from people I grew up with in Arkansas who are nearing that magic age of 50 talking about the uncertainty they feel about their future, their children. Are they going to be able to educate their children? Are they going to be caught up in some great downsizing move, the other side of this great churning change and all this opportunity that's out there?

The other part of the American Dream is keeping our values alive -- work, family, community -- values you might put under the general heading of "responsibility" so that we can pull back together. So I think we ought to offer more opportunity and more responsibility. I also think to do it here in Washington, we have to have a dramatic change in the way government has worked. And I have been working hard at that for the last two years.

The old view was that there was kind of a one-size-fits-all -- it drove you nuts in the state houses of the country, I'm sure -- that there was a one, single big government solution for every big problem in America. And half the time we told you what to do and didn't give you the money to do it with.

The other view that seems to have a lot of energy around here is that, basically, maybe there's nothing for the federal government to do except to give the problem to you and give you less money to deal with it, and that the idea is that this sense of government would mess up a one-car parade; we just ought to walk away from all these problems.

My view is different from that, and I guess it's forged largely on my 12 years of experience as a governor and the fact that before I got this job I actually used to be able to spend large amount of time talking to real people every day. I don't mean that the people I talk to aren't real people; I mean that mostly the people I talk to have business before the government, or work for the President or in some event that I've set up. I don't get to walk the streets the way I used to and just visit with people in a more informal setting.

My view is that what we need is a government that is very different -- that has less bureaucracy, that is lean but not mean, that operates in a more entrepreneurial fashion, that gives more decision to the state and local governments and to the private sector, but that is an active partner in doing three things: promoting economic opportunities through jobs and incomes, empowering people through education and training to make the most of their own lives, and enhancing the security of our people, both in terms of safe streets and our security around the world.

And that's what I have worked to do so that if you believe that, it means that you have to have a smaller government that is still effective, that does what it's supposed to do well and stops doing things that it shouldn't do, and that works more in partnership with you. Since I have been President, we have now given 26 states waivers from federal rules to enact their own welfare reform proposals, and nine states waivers to do major, major health

care reform -- more states than the previous two administrations combined.

We've also done a lot to try to deregulate certain aspect of the private economy from undue federal oversight. And we did a lot more about that today, and I'll say more about that in a minute. We have reduced the size of the federal payroll by more than 100,000. We've reduced the size of the federal deficit by \$600 billion. We're on our way to the smallest government in Washington since Kennedy was President, and three years of deficit reduction in a row for the first time since Truman was President. We are changing the way things operate around here.

Now that the new Congress is here, we're having a huge debate about what the role of government ought to be. And it can be a very healthy thing indeed. I must tell you, as all of you know, I have real differences, as well as real agreements with this Congress. I have vigorous agreements and vigorous disagreements. I strongly agreed with the bill that applies to Congress the laws Congress imposes on the private sector. I thought it was long overdue and was elated to sign it. I campaigned on it in '92.

We're about to get a bill out of the conference and to my desk which will end unfunded mandates that are unreasonable and sharply reduce the ability of Congress to impose on you and on local governments requirements which we don't give you the money to pay for. And I think that is a very good thing indeed.

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.

Some of these proposals are embodied in the so-called rescission bill which was adopted by the House today. Some of them are embodied in their general budget. What they have in common is, in my view, is they cut too much of people and not enough pork.

The proposal passed today would virtually eliminate the AmeriCorps program, our national service program, which is not a bureaucracy, which many of you have worked with, which, as you know, is helping police on the street, helping people to build houses, helping to fight fires in the West, doing work that wouldn't be done otherwise and letting young people earn money to pay for their education. It is a great grass-roots program. It should not be eliminated.

So as we move into the future and as these bills go to the Senate, we're going to have an interesting debate here. And a lot of it will affect you. I wondered when the unfunded mandate bill passed why it wasn't made immediately effective -- because I'm strong for it. I'm for the line-item veto, too, and I hope we get that up here pretty soon. There's a lot of things Republicans want to do that I am strongly in favor of. But I said to myself, why are we making an unfunded mandates bill immediately effective? And I read that rescission bill and I realized you're going to get some "defunded" mandates.

If you look at some of those cuts to the states, the responsibilities are still on you, but the money is being taken back. So I say to you, what kind of government do we want? We knew we had to cut some money out of the Agriculture Department, just for example. You know, the Agriculture Department got real big. And the best line that came out of the 1992 presidential campaign, I'm

embarrassed to say -- I wish it were mine, but it wasn't -- was Ross Perot's line about the Agriculture Department employee that had to go see a psychiatrist because he lost his farmer. Remember that? I thought it was funnier than you did, apparently. (Laughter.)

But anyway -- so, we knew that we had to cut some money. What did we do? We closed 1,200 offices. What do they do? They propose cuts in the School Lunch Program. They say, well, they're not really cuts in the School Lunch Program. Well, yes, they are.

If this proposal had been law in 1989, this year there would be one million fewer kids getting lunch at school. And a lot of these kids show up at school, and they don't have enough to eat at home. The meals they get at school is the only dad-gum good meal they get all day. There are children going to school in this country that never see a dentist until they are 16, 17, 18 years old. We want them to learn -- everybody rails about the schools. I'm telling you, it's hard for a teacher to teach a poor kid who's hungry.

So I think there's right way to do this and wrong way to do it. And it doesn't have to be a partisan deal. I told you, I'm for a lot of what they're trying to do. We do need to change the way we do business here. But we need to have the ability to bring common sense to bear in judgment, and we need to put our children and our educational system and our future first. We need to keep our eye on what is the mission. The mission to get the country into the 21st century still the strongest country in the world in a place where there's real opportunity.

Today, we had a meeting about regulation. We've got a lot of regulatory legislation here -- freeze all pending regulations for six months or a year or whatever, and a lot of other things. Well, what I've been trying to do is not freeze it, I've been trying to fix it. Today we announced the following things in the regulatory area -- something that I think is very, very important, that should be popular in every state here. We announced some dramatic changes for small business, in the environment and in the area of drugs and medical technology.

We announced first of all, that small businesses who act -- who try to do the right thing but make a mistake, will be given the opportunity not to pay their fine to the government, but to take the money in the fine they would have paid to the government and fix the problem in the first place; and that small businesses who make a mistake, for the first time, can have their fines waived altogether if they have never had a record of bad behavior and who are obviously trying to do the right thing.

We announced today that all government agencies, when it is consistent with the public interest -- that is, public health and well-being -- will cut in half the reporting requirements for small businesses. So whenever possible, if they have to report four times a year, now they can report twice a year. If they have to report twice a year, now they can report once a year. And we think it will make a big difference and so does the Small Business Administration. We are trying to change things.

In the area of the environment we announced today that we would allow small businesses a grace period of six months to correct violations after they've been identified. We found out that a lot of people wouldn't call the government and find out what the law is because they were afraid that somebody would come see them and fine them. So we had a lot of people who were out of compliance because they were literally afraid to ask how to get in compliance.

We're going to cut environmental paperwork by 25 percent, which will save -- get this -- 20 million hours of work per year for the American people. We are going to launch a pilot program

with 50 businesses which will allow companies to reach a pollution reduction goal however they want. And if they can reach it, they can throw out the EPA rule book. Doesn't matter how they reach it, as long as they reach the production goals.

Same thing we tried to do for the schools, by the way, in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. To give you more flexibility -- here are the national goals, you figure out how to meet them -- in the schools, the principals, the teachers. It's a very important policy change.

In the area of drugs and biotechnology, we have decided to stop doing a full-blown and very expensive review every time a biotech company makes a minor and insignificant change in one of its products. We're going to stop requiring very costly assessments on drugs that obviously don't have any impact on the environment. We're going to eliminate 600 pages of regulation. I'll bet you nobody will ever miss them, and it will save this industry, one of our most productive industries, \$500 billion a year.

So this is the sort of thing we're trying to do. It will make a huge difference in the life of this country. But better to fix the problem than just to freeze it in place. Better to do something real than to do something that sounds good, that's maybe causes more harm than good. We don't -- we all want to have water we can drink, and air we can breath, and food we can and a place to work we can feel safe and secure in. We can do this.

Now you have to decide, without regard to your party or your region what you believe our role is, too -- to make a judgment about this debate that's unfolding here. You have to make up your own mind.

You know, I spent, when I was a governor, I bet I spent more time cussing the federal government than most of you do. And since I've been President, I bet I've spent even more time doing it. (Laughter.) But the fact is that this country has benefitted by 25 years of effort to clean the environment up. This country has benefitted by our common efforts to make people secure at work, to make toys safe for our children. This country has benefitted from these efforts, but we have forgotten common sense in a lot of the way we do things. So the trick is to put common sense back into this and reestablish a partnership that makes sense between the national government, those of you at the state level, people at the local level, and most importantly, private citizens, so that what we do makes sense, it achieves common goals and doesn't waste taxpayer money.

That is going to be the great debate here. And to make the judgments, you have to move beyond the rhetoric to the reality of each issue here. Everybody is for cutting government, but I think there's a real difference between closing 1,200 offices and cutting back on food stamps. I think there's a real difference between closing the regional offices at HUD and cutting back on a program for homeless veterans at the Department of Labor. I think there's a difference. I think it matters.

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.

So I believe if we'll work together, check our rhetorical baggage and try to get this country into the 21st century remembering our mission, we can cut a good deal more spending without

cutting our kids and our future. We can absolutely, dramatically reduce the unfair burden of regulation without undermining the quality of our environment or the safety of our lives.

In short, we can do what Americans have always done. We have always been philosophically conservative, pragmatic, operationally progressive people who got the job done and moved the country into the future. That's how we have performed. That's why we're still around after over 200 years. That is the genius of our constitutional system. That's how you pass a budget in your legislature every year.

So, since you're up here in a leadership conference, I would urge you without regard to your party or your region, to urge this course on the Congress. (Applause.) Urge this course on the Congress. You know, I don't need any lectures in the need to cut spending. We reduced the deficit \$600 billion without a lot of help two years ago. And we're going to do it some more. But we cannot walk away from our responsibilities to our children and to our future. We have got to stop a lot of this crazy regulation, but we have got to do it in a way that leaves us not only more prosperous in the short run, but leaves us with a safer and more secure environment and a healthier citizenry over the long run.

We can do this. We don't have to make a bunch of bogus choices. But we've got to act more like most people do at the state level and at the local level. We've got to be committed to solving problems, putting people first, checking the ideological baggage at the door.

I hope you'll help us do that. If you do, we'll help you make America a better place.

Thank you, and God bless you.

END

2:39 P.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 28, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AND OTHER SPEAKERS
AT CRIME BILL EVENT

Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

10:50 A.M. EDT

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Mr. President, I welcome you, Secretary Bentsen and Director Brown, and all of you here to the Department of Justice. We are joined, too, by a number of representatives from the Congressional Conference Committee. You will be meeting them as we go along, but I want to make sure that everybody understands what a remarkable job they have been doing for the citizens of America.

We have here today many distinguished representatives of American law enforcement, including Portland's committed and very dedicated Chief Charles Moose. All of us here today share a common goal, to pass the President's crime bill and end the scourge of crime in America now.

I would like to take a moment to recognize some of the distinguished guests who have joined us here today. There are here today representatives of all the federal law enforcement agencies, indicating the spirit of cooperation that has existed between departments, between agencies. And I am so proud that we are here today together, united in trying to get a crime bill passed that can make a difference for America and make a difference for all the people of America.

But as importantly, or more importantly, I would like to recognize the representatives of the people who are on the front lines, the people who represent state and local law enforcement throughout America: Vic Oboyski, President of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association; Dan Rosenblatt, Executive Director of the International Association of Chiefs of Police; Neal Behan, former chief of the Baltimore County Police Department, representing the major city chiefs; Bud Meeks, Executive Director of the National Sheriffs Association; Bob Scully, Executive Director of the National Association of Police Organizations; Ira Harris, Executive Director of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives; Sam Cabral, Secretary Treasurer of the International Union of Police Associations; Dewey Stokes, President of the Fraternal Order of Police; Chris Sullivan, Legislative Director of the International Brotherhood of Police Officers; Alfred Dean, representing the Police Foundation; First Sergeant John Zeigler of the Maryland State Troopers, representing the National Troopers Coalition; Chuck Wexler, Executive Director of the Police Executive Research Forum.

This indicates how America's law enforcement has been united to get a crime bill passed that can make a significant difference. And we are indebted to you for your extraordinary efforts both here and in your communities that you put your life on the line day in and day out. (Applause.)

MORE

Mr. President, Congress is on the verge of sending to you probably the most important crime-fighting legislation in a generation -- legislation that is so critical to this nation. And we owe so much to Chairman Biden, Chairman Brooks, Congressman Schumer, Senator Metzenbaum -- so many other people, but especially the conferees who have worked so hard in these last two days to try to develop legislation that America can really be proud of.

I know how important this legislation is because I have had the opportunity to travel across this nation to talk to victims and to survivors, to see and hear what crime does to people -- not what the numbers are, but what it is in human terms, in terms of tragic loss. I have talked to citizens who have the courage and commitment to go out into their community and to work together to build a community that can provide a safe and positive future for our children.

I have talked to the children of America who want so much for there to be programs that can make a difference in their lives. I've talked to mayors, chiefs, sheriffs, cops on the beat who want so much to have the resources to make a difference in their community, because they care so much and they are so dedicated.

What America wants is not talk, but a crime bill now -- not a crime bill in form, but a crime bill in real substance; one that provides for community policing, one that locks up the bad guy and keeps him locked up, one that provides youth something to say yes to so that they can say no to the gangs and drugs and violence.

This is a problem not of numbers. It is a problem of people. And when you understand it in human terms, when you look out on this room and think that probably everybody in this room has been touched by crime either by themselves or through a family member, a neighbor, a fellow worker, you understand the dimensions. When you talk to the parents of a young person slain in her room and home; when you talk to a police officer whose partner has been gunned down by assault weapons; when you talk to children whose lives are turned topsy-turvy because they're afraid to walk out of their home; when you go to a church within the sight of this capital where they have buried three young people in one week you understand the human dimensions of crime.

That is the reason it is so important that we get this crime bill passed -- a bill that is balanced, that's thoughtful, that has the substance to back up the promises for 100,000 community police officers on the streets of America where they count, for a ban on assault weapons, for a three strikes and you're out provision that puts the bad guys away and keeps them away; a bill that will provide states the opportunity to house dangerous offenders for longer periods of time so that we can start to make sure they remain in prison; that we keep our schools open and give our children something to say yes to in a positive and strong future.

We're close to ending six years of talk, and we're at the verge -- on the verge of making a difference for America. It's time for us to move on and get this bill passed as soon as possible.

One of the people most instrumental in working with us in the Department of Justice, working with everyone concerned in this whole effort, and a person I'm proud to work with -- I'd like to introduce Dr. Lee Brown. (Applause.)

DR. BROWN. Thank you, Attorney General Reno. Mr. President, I'm very proud to be with you today and see so many of my colleagues and friends in law enforcement.

And to those of you in law enforcement I don't have to tell you, any of you -- you're in the front line of this battle

spending the money in an appropriate balance between law enforcement and prevention.

This is going to help many a Treasury enforcement program by cutting down on the violence in public housing, or cutting down on credit card fraud and tax fraud. It contains an assault weapons ban. It includes provisions that will make it possible to do a better background check on federally licensed gun dealers. It contains a ban on the transfer of handguns to juveniles and suspected stalkers. And on prevention, I look at the ATF's great program where we help instruct local law enforcement agents to teach kids to stay out of gangs or to get themselves out of gangs. And I can't tell you how many thousands of kids have walked away from gangs because of that program. And we're to have money now over the next six years to expand it.

One last thing I want to say. I like this bill because there's a partnership here between state and local officials and federal officials. Treasury sure can't fight this crime alone and certainly the Attorney General's department, the Justice Department, can't do it alone either. Criminals have too many weapons. But we can do it working together, and that's how we're going to make America a safer place for good and decent people.

Now, I want to introduce the Chairman el supremo -- (laughter and applause) -- friend of a lifetime, my great friend Jack Brooks.

CONGRESSMAN BROOKS: Mr. President, Attorney General Reno. I'm here to say something nice about Joe Biden, just another spear-bearer in this operation. (Laughter.) You all understand. You all stand up. I get to stand up and just talk very briefly and then shut up and sit down and clap. Got the word. That's the way it goes.

Joe Biden is best known as the husband of Joan Biden, his wife, who's lovely. He is Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. He's a dedicated Democrat. He worked for the Democratic Party. He believes in its principles. He speaks for them. He worked tirelessly day and night to put this package together, day and night.

You can't imagine how squirrely these people get late at night, gentlemen and ladies. (Laughter.) He's calling senators and getting them up last night 1:30 a.m. in the morning, 2:00 a.m. One, he couldn't get one at 2:30 a.m. I don't know why. He must have taken his phone off the hook. (Laughter.) At any rate, he worked day and night, and it kind of reminded me of the midnight benediction at the "Y'all Come Back Saloon." (Applause.)

But anyhow, this legislation is good legislation. It's strong, going to put violent criminals in the clink where they belong. It's going to have a lot of innovative operations in it that give us a chance to save people, so we don't have to put them in jail. I would just say that Joe Biden put all that together, worked with us. He's a wonderful friend. He's a man of tremendous courage, competence and dedication; our friend and yours, Chairman Joe Biden of Delaware. (Applause.)

SENATOR BIDEN: Thank you. This is probably the only occasion when I'll recognize someone before the President when the President's on the stage -- Your Holiness -- (laughter.) Mr. President, General, Secretary.

Mr. President, I've heard from the beginning from our friends on the right and from our Republican friends about this liberal President -- (laughter) -- who is not tough on crime. I want the record to show -- and I look at a lot of these police officers

against crime -- that for too long there's been too much real empty talk in Washington about crime and too many trickle-down crime bills that haven't given you the resources you need to do your job. For more than five years now the American people have been waiting for a serious proposal to combat crime and drugs and violence. And the Clinton-Biden-Brooks crime bill is exactly what we've been waiting for.

Finally, an end to a hollow debate over which is better: prevention or punishment, tough or smart. I remember hearing that stale argument when I was President of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, when I was the Police Commissioner in New York City or the Police Chief in Houston, Texas, or Public Safety Commissioner of Atlanta, Georgia, or the Sheriff in Portland, Oregon. We knew better then, as did President Clinton, that the answer lies in a balanced response -- what I call the three-Ps: police, prevention and punishment.

This bill provides more than we ever dreamed for community policing -- nearly \$9 billion, 100,000 more police officers on the streets of our cities working with our communities to build trust and stop crime. We know community policing works. It worked in Houston. It worked for me in New York City, and it's working in numerous cities across this country. The bill also gives equal billing to prevention. Those of us in law enforcement have witnessed an explosion of crime and violence and drug use among our nation's youth. And this country can't continue to ignore this problem.

We've got to help our kids stay in school, off drugs and out of trouble. Smarter kids with clearer minds and stronger families is the sure way to make our streets safer. And this bill also meets head on the clear and devastating link between drugs and crime. Just ask the hardcore drug user if they have recently engaged in some other kind of illegal activity and most will say, definitely, yes. That's why this bill contains drug court programs to make sure that crime-committing addicts change their ways before they go on to commit more serious crimes, as well as other effective drug control programs, including treatment for those that you have arrested and put in our jails and prisons across this country.

And so, my friends, I'm delighted to see you here today. And now we must get the crime bill passed so the President can sign it. No more waiting. And we can move on to the hard work of making a difference for the American people.

Now, it's my pleasure to introduce a person I sort of enjoy working with. I enjoyed working with him when he was a Senator from Texas and even more so now that we both are serving with the President. So let me present to you the Secretary of Treasury, the honorable Lloyd Bentsen. (Applause.)

SECRETARY BENTSEN: Thank you, Dr. Brown. What a great day for the law-abiding citizens of the United States. (Applause.) Mr. President, for four years I watched Jack Brooks and Joe Biden work diligently on a crime bill. And then I've seen your support and your leadership added to it -- the Clinton, Brooks and Biden crime bill. And to work with Janet Reno and her contribution to that effort. You're going to have a good bill and you're going to have it on your desk and you're going to have it soon. (Applause.)

I get a little angry sometimes as I watch television and you get to thinking that this country of ours is made up of rapists and stalkers and drug addicts and crooks. This bill starts with the premise that Americans are good and decent people. Sure, we have some bad apples amongst us; you bet we do. And all the money in the world won't totally stop them. And I never met a law enforcement official, officer, who didn't need more money and more manpower. And, unfortunately, they do. This is a good bill because we're

this legislation the last President refused to support, a lot of people on liberal and conservative sides didn't want to support but you backed me up -- and that is the violence against women legislation.

We have done something historic in this bill. Not only have we put \$1.8 billion to help American women who are the victim of violence in this country, we have created -- and this is the only man who backed me up on it at a White House level ever -- we created a civil cause of action to empower women who are abused by their so-called live-in spouses or lovers, so that it's no longer just the judgment of an attorney general in our states as to whether or not they prosecute. Women can now say I've decided -- whether or not the states decided -- I've decided I'm going to take you to federal court, and for what you did to me, I'm going to take your house, your car, your bank account and everything that makes a difference here. (Applause.)

Mr. President, thanks for having the courage to take on everybody on that issue. Your support for that provision means more to me than anything that has happened in what I've worked on in 22 years. I thank you. And, again, Mr. President, congratulations. I am very proud to be associated with a bill that has Clinton's name on it and Brooks's name on it. How could that be bad? Congratulations, Mr. President. (Applause.)

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I would also like to recognize Congressman Bill Hughes who has just come in who has been a very valiant member of the Conference Committee. (Applause.) I don't think we specifically recognized either Congressman Charles Schumer, who has been at this from the very beginning. Congressman Schumer. (Applause.)

One of the most remarkable people I have met in these last 16 months is the Chief of Police of Portland, Oregon -- a man who cares about policing, cares that it be done right, cares about his community and cares enough to be involved. I walked the streets of his neighborhood. He and his wife chose to live in a high-crime neighborhood so that people would know he understood what crime meant and what communities could do to come together to address the problem. He understands how important it is to bring community leaders together in neighborhoods with businesspeople working with citizens to make a difference with police. He is an extraordinary example of policing in America, policing at its best. And I take great pride in presenting to you Chief Charles Moose of Portland, Oregon. (Applause.)

CHIEF MOOSE: Thank you. Mr. President, Attorney General Reno, other distinguished guests, specifically to all the police officers in the audience: It is certainly a pleasure to be able to join you at such a distinguished time, such a proud time for this country. Chairman Biden, Chairman Brooks, Mr. President, the police officers of America want to say thank you for all your work. We want to say thank you for the tremendous effort you've put into this so far. The people in our communities need the help that you're about to send our way.

For the most part it takes us anywhere from 25 to 50 years before we can increase the size of our force by 20 percent. We need to have that kind of visible increase on the streets. We need to be able to target the areas of our communities that need help. We need for the police officers to have time to work with people to help them solve problems. This bill and the community policing that it mandates will allow us to make a difference for the people in our local community.

The prevention, the drug court, the Gray Program, the Local Partnership Act will allow us to close that gap between what

out here who helped me and Jack write this bill five years ago, the actual language you sat down with me and negotiated and wrote -- they know what I'm about to tell the rest of you.

The first time I've been awakened in the middle of the night -- I consider 12:00 a.m. the middle of the night -- by a President of the United States was in December of 1992, by the President-Elect Bill Clinton. The phone rang. He was on the line and said, "Joe, not too late, is it?" By the way, when the hell do you sleep? (Laughter.) "Not too late, is it?" And I said, "Of course not, Mr. President." My wife thought I was having delusions, having dropped out myself, thought I thought I was back in. (Laughter.)

This is a true story, this is absolutely a true story. (Laughter.) He said, "Joe, when in God's name are you going to introduce your crime bill?" I said, "Mr. President, we're not even in session yet." He said, "I know that. You're going to introduce it right away."

I can say without exaggeration, on six occasions before he was sworn in -- and to be precise -- before the Senate met after he was sworn in, the President began to push on when are you going to introduce the crime bill.

Everybody should make no mistake about this. Jack Brooks and I and Lloyd Bentsen when he was Senator Bentsen, and others tried to pass a crime bill for five years. It was blocked for five years. The reason there is a crime bill is this fellow here, the President of the United States of America, put the full faith and credit -- (applause.) And for all those of you in the press who wonder about this, when there was talk about having less than 100,000 cops, I got a call saying, no bill unless 100,000 cops.

When there was talk among my group that we put less money in for prisons, I got a call -- no bill unless there's more money for prisons. He strongly supported all of the prevention programs, but I want to tell you something. This is a President who, quite frankly, Mr. President, you're more conservative than I am on the enforcement side of this legislation. And the reason we have it done is because he made it real clear: unless you all get all of what you need -- and by the way, these are real dollars. This isn't make-believe money. This isn't funny money. This comes from this man cutting the federal work force over the next six years by over 235,000 persons, and giving the money from bureaucrats to cops. That's why this bill is real money. (Applause.)

I've had the total support of every one of the police organizations in this place since I've been a Senator. You've been the most loyal people I've worked with. I told you four years ago -- and Bob Scully's the only guy that listened to me right off the bat -- I told you this guy is the best friend the cops are ever going to have and ever have had. And he is the best friend the American police have ever had as President of the United States of America. And you're going to see it soon. (Applause.)

Let me conclude, Mr. President, by thanking you for one other thing. I really have had a tutorial the last six months working with Jack Brooks. And I know I joke about it and kid about it, but I have had a tutorial in how to get things done. This man is the guy who shepherded through this legislation, and the unholy alliance of this man and the other man who saved the bill last night at 2:00 a.m. in the morning, Howard Metzenbaum -- Howard Metzenbaum saved this bill. (Applause.)

And if I can conclude with, as we say in the Senate, a point of personal privilege, Mr. President. I have never worked harder, I have never been more emotionally committed, I have never been more desirous of an outcome than I have been on one aspect of

mountains of crocodile tears and donated cigars -- (laughter) -- because Jack Brooks wanted this country to have a crime bill.

Joe Biden, I think you could see by the visible way that he is moved by this, how important it is to him. And I am profoundly grateful to him for that, and for what he said today. It is true that I called him at midnight, and that Joe asked him the next day if he remembered what the phone call was about. I wish I had asked him for a lot of other things, because I'm not sure he did. (Laughter.)

I could still make assertions about what we've talked about on that late night. And I thank all of you here who have worked on this bill -- all the representatives of law enforcement and others who care about having a safer America.

Because the conference was finished just before we started this event, this is truly an historic day. On the verge we are of a major victory for our country. It's been a remarkable week for America. I think all of us have joined in the elation we felt when Israel and Jordan's leaders came to this country and declared an end to their state of war and their intention to work together as friends, and took great pride in the role the United States played in bringing about that agreement.

And then, less noticed but also important, the President of Russia made an announcement that by the end of August, for the first time since the end of World War II, all Russian troops would be gone from Germany and Central and Eastern Europe, and I'm proud of the role the United States has played in that endeavor. But I can't help thinking today it would be even more important if we could bring peace to the streets and the children of the United States. (Applause.)

The Vice President patted me on the back earlier this week when we were just sort of swelled up with happiness over the progress of things with Prime Minister Rabin and King Hussein and said, you know, this is one of the reasons that you ran for President. But I can tell you, this is one of the reasons that I ran for President. (Applause.)

Almost 20 years ago now I started my career in public life as Attorney General of my state, being involved in the prosecution and the appeals of criminal cases, dealing with state police and defending them when we got sued over first one thing then another.

When I became governor, I found myself in charge of a large and growing prison system, an overtaxed but dedicated state police, with the responsibilities to do everything from trying to prevent crime to carrying out the death penalty. I have lived on a daily basis for most of my life in public service with law enforcement officials. I have been to the funerals and to the homes of people who have been killed in the line of duty, repeatedly.

I have done everything I could over all these years to learn what it is we could do together to make it easier for people in law enforcement to do their job, and most importantly to make it better for all of us to live in this country. Now, after nearly six years, congressional leaders and people in both parties have agreed on what will be the toughest, largest and smartest federal attack on crime in the history of the United States of America. (Applause.)

You know, it puts more police on the street and takes more guns off the street and takes more children off the street. It puts violent criminals behind bars and gives others the chance to avoid a life behind bars. Senator Biden and Chairman Brooks assure me this bill will be on my desk within days, and I assure you I will sign it into law without delay. (Applause.)

occurs in school and in the families prior to them coming into the criminal justice system. Up till now there's been an area where people fall through the gap. This crime bill will close that gap. This crime bill will allow us to do some prevention.

I've met a lot of victims in my career, but I've never met a victim, no matter how quickly we make an arrest, no matter how many years a person is sent to jail, I've never met a victim that wouldn't prefer that the crime had not occurred as opposed to us punishing someone. (Applause.) The additional ban on assault weapons, the fact that we're going to get support for the states in jails, all of those things are going to make a difference to the people that live in our local communities. Taking these weapons off the street is not a joke. Police officers face them every day. We need relief and I think this crime bill will provide that.

This crime bill will provide the tools that we need to actually do our job, tools that have been long overdue. This bill will provide police officers, jails, boot camps, education, training, deployment overtime, prosecutors, grants, a mandate for community policing. This bill will help us solve problems in our local communities. This bill will allow us to target drugs, violence by youth, violence against women, violence by career criminals. This bill is tough. This bill is smart. This will allow Americans and police officers to start to operate from a position of strength. Our local neighborhoods need this help and we appreciate all the efforts that have been made to date.

It's not very often that you get an opportunity to introduce the President of the United States. When I was thinking about what do you say before you do that, it wasn't real clear. (Laughter.) But I will say that it's not -- been an occasion where we've had a President that actually understands that in order to solve problems, in order to reduce crime in America, you have to take a holistic approach; that you need to bring a lot of different things to the table; that public safety is more than law enforcement; that public safety is education; that public safety is jobs; that public safety is people caring about other people. The President of the United States understands that. And as a police officer it brings me great honor to bring to you, ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Chief Moose, for the introduction and for your lifetime of service to your community and for the wisdom of your words and your leadership. Thank you, Attorney General Reno, for the magnificent work that you and the others here at the Justice Department have done on the Crime Bill. Thank you, Lee Brown, for the work you did to make sure that we had enough funds in the Crime Bill for drug prevention and drug education programs and drug treatment programs.

Thank you, Secretary Bentsen, for the law enforcement work you do and the comments you made today. And I want to thank all of the members of Congress who are here. I thank Senator Metzenbaum for letting Joe Biden get even with me by calling you in the middle of the night. (Laughter.) I thank you, Congressman Hughes. I thank you, Congress Schumer, for on occasion being like a mad dog in dealing with these issues. I think you will be proud into a deep, old age for the work you have done on this crime bill, and I thank you, sir.

And I cannot say enough about Chairman Brooks and Senator Biden. I like them both very much, and it's not hard to figure out why when you hear them up here talking. I ran completely out of my stash of donated cigars trying to get Jack Brooks to keep pushing ahead with every aspect of the Crime Bill. (Laughter.) People always want to know, you know, what did the President give away to get this, that, or the other thing. All I gave away were

violence against women. And then in the eleventh hour a few more good things were added. But for six years, the Congress has been trying to fashion a response to crime.

Most of the time, the deliberation of Congress is a good thing, I suppose; but there are times in the history of a country when you just have to stop deliberating and act. And at a time like this when the world is changing so very fast, I think we really have to ask ourselves whether we can afford to take six years on a matter of this moment. Well, now it is done.

The most important thing about this crime bill, besides its specifics, which are very important, is what the Chief said. He used the word "holistic." If you're a chief of police you can use that; if you're a politician they tell you it looks kind of funny to say a word like that because aren't sure what it means. (Laughter.) And if you're president, they tell you not to say it because you should never use a word that anybody's confused about. But what it means is to go beyond old ways of thinking and false choices. Are we going to be tough or are we going to be compassionate? Are we going to go after criminals or are we going to go after guns? These debates have divided us for too long while children died.

And the real achievement of the Congress at this moment is that they are going beyond those old ways of thinking. They are reaching for a new consensus that reflects the world we are living in and that recognizes the absolutely horrendous conditions in which a lot of our younger people are living and the need to be very, very firm, but very, very smart about the road ahead, its difficulties and its challenges.

We had to argue with a lot of people to get this bill. We had to fight with the NRA over the assault weapons ban, but we guaranteed over 600 hunting and sporting weapons free from government interference. I would argue that both things were the right thing to do. We had almost unanimous consent, finally, for the idea that children should not be in the possession of handguns unless they are under the supervision of an appropriate adult.

We have a measure in here that we haven't talked much about to make our schools safer. If a child is not safe in school, how can the republic go forward when we need education as the basis for our future? We had to fight with some of the folks in our party who thought that our approach on punishment was a little too tough. Then we had to fight with some folks in the other party who thought our approach on rehabilitation and prevention was little too soft or too generous.

I want to say this: The prevention money in this bill is there for one reason -- and I want this on the public record now -- not because the President wanted it, although I did; not because the Attorney General wanted it, although she did; not because the Drug Director or the Chairman of the Senate Committee or the Chairman of the House Committee wanted it, although they did; the prevention money is in this bill because the law enforcement officials of the United States said, we cannot jail our way out of this crisis, we've got to give our kids something to say yes to and a future. You told us to put it in there, and that is why it is in there. (Applause.)

So we have had a lot of arguments -- but that is the essence of democracy -- and we have gone beyond these categories that kept this bill bottled up, fights over ideas, fights over interest, we put the people of this country first again, and we focused on what they needed. Now I say to you: Let's not forget that the bill is not law. It has been voted out of a conference committee. The House must vote a rule to permit it to come to the vote. Then the House and the Senate must pass it

It is urgent that we send the message out of this meeting that not only the law enforcement community, but the American

I want to ask you just for a moment, because most of what needs to be said about this bill has been said. But just for a moment, think about the meaning of this act today in terms of what all of you want for America. Even those of you in uniform, what you want as citizens -- as fathers and mothers and husbands and wives and children. And what you want for your children.

I got into this job I'm in because I was very worried that our country was going in the wrong direction, that our deficit was going up and our economy was going down, that we were increasing burdens on middle-class Americans and reducing investment in them and their children. And I was very worried that as we move toward the 21st century, after our nation won the Cold War, that we would not be able to keep the American Dream alive. And it was obvious to me that to do that, we would have to rebuild our economy and rebuild our sense of community and our families, and empower individuals to do a better job of taking responsibility for themselves.

We tried to do that with a new economic policy to reduce the deficit and to give us the smallest federal government in 30 years, and three years of deficit reduction in a row for the first time since Harry Truman was President, and to increase investment in people and in trade, and it's working. We've got 3.5 million new jobs and a big drop in the unemployment rate. But if you think about it, even though the economy is going in the right direction, can we really hope -- can we really hope to rebuild the economy, rebuild our sense of community, and empower individuals if we are frightened, if we are scared, if we are burdened by crime? If the highest rate of crime is now among people at their tenderest and most formative years, between the ages of 12 and 17 when we're trying to say, do this, do the right thing, you will be rewarded, you can have a good life, you can be a responsible parent, you can be a successful citizen?

Look at the cost of crime to the economy. Look at the cost of crime to our sense of community and to the idea that we are an American family. Look at the cost of crime to our efforts to empower every individual, including all these young people that are growing up in terribly difficult circumstances.

Remember just a few things that I have tried to tell the American people -- the nine-year-old boy in New Orleans who said I'm asking you nicely to do something about crime because I'm afraid I might be shot. And nine days after he sent me the letter, he was shot dead because he just happened to be in the wrong place.

The immigrant waiter in New York City who said he loved being in America, but he didn't like the fact that his son wasn't free because he couldn't go to school without his daddy walking him to school, and couldn't walk across the street and play in the park without somebody being there. And he asked me to make his son free.

All the other goals we seek for ourselves, in our families, for our children, in our workplaces, and for our great nation, depend at bottom on our being able to live together with certain clear assumptions that, even though we are very different, we are different by race, we are different by religion, we are different by politics, there are a few basic things that will always hold us together, beginning with the fundamental respect for law, order and our fellow human beings. And it is vanishing in too many places today. (Applause.)

Now, you have already heard this, but I have to say it again: For nearly six years this bill has been debated over and over again. Oh, the details have changed from time to time and when I was elected, I had some very specific ideas that I hoped would be in here, and you heard Senator Biden talk about his conviction about

people want a 20 percent increase in the police forces in this country, 100,000 police, that you want the tougher punishment, that you want the capacity for imprisonment, that you want the prevention funds, that you want the assault weapons ban, that you want the ban on teenagers owning guns, that you want the protection for women against violence, that you want the schools to be safer, that you believe it makes sense because it deals with the problem in a human, intelligent, and firm way. And it gives us a chance to come together again as a people. Let's go pass the bill.

Thank you, and God bless you all. (Applause.)

END

11:41 A.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 12, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN ANNOUNCEMENT OF POLICE GRANTS

The South Lawn

10:50 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, General Reno, for your remarks and your tireless work on this, and for really a brilliant effort on the part of the Justice Department employees to move this grant money only 12 days after the bill became effective out into our communities.

Thank you, Chief Massey, for your testimony and for your work; and I want to thank all your forces. When I was introduced to his community policing recruits, I mean, just look at them, they're going to lower the crime rate by walking the streets. (Laughter.)

I want to thank the other law enforcement officers from Maryland who are up here and all of you who are out in the audience today. I thank the members of Congress who are here -- Congressman Pallone, Congressman Moran, Congresswoman McKinney. And especially I thank Senator Sarbanes for telling me Chief Massey's story a few weeks ago and bringing this whole issue to my attention as an illustration of how we can fight crime and lower the crime rate through community policing.

It was just a month ago that we were here on the South Lawn of the White House to sign the crime bill. We came back today to show determination to implement this law without delay.

I want to make three points, if I might. One is, I think all Americans know that we can never be strong abroad unless we are first strong at home. As we are very proud of the work our armed forces are doing today in Haiti and in the Gulf, we know that they are able to be there doing what they're doing because they come out of a strong, good country with strong basic community ties and values. And our ability to make our people secure is the critical element of personal freedom that rests at the root of our strength as a nation.

The second point I want to say is that we know we've got an issue here we have to deal with and we're determined to hit the ground running. And we want all of you to help us keep hitting the ground running not just now, but over the entire life of this crime bill.

And the last point I want to make has already been made more graphically and powerfully by the story Chief Massey told -- this is not a problem that can be fought in Washington, D.C. The genius of this crime bill is that it empowers people at the community level in big cities like San Francisco, whose mayor is represented here today, and in smaller communities like Ocean City, to take control of their own destiny, to drive down the crime rate and to catch criminals. The genius of this bill in the end may be that we really did say, we're going to pay for this by shrinking the size of the federal government and giving every last dollar of the shrinkage to local communities to fight crime to prove that they can bring the crime rate down; not we in Washington, but you out there. This is a

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bill which gives you the power to take control of the destinies of your people. And I know that you will do it.

Today we have rejected decades of excuses that crime is a local problem that Washington can do nothing about. However, Washington can do a lot to help you fight crime. And if you look at the crime bill, and the grants for local police, and the prevention programs, and the help to build prison cells for serious offenders, and the supportive work coming out the extra help for federal law enforcement authorities, this is an enormous step forward in a national partnership to help people fight crime at the grass-roots level. We have to prove here in America that we can make progress on this. We have to prove that we can make a difference.

Yesterday I was in Detroit, celebrating the revival of our automobile industry. For the first time in 15 years, it's now clearly number one in the world in sales worldwide. And it's wonderful to see that the biggest problem in Michigan is now how much overtime they have at the auto industry -- a story you wouldn't have heard 10 years ago. But, you build a country the same way you build a company like that. You have to face your problems, face your challenges, get people together, empower people to take control of their own destinies and get after it. And that's what we're trying to do.

After I did the event in Detroit, I went by and met with the editorial board of the Detroit Free Press, and they read a letter that a nine-year-old girl named Porsha had written to me and asked to be delivered. And she said, "please, please make me free from fear." That is what we're here about. We can talk about all the details and we can glory in all the specifics, but the bottom line is that we together have made a commitment to make the American people freer of fear.

It is a great tribute to the members of Congress who voted for this bill; a tribute to the Attorney General and all the people who work with her who worked so hard for it; a tribute to all of you, without whom we would not have passed it.

Let me say again that 100,000 police officers is a number that doesn't mean a lot to the average American. Most Americans don't know how many police we have now. They don't know how many that is; they're not sure what it means on their block. There are 550,000 police officers in America today -- 100,000 police is nearly a 20 percent increase. And if they are all put into community policing as they are supposed to be, then it will be at least a 20 percent increase in the effective police presence on the street in the United States. That is the message we need to get out to the American people, so they can imagine what this means. This is something of profound magnitude; not only in catching criminals, but as every officer here will tell you, in reducing the rate of crime in the first place by deterring crime, by the simple, effective presence of community policing.

I am very, very proud of all of you for your support. I am very proud of Chief Massey for coming here to tell this story.

I want to emphasize one other thing that the Attorney General said before I close. The more we got into this problem, the more we realize that big city crime was going down in some cities, but that the inevitable consequence was that it was being exported to smaller towns and rural areas nearby; that, as many of our larger cities perfected their capacity to do community policing and to drive down the crime rates, was actually putting inordinate pressure on the smaller towns who were in the vicinity.

And one of the things we were absolutely determined to do is to make sure -- I might add, with the support of all the big

city mayors -- that this would not simply be a big city bill. So now, as you know, we have already put out over 2,000 police officers in 250 different communities of all sizes in the country, and the Attorney General gave you the figures on what we're doing today. I can assure you that over the life of this crime bill, we will not lose focus on the fact that crime is a problem for all Americans in all size communities. Four hundred communities today, hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of more to follow.

So I ask all of you now as we leave this place, not only to celebrate what we have done, but to redouble our efforts. We're getting off to a quick start. We're making our country strong at home, just like we have to be strong abroad, and we know that it starts at the grass-roots level. This is something Washington has done to give you the power to change the future of your communities, so that all the little Porsha in this country can think they are truly free.

Thank you, and God bless you all. (Applause.)

END

11:00 A.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 20, 1995

NATIONAL D.A.R.E. DAY, 1995

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) is America's largest and most effective drug-use prevention program. Reaching 25.5 million young people, from kindergarten through 12th grade, its precepts are taught in more than 250,000 classrooms in all 50 States and many other lands worldwide.

D.A.R.E. was designed to help prevent the substance abuse and violence that plague too many of our Nation's children. Teaching conflict resolution and anger management skills, providing accurate information about alcohol, drugs, and tobacco, and educating students about the consequences of their behavior, D.A.R.E. has served to increase self-esteem among our youth and give them the tools they need to resist destructive peer pressure.

Today, people everywhere recognize that empowering kids and teens with sound advice is important, but it is not enough. Parents and teachers, counselors and concerned citizens all must play a role in encouraging our young people to lead safe, productive, drug-free lives. That is why D.A.R.E. is taught by veteran police officers, whose knowledge and skills have prepared them to understand the reality of the streets and the lives of children in need. D.A.R.E. demonstrates that, working together, communities have the power within themselves to keep the American Dream alive for all of us.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 20, 1995, as "National D.A.R.E. Day." I encourage parents, teachers, and children across the country to join in observing this day with appropriate programs and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and nineteenth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 26, 1995

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK, 1995

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BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Every year, more than 36 million people in America become the victims of crime. Offenders prey on our daughters and sons, sisters and brothers, parents, grandparents, and friends. Violent crime is creating fear and insecurity in communities across our Nation.

To ensure justice and promote healing, a grassroots crime victims' movement has worked to enact numerous initiatives in State legislatures across the country -- laws that now provide crucial rights for crime victims and their families. As we mark National Crime Victims' Rights Week this year, Americans join in remembering the fallen, in celebrating criminal justice reforms, and in envisioning a future free from violence.

The Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, which I signed into law this past September, ensures that our criminal justice system recognizes the victims. Its provisions include allocation rights for victims of violent crime and sexual abuse, truth in sentencing guidelines to ensure that violent offenders serve longer sentences, and sex offender registries designed to monitor offenders more effectively. This Act will help put 100,000 more police officers on the streets of our communities. And the landmark Violence Against Women Act is the first comprehensive Federal effort to address violence against women.

But no government can be truly effective without the active involvement of its citizens. Victim advocacy -- the work of the more than 8,000 organizations and the countless individuals we honor this week -- can be a lifeline to emotional survival. When random bullets wound a child, when a battered woman needs shelter in the night, when a rape survivor seeks help -- victim advocates are there to comfort and support. Many of our Nation's crime victims and advocates work tirelessly in schools, neighborhoods, and youth custody facilities. They give faces and names to the statistics of crime, opening young peoples' eyes to the reality of violence and helping to plant seeds of responsibility that can last a lifetime.

We nonetheless recognize that much remains to be done. But with continued partnerships between every level of government, criminal justice and victim advocacy organizations, and crime survivors and their families, America can begin to replace the nightmare of crime with a bright new day of hope.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby

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(OVER)

proclaim April 23 through April 29, 1995, as "National Crime Victims' Rights Week." I urge all Americans to pause and remember the victims of crime and to join in honoring those who serve crime victims and their families by working to reduce violence, to assist those harmed by crime, and to make our homes and communities safer places in which to live.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and nineteenth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

Embargoed for Release
Until 10:06 A.M. EDT,
Saturday, April 29, 1995

RADIO ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT TO THE NATION

The Roosevelt Room

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. America has been through a lot in the last week. But if anything good can come out of something as horrible as the Oklahoma City tragedy, it is that the American people have reaffirmed our commitment to putting our children, their well-being and their future first in our lives.

In that light, I was terribly disappointed that, this week, the Supreme Court struck down a law passed by Congress under President Bush and sponsored by Senator Herb Kohl of Wisconsin, to keep guns away from schools. The law was a bipartisan approach to school safety based on common sense. Simply said, it was illegal to have a gun within 1,000 feet of a school.

We all know that guns simply don't belong in school. So members of Congress of both parties passed the law. Unfortunately, the Supreme Court struck down the specific law. They said the federal government couldn't regulate that activity because it didn't have enough to do with interstate commerce.

Well, this Supreme Court decision could condemn more of our children to going to schools where there are guns. And our job is to help our children learn everything they need to get ahead in safety, not to send them to school and put them in harm's way. I am determined to keep guns out of our schools. That's what the American people want, and it's the right thing to do.

Last year, I persuaded Congress to require states to pass a law that any student who brought a gun to school would be expelled for a year -- no excuses, zero tolerance for guns in schools. But after Congress passed the law, I was worried that it would be hard to enforce. So I directed the Secretary of Education, Dick Riley, to withhold federal aid from any state that did not comply with the law.

The Supreme Court has now ruled we can't directly ban guns around the school. Therefore, today, I am directing the Attorney General to come back to me within a week with what action I can take to keep guns away from schools. I want the action to be constitutional, but I am determined to keep guns away from schools.

For example, Congress could encourage states to ban guns from school zones by linking federal funds to enactment of school zone gun bans. At least we could tie the money we have for safe schools to such a ban. At any rate, I am confident that the Attorney General will give me advice about what action I can take. We must reverse the practical impact of the Court's decision. If young people can't learn in safety they can't learn at all.

Now, according to the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, violence threatens schools in communities of all shapes and sizes. They've identified 105 violent school-related deaths in just the last two years. And we know there are common elements to violent

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deaths among young people. Usually, the victim and the assailant know each other, the incident starts as an argument, and usually there is a firearm present.

Schoolyard fights have been around as long as schoolyards. But it used to be that when kids got in fights, they fought with their fists, adults broke them up, and the kids got punished. Today, there are guns on the playground, guns in the classroom, guns on the bus.

In 1990, the CDC found that one in 24 students carried a gun in a 30-day period. By 1993, it was down to one in 12. The number of high school students carrying a gun doubled in only three years. This is certainly a national crisis, and we must have a national effort to fight it. We need a seamless web of safety that keeps guns out of the hands of our children and out of our school. That's why we fought for the provision in last year's Crime Bill which now makes it a federal crime for a young person to carry a handgun, except when supervised by an adult. And that's why we must make sure that anyone who does bring a gun to school is severely disciplined. And that's why we're going to find a way to ban guns inside or near our schools.

I'm committed to doing everything in my power to make schools places where young people can be safe, where they can learn, where parents can be confident that discipline is enforced.

We all know that we have to work together to get this done. Principals and teachers must take the lead for safe schools and teaching good citizenship and good values. And parents have to recognize that discipline begins at home. The responsibility to raise children and to make them good citizens rests first on the shoulders of their parents, who must teach the children right from wrong, and must get involved and stay involved in their children's education.

I pledge that we'll do our part to help make our schools safe and the neighborhoods around them safe. But in the end, we'll only succeed if we all work together.

Thanks for listening.

END

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Los Angeles, California)

For Immediate Release

April 8, 1995

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION SCHOOL SAFETY SUMMIT

Century Plaza Hotel and Towers
Los Angeles, California

2:24 P.M. PDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you for your welcome. Thank you for your work. Thank you for that very moving film. Thank you, Keith Geiger, for your introduction and for your outstanding leadership for this organization. You know, Keith Geiger is quite a gardener, and it's quite a beautiful day. It shows you how devoted he is that he's even inside, much less giving a speech. (Laughter.)

Thank you, Dick Riley, for such a wonderful job as Secretary of Education and for those fine remarks. (Applause.) Senator Carol Moseley-Braun, I'm delighted to see you. We're a little out of place here today. (Laughter.) It's actually a pretty good time to be in Washington, D.C. The cherry blossoms are out -- and so is Congress. (Laughter.) It's a pretty good time be there. (Laughter and applause.)

I know there are a lot of Los Angeles County Supervisors and City Councilmembers here today, and I see your distinguished Police Chief. I know there are other -- and I thank you for being here, sir. (Applause.)

I also know that this is not just a gathering of teachers. There are a lot of school support folks here and parents and police officers and concerned citizens about a subject that I care a great deal about as you could see from the film that was put together by the NEA.

Shortly before the New Hampshire Primary in 1992, I was walking in a hotel one night in New York -- and some of you may remember, since you helped me, that I was not doing very well then -- and my political obituary was being written over and over again. (Laughter.) Will he fall into single digits in New Hampshire or will he hang on at 11 percent? And I was feeling pretty sorry for myself.

And we were having this big fundraiser in New York, and for all I knew, there wouldn't be three people there. And they took me in the back way, you know, and I walked through the kitchen, totally preoccupied with my own problems.

And all of a sudden this gentleman who was working in the hotel came up to me and said, Governor, my boy, who is 10, he studies politics in the school, and he says I should vote for you. So, he says, I'm going to vote for you. But he said, I want you to do something for me. I said, what is it? He said, I want you to make my boy free.

I said, well, what do you mean? He said, well, I came here from another country, and we were very poor there, but at least we were free. He said, now, we live in a place where we have a park across the street, but my boy can't go to the park unless I go with him to protect him. We have a neighborhood school that's just down the street, but my boy

can't go to school unless I walk with him. If my boy is not safe, he is not free. So, if I vote for you as he asks, will you make my boy free?

And the first thing I felt, frankly, was shame that I was preoccupied with my own problems. And the second thing I thought was, you know, how can we have learning in this country until our children are free? (Applause.)

Now, we're having this huge debate in Washington about what the role of government ought to be. Yesterday at the American Newspaper Editors Association in Dallas, I had a chance to say where I stood on the issues remaining, both in the Republican Contract and in the New Covenant that I ran on in 1992.

We know that we have a lot of economic challenges, that we have to grow the middle class and shrink the underclass and make America a good place for a new generation of entrepreneurs. We know that the government is not well-organized for the Information Age and it needs to be less bureaucratic and more flexible.

But we also know, I take it, that there are two great obligations that we must -- we must pursue as a people, and they are related and they come together here. The first is that we have to enhance the security of our people, not only beyond our borders, but here at home as well. And the second is that we have to empower them all through education to succeed in a world where education, more than ever before, is the key, not only to whether a society succeeds, but whether individuals can live up to their own dreams.

Today, you are coming to talk about both things. You can't succeed in school if you're not secure when you're there, and we can't expect our schools to be safe unless we do more to make our communities safe and our homes safe. So you are dealing with two of the great questions of this time. I applaud you for doing it. This is a very impressive program, and I wish you well.

Last year I fought hard to pass that Crime Bill because it was comprehensive, because it did have tougher punishment and more prisons, but it also put another 100,000 police on our street in community settings so we could lower crime and make people safer; because it had provisions for making our schools safer; because it had a domestic violence component for violence against women and children. (Applause.)

And the Secretary and I fought very hard for the Safe and Drug Free Schools Act which would provide funds to over 90 percent in our school districts to help to keep the schools safe -- (applause) -- 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.

As we debate all these issues, it's important not to forget that the first mission of government is to keep its citizens safe within rules of law, and our second mission is to meet the challenges of the time. And the challenges of this time are the challenges of education. And we cannot do one without the other.

One of the most disturbing things in America today is the fact that there's so much social tension growing directly out the fact that most wages for most middle class people have been stagnant for more than 10 years. More than half the American people today are working a longer work-week for the same or lower wages they were making 15 years ago.

When you think about every political issue that's being faced in this country that is divisive -- if you just imagine that fact, it explains a lot. It explains a lot about the anxiety, the resentment, the frustrations that people have in this country.

But whatever the debates are, we have to say, let's don't do stupid things. Let's invest more time, effort, resources, organization and passion into making our people safer and educating our people better.

I want to cut spending. Senator Carol Moseley-Braun could tell you the story. We just had -- I was just with Senator Boxer up at the California Democratic

Convention, and she was talking about this. 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 is not only illegal, it is dangerous and stupid, and violence is a real problem.

So we worked, and worked and worked. When the bill got over to the Senate, the Senate Republicans put some money back in and then we insisted, if you're one of the Democrats to let it come to a vote, they'd have to put some more money -- put the money back. So the money got put back.

But my point is, that in Washington, where we're so far away from these problems -- you heard -- I can't remember whether it was Keith, or whoever, said it out here, that a lot of people who might pontificate about schools, never been in a classroom. Well, I have been. I dare say I've probably spent more hours in more classrooms in more states than any person who ever had the privilege of holding this office. And it is so easy to see where people in Washington -- they get on a tear -- that judgment goes out the window.

The Republicans used to attack the Democrats because they said they never met a program they didn't like. They were great at starting programs, but they couldn't stop them. Their solution to everything was to spend more money on it. Well, now the rage is, we never met a program we did like, and their solution to everything is spend less money on it. What we need is judgment. What we need is judgment. We need to reduce the deficit, but we need to invest more in education and we need to invest more in security. Because those two things, together, will determine our future. (Applause.)

I think you had somebody from the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta earlier today. They are releasing today their preliminary report on school-related violent deaths. They have identified 105 violent school-related deaths in just the last two years. And they've shown that violence threatens schools and communities of all shapes and sizes. We know there are common elements to violent deaths among young people; the victim and the assailant usually know each other, they are usually the same race, and they're usually male. The incident starts as an argument, and there's usually a firearm involved.

Schoolyard fights have been around as long as schoolyards. But it used to be, when I got in them at least -- (laughter) -- that when kids got in fights, they fought with their fists and adults broke them up.

Today, there are guns on the playground, guns in the classroom, guns on the bus. And as was pointed out in the film, seven times more often, there are knives there. So as a result, serious injury and death and terror are far more likely to occur.

You know, the thing about being young is you think you're going to live forever -- whatever is inside you working around is rushing at high tide, and the future is what happens five minutes from now. (Laughter.) That's why our job is to calm people down and make them think about what happens five years, and ten years from now. And we all have a fair chance to do it, unless they can do unlimited damage in the five seconds between when they start and when somebody else can get there. With a knife or a gun you can do unlimited damage.

I'll never forget when I was running for President, I gave a speech in New York City at a school. And I was talking about Martin Luther King, and everybody seemed so moved. And two weeks later, a kid got killed right in the same place I was standing.

I met a man in Northern California who had changed schools because his school was so violent, with his brother. And they were standing in line to register for class in the other school and his brother got shot, this time by a stranger -- just some nut walked in and got in a fight, his brother happened to be standing in the way.

The CDC found that in 1990, 1 in 24 students carried a gun to school in the 30 days before their study. In 1991, 1 in 18 carried a gun. Last week, the CDC reported that in 1993, 1 in 12 students carried a gun. That's more people than are packing a gun on the street. That's a higher percentage.

This is a national crisis. It requires a national response. It requires all kinds of people to be involved. Guns have no place in our schools and have no place in the hands of our children. If we don't stop this, we can't make the schools safe. We've always had bipartisan support for zero tolerance of guns in our schools. We ought to keep it that way. In 1990, a Democratic Congress passed a law creating gun-free zones around our schools, and President Bush signed it. At this moment, my administration is supporting that law all the way to the Supreme Court.

The Crime Bill we passed last year makes it a federal crime for a young person to carry a handgun except when supervised by an adult. Last fall, we passed a law requiring states to adopt a simple but powerful rule: if somebody brings a gun to school, they'll be expelled for a year, no excuses. Senator Feinstein sponsored that law. (Applause.) Zero tolerance works. In 1993 in San Diego, the first year of the policy, the number of guns in schools was cut in half. This school year, authorities have found only five guns in the entire school system. It works.

That's why I directed Secretary Riley to enforce one rule for the whole country. If a state doesn't comply with zero tolerance, it won't get certain important federal educational funds, period. (Applause.) I have been very strong in giving more flexibility to schools, more flexibility to school districts, more flexibility to states, and more flexibility to state governments in a whole wide range of areas.

I've given 25 states permission to pursue welfare reform, seven states permission to pursue big health care reform. And the education legislation we adopted last year, while enshrining then national education goals, gave local schools more flexibility in deciding how to educate their children than ever before. But this problem deserves and, indeed, requires a national response: zero tolerance. There is no other rational option. (Applause.)

I also want to say something on behalf of the principals and the teachers who are here, and even their security forces and their metal detectors. This is not just a school problem, this is a social problem. That's why we have to support the efforts of our police chiefs, our sheriffs and our others to adopt policies that will lower the crime rate throughout our communities and throughout our country.

That's why it is important to support the work that was done in the Crime Bill last year. That's why it's important to support the work of people struggling to reduce domestic violence throughout our country. The schools will have violence and weapons and trouble, as long as our society has them.

We can do better in the schools; to be sure we can do better. But we have to recognize it will never be a problem that is gone until we do better beyond the schoolhouse door. Parents have to teach their children right from wrong. Parents have to get involved, and community leaders have to get involved. We cannot expect the schools to do it all. (Applause.)

In the end, this country has got to get mobilized around this issue. I just studied about a year ago -- I sat down one day and really looked at the differences between the 1980 and the 1990 census. And if you can bear to look at all of those numbers, you can see a lot about what's going on in your country. It is perfectly clear that the middle class in America is splitting apart. And that is what is giving rise to all of these social tensions.

From the year I was born until 1978 or so, we all rose together; in all income groups we rose together. We just about doubled our income, no matter whether we were in the top 20 percent, the bottom 20 percent or someplace in between, except the bottom

20 percent increased almost time and a half what they had been earlier. So we were going up and going together.

Then, in 1978 or thereabouts, an amazing thing started to happen. Income stagnation among a lot of working people meant that for the first time since the end of the Second World War, the middle class started to split apart; so that this idea of the American Dream began to be thwarted in family after family, after family after family. Don't kid yourselves; that's really behind all this tension on affirmative action. That's really behind a lot of this tension and anxiety on immigration; it's behind a lot of this. There are too many families out here headed by people who think they have done everything they're supposed to do, who are living on the same or lower wages with a high level of job insecurity who don't believe they can do right by their children. Now, that's what's going on.

But the fault line dividing the middle class and the global economy is education. It's education.

The only way we can offer hope to people of a successful life in the face of all these changes, the only way we can tell people you can seize all these wonderful things about the global economy is if we can educate everybody. And the only way we can do that is if we can make our schools safe and give childhood back to our children. (Applause.)

If there ever was an example of what I have been trying to preach for three or four years now -- that we need a new covenant among our people of opportunity and responsibility -- this is it. Education is an opportunity. Lawfulness is a responsibility. And you cannot have one without the other. I will do everything I can to support you. I ask that you do only this, whether you are a Republican or a Democrat or an Independent, ask our Congress to work with me to find ways to cut this deficit without undermining our investment in either education or security. We must go forward together.

Thank you, and God bless you. (Applause.)

END

2:44 P.M. PDT