

CLINTON • GORE ON CRIME AND DRUGS

Despite all the tough talk we hear from Washington, crime is expanding dramatically in America. Today more people are victims of crime, more crime is drug related, and more people are addicted to drugs than ever before. Across the country tens of thousands of volunteers are fighting to take back their streets from criminals and drug dealers. But they need more support. We have a national problem on our hands that requires a tough national response.

It's time to get tougher on crime by getting smarter about how to stop it. Bill Clinton and Al Gore have a national crime and drug strategy that will use the powers of the Presidency to prevent and punish crime and control the abuse of drugs.

We need to put more police on the streets of our cities and more dangerous criminals behind bars. We need to fight drugs on all fronts, both to staunch international supply, and to cut domestic demand. We need to help communities that fight crime and drugs in strong and sensible ways. Bill Clinton and Al Gore will do that.

THE CLINTON/GORE PLAN

Put 100,000 new police on our streets

Keep guns out of the hands of criminals

Make our schools and neighborhoods safe from drugs and crime

Crack down on violence against women

Staunch the international supply of drugs

Cut drug addiction to cut crime

Cut demand through treatment and education programs

Launch a new anti-heroin initiative

Tackle rural drug abuse and crime

Target drugs and AIDS

Crime breeds poverty just as much as poverty breeds crime. We must not permit another generation of Americans to grow up on streets too unsafe to walk. For the last eleven years we have reduced our efforts to put police on the street when we should have intensified them.

Put more police on our streets and more criminals behind bars

- Fight crime by putting 100,000 new police officers on the streets; create a National Police Corps; and offer veterans and active military personnel a chance to become law enforcement officers.
- Invest in our police force by offering them Law Enforcement Scholarships to prepare themselves for their increasingly complex duties.
- Discipline young people on their first encounter with the judicial system through Certainty of Punishment programs such as community service and restitution. Americans must be able to rest assured that young offenders receive more than unrestricted probation and suspended sentences.
- Give young offenders a second chance in community "boot camps" which will instill discipline, treat drug abuse, boost self esteem, teach decency and respect for the law and provide education and job assistance to help them start new lives. This will open up more space in our prisons for the truly hardened criminals.
- Support a Federal death penalty for heinous crimes, and habeas corpus reforms for death penalty appeals.

Keep guns out of the hands of criminals

- Provide the leadership we need to pass the Brady Bill, which will create a waiting period for handgun purchases to keep firearms off the streets and out of the hands of criminals.
- Ban assault weapons, like the "Street Sweeper", that have no legitimate hunting or sporting purpose; limit access to multiple round clips like the one used in the tragic killings in Killeen, Texas.

A partnership to make our neighborhoods safe

- Back effective community anti crime and drug projects with increased federal assistance. A renewed government commitment to acknowledge, support and expand effective community-based prevention programs will provide federal matching funds for communities hardest hit by crime.
- Empower local communities. We will work with residents and local law enforcement to enable them to reclaim neighborhoods and public housing from crime and drug abuse; support efforts like Operation Clean Sweep in Chicago, which helps residents take back their housing from gangs and dealers.
- Support community-based policing. Across America, local law enforcement officials are stopping crimes before they happen by moving from emergency response to community-based law enforcement. By putting

A system of justice that treats a rich offender who steals millions through insider trading better than a poor criminal who steals a car sends a cynical message to America: that justice is not blind if you happen to be rich. We'll send a tough message to white collar criminals. Those at the top of the totem pole who have benefited from the opportunities our society offers have a special responsibility to uphold the law, and if they don't, they should be punished.

more officers back on the beat, cities are winning the war on crime. Local residents must be able to get to know, trust and work with their police to make their neighborhoods safe.

- Keep our streets free from drug dealing and drug related violence. Community policing will help cut the local supply of drugs on the streets.
- Invest in hard hit urban communities. Provide jobs, opportunities and hope for local people. Give residents economic alternatives to drugs and crime.

Take back our schools

- Create a Safe Schools Initiative, so that children can focus on learning again. We will increase funding so that local school officials can provide the strong security and monitoring they need to ensure a safe learning environment. Expand funding for mentoring, counseling and outreach programs through partnerships with business so kids in trouble with crime, gangs or drugs can turn to someone for help.

Get tough on white collar crime

- Work to pass tougher criminal penalties for white collar crimes - including environmental crimes - so that serious white collar criminals serve jail time.
- Plea bargaining will be limited to questions of prison time, not how much money a white collar crook gets to keep.
- Jail sentences will be served in real prisons, not high-tech summer camp.

Crack down on violence against women

- Sign the Violence Against Women Act which would provide tougher enforcement and stiffer penalties to deter domestic violence.

Lead a national and international fight against drug abuse

- Appoint a national drug expert at the Cabinet level with the power and authority to lead a comprehensive crusade against drugs.
- Make the war on drugs a foreign policy priority. Lead a global fight against illegal drug production and trafficking, working through the United Nations and other international organizations.
- Launch an immediate and thorough review of the drug interdiction program. In 1991 interdiction stopped only one kilo in every hundred being imported into the country. We must ensure existing resources are

used in the most cost-effective way in this crucial fight to keep drugs out of America.

- Work toward centralizing operational authority for the nation's drug interdiction efforts, with the purpose of cutting the duplication of effort and reducing competition.
- Anticipate and tackle emerging drug problems before they become crises through long term planning. Crack cocaine took this Administration by surprise. We cannot let the same happen with the pending heroin epidemic.
- Pursue drug dealers with aggressive enforcement of asset forfeiture laws.

Cut addiction to cut crime

- Expand treatment of alcoholics and other addicts in prison to break the revolving door of recidivism. More than half the 1.2 million offenders currently behind bars have committed drug-related crimes. And in Federal prisons less than 1% get any form of drug treatment at all. Every year offenders are turned back out onto the streets with their addictions untreated. Yet recovering from drug addictions and alcoholism significantly reduces the chance they will offend again. We have to get offenders off drugs for all our safety.
- Explore innovative ways to stop drug related crime, and keep offenders on parole and probation free from drugs, including court mandated urine testing alongside treatment programs, and drug courts like those in Miami and Phoenix.

Expand treatment

- Treat more addicts to prevent crime and save resources. Many addicts have not committed violent crimes, but we have to treat them before they do. Their dependency destroys lives, drains the economy, health and social services and supports a violent and dangerous illicit drug market. Drug abuse is costing our country \$300 billion a year. Curing addicts saves the taxpayer money and prevents crime.
- Increase the effectiveness and success rate of treatment programs by expanding aftercare. More than half of treated addicts relapse. We have to expand support including skills training and job assistance where appropriate for recovering drug addicts and alcoholics to stop them relapsing.
- Cut dropout rates by making sure addicts are directed to the treatment program which is most appropriate to their circumstances, including outpatient programs, community based programs and residential programs.
- Provide cost effective drug dependency treatment on demand for those who need it. By working in partnership with private clinics, and self help organizations, federal assistance will help communities dramatically increase their ability to offer treatment and support to everyone who needs help.
- Target new treatment at pregnant women who are turned away from many clinics. Less than one in ten pregnant addicts were treated last year; 375,000 drug exposed babies were born.
- Help kids who get hooked on drugs and alcohol through school based clinics and outreach programs.
- Review and evaluate the effectiveness of drug treatment programs and instruct states to set up mechanisms to check that the money is well spent.

Drug education and prevention

- Stop our children abusing drugs and alcohol. Work with states and local communities to bring parents, educators, students, private business, local media, law enforcement personnel and community service workers together to prevent drug use. Provide worthwhile alternative activities and interests to keep youth off the streets.
- Review and evaluate the effectiveness of different drug and alcohol education programs. Schools must be able to show parents and local officials exactly what and how much alcohol and drug education children are receiving.
- Require training in drug education, prevention and intervention for teachers and other professionals.
- Combat rising drug use. Drug education must include extensive information on the risks of heroin, of hallucinogenic drugs, and of the new drugs produced by home chemists such as "ice" and "ecstasy". Abuse of these drugs is on the upsurge.
- Prevent drugs in the work place. Encourage business to provide employee assistance programs to identify drug and alcohol dependency among workers. Drug abuse and alcohol reduce productivity and threaten the safety of others.

Target groups at high risk of getting involved in crime and drugs

- Reach out to children and young adults in high risk situations to give them valued ties and commitments and hope and opportunities for the future.
- Fully fund the Head Start Program. Head Start was described by the Eisenhower Foundation as "the best drug prevention program we have." It provides children from low-income families with confidence and commitment to learning.
- Offer non college bound students valuable training and job opportunities by creating a National Apprenticeship Program in partnership with business.
- Give school dropouts a second chance through a Youth Opportunity Corps. Teenagers will be matched with adults who care about them and will help them develop self discipline, literacy and valuable skills.

A new strategy against heroin

- Launch an anti-heroin strategy. We have to take seriously the threat of a heroin epidemic. The dangers of heroin must be a part of drug education programs, and concerted effort made to target new heroin users with AIDS awareness education, as IV drug users are high risk for HIV infection.
- Target the international supply of heroin through a coordinated international effort beginning with a Pacific Rim Drug Summit.

A new strategy for rural drug abuse and crime

- Tackle rural drug abuse and alcoholism. Illegal drug abuse is not just an inner cities problem. We will ensure that policing, treatment and drug education are available to protect rural commu-

nities from the risks of drug related crime. We will create rural drug task forces linking up local law enforcement, DEA officers, and local community groups to fight illegal drugs.

Drug abuse and AIDS

- Target AIDS education at drug abusers. Drug use is now the number one cause of infection with the AIDS virus. Approximately 32% of all adult/ adolescent AIDS cases are related to IV drug use. To stop AIDS we must stop drug abuse. We have to make everyone aware of the twin risks, and support local efforts to reduce the spread of AIDS through drug abuse.

THE RECORD

Getting tough on Crime

- Governor Clinton increased penalties for repeat offenders, drug dealers and violent crimes.
- Enforced Arkansas' capital punishment law.
- Senator Gore was a primary author of the Brady Bill which required a background check during a mandatory waiting period.
- Cosponsored legislation to provide a mandatory 5-year minimum prison sentence for anyone who uses a gun to commit a federal crime.
- Cosponsored legislation to provide a mandatory 5-year prison sentence for anyone who uses armor-piercing ammunition ("cop-killer bullets").
- Cosponsored the Career Armed Criminal Act, which would have created a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years in a federal penitentiary for burglary.
- Voted for the Violent Crime and Law Enforcement Act which contains provisions including tougher penalties for use of a gun during violent crime and gun possession by felons, and the establishment and authorization of anti-gang programs.
- Voted for Omnibus Crime Bill of 1990 which strengthens S&L fraud enforcement, adopts and Victims of Child Abuse Act, and strengthens attacks on drug-related crime.

Creating prisons that work

- Clinton established "boots camps" which require a 105-day program of paramilitary exercise, arduous work, drug treatment and education to instill discipline in non-violent first offenders. To date, boot camp participants have a low return rate of 13.2 percent.
- Adopted new "good time" policies encouraging inmate education. Since 1983, almost 4,000 inmates have received their GED's through this program, and have had a low recidivism rate (11.2 percent).
- Kept Arkansas prison costs to the lowest per inmate and prison escape rates eight lowest in the nation.

Fighting Drugs

- Under Governor Clinton's leadership, a highly successful marijuana eradication program destroyed more than one million marijuana plants with an estimated value of more than \$1 billion between 1982 and 1991.
- Strengthen drug laws (for example, the rebuttable presumption for intent to deliver cocaine was reduced from 2 grams to 1 gram), toughened penalties for individuals convicted of selling drugs on or near school property, and increased the number of narcotics officers on the beat.
- Senator Gore cosponsored the Omnibus Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, which employed a multi-faceted approach to combatting drug abuse and added muscle to existing efforts.
- Cosponsored the National Narcotics Leadership Act, passed as part of the 100th Congress Omnibus Anti-Drug Bill, which established a Cabinet-level anti-drug official.
- Cosponsored legislation which makes robbery of a pharmacy a federal offense.
- Voted to allow the military to assist federal drug enforcement efforts.

Protecting victim's rights

- Governor Clinton fought for victims' rights: In 1977, as Attorney General, Clinton submitted two bills to provide compensation to crime victims. As Governor, Clinton passed laws to guarantee the right of victims and to compensate victims and their families. The National Organization for Victim Assistance has recognized Arkansas' program as one of the most progressive in the country.
- Senator Gore has consistently supported legislation to provide assistance to states in setting up and maintaining victim compensation programs.
- Introduced and helped enact the campus Crime Statistics Act to help increase safety and awareness on college campuses.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 12, 1993

Dear Delegates:

On the occasion of the convocation of the eleventh annual IDEC, I wish to take this opportunity to state my commitment, and the commitment of the United States of America, to the continued international struggle against narco-traffickers.

The United States is determined to combat the international outlaws who traffic in narcotics through cooperation with each of your nations and with multilateral organizations such as IDEC. We must labor together to defeat this common enemy that attacks the welfare of our citizens and the sovereignty of our states. The trade in illegal drugs and their abuse are global problems requiring a universal response. The United States remains strongly committed to participating in concerted international law enforcement efforts, exemplified by the past activities of IDEC.

To President Menem, I give my personal thanks for the commitment he and the people of Argentina have made to end the use of and trade in illicit drugs. I commend each of you for your personal dedication in the face of the many obstacles facing our cause. To those of you in the forefront of the fight against the scourge of international drug trafficking, I express the gratitude of the American people and their strong desire for success in the endeavors resulting from this important conference.

Sincerely,



Delegates to the Eleventh Annual
International Drug Enforcement Conference
San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina

**Sarah Brady and
Coalition of Prosecutors for Clinton/Gore Endorsement
Remarks Governor Bill Clinton
Romulus, MI
October 17, 1992**

Thank you very, very much. Thank you. Thank you very much. I want to thank my long time friend, Frank Kelley, with whom I served as attorney general, and who was elected attorney general of Michigan when I was 16 years old. Never let it be said that there's no job security in politics.

I always say that the attorney general was the best job I ever had. Unlike being governor or president, you don't have to hire or fire much, or tax or cut. And when you do something that's really unpopular, you can always blame it on the Constitution.

I want to thank the former attorneys general who are here, as well as the remarkable representation of attorneys general who are here. I want to thank Norm Early for his eloquent statement, and for the statement on behalf of the prosecutors around America, more than 200 of them now.

I want to thank Bob Scully again for the support that he has given me, and the work that he's done on behalf of our law enforcement officials.

I'd like to say a special word of thanks to the delegation from my state. I see at least three of them. My attorney general Winston Bryant, my friend of many years, prosecutor Mark Stodola who worked in my

first campaign for Congress in 1974. I've still never asked him to fix a speeding ticket.

And Karen Curry, the coordinator of our prosecutors at home. But most of all, like most of you, I want to thank Cathy and Lindsey and Chris Gould and Sarah Brady for their presence here today. For they remind us of what this election is really all about.

I could hardly bear to listen to the eloquent statement of Cathy Gould. This is a complicated issue. Those of us who have dealt with it for a long time know that when our children's children are here in this country, there will still be crime. There has always been violence in America. We know that crime is somehow related to the deterioration of the economy and the combined deterioration of the economy and the social structures that affect so many millions of our people, what has happened to our communities and to our families.

But we know that somehow it is raging out of control now in ways that no civilized society should accept. Surely our country does not have to be the most violent on earth, with the largest percentage of its people behind bars of any nation on earth. And when you hear people like Cathy Gould and Sarah Brady talk, you ask yourself, "have we done all we can", and if we haven't, how can we sleep tonight.

You know, my exposure to the issue they discussed, it's interesting, it goes back to a personal experience I had with someone who was on the other side of the issue presented by the Brady Bill. I had a friend many years ago who ran a little hardware store in a little town in North Arkansas, and he sold guns. And a man he hadn't seen in ten years came in his store and said, I want to buy a handgun. I want to go out and do a little practicing. He, like most of the people in our state, you know, were gun owners and skeptical of all this, and the '68 gun control law is all we have. And so he pulled out this form. He said, now, have you ever committed a crime, have you ever been in a mental institution. Of course, no, no. And he put it right back in the folder and went on, sold the guy the gun. Within eighteen hours six people were dead. The man

had escaped from our own Veterans' Mental Hospital. Six days before he'd lost his mind as a result of his experience in Vietnam.

It was in some days almost no one's fault, except a system that wasn't smart enough not to put guns into the hands of people who are mentally unstable. And yet, my friend who just did what thousands of other people in his position do every day in this country, almost never got over it, and was plagued for years by the thought that somehow he was responsible for what had happened.

So I say to you today, I do not promise miracles in the fight on crime. But I understand what it's like, having been an attorney general, having been someone who's worked for victims of crime for years, having tried to be a real friend to the prosecutors and law enforcement people in my state.

What I promise you is a partnership, not rhetoric, not hot speeches, not cheap 30 second television ads, but a genuine partnership to make the people of this country safer, and to make our policies saner, and to bring us closer to the kind of country we ought to have by supporting law enforcement, and doing things we know will work.

The Brady Bill ought to pass, and there ought to be a waiting period in this country until there is an automatic, absolutely verifiable way of using computer technology to check on people's records in a more rapid way. It ought to pass. And I'll do my best to put it through.

We ought not to have assault weapons whose only purpose is to kill in the hands of people on the street, when the police don't have a fighting chance. It's wrong.

And for those who seriously claim that we ought to allow untrammelled ownership of those weapons because of sporting and target practice, come on down to Arkansas at any duck, turkey or quail season, we'll show them any number of other weapons options they can

have. That is an absurd argument. It is a ridiculous argument. And it's time we took the side of people in law enforcement.

We ought to have 100,000 more police officers on the street. Thirty years ago there were three police officers in this country for every serious crime. Today there are three serious crimes for every police officer. And yet we are organized in such a way that over 50 percent of all the rest are made by police officers in their first three years on the beat. It is time for America to make a serious commitment to community policing, to having people back on the beat, working the same neighborhoods, making relationships with people in ways that prevent crime as well as expedite the handling of criminal cases. It cannot be done without greater resources. With greater resources it can be done.

I have seen crime rates go down in certain neighborhoods in New York City for the first time in 36 years after community policing. I have seen it in Philadelphia. I've seen a fifteen percent drop in the crime rate in the city of Houston, after over 650 new police officers were added to the beat through prevention.

But it cannot work unless the resources are there. How will the federal government provide 100,000 more police officers? First of all, by getting the crime bill passed, instead of killing it, that has funds for people at the local level.

Secondly, by embracing the suggestion of Senator Sam Nunn, the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, that as we downscale the military we give properly trained and certified men and women coming out of the military the opportunity to continue to earn their military retirement by doing law enforcement work here at home.

Thirdly, by embracing and expanding the concept of the national

**police corps,
giving people the opportunity to work off their college loans if they are properly certified police officers, and work for two years at reduced pay, let them wipe out a four year college loan.**

I think those three things could help us to prevent crime, and make our streets safer without in any way undermining the quality of law enforcement in America.

**The third thing I think we ought to do, again echoing what Norm Early said,
is to raise the interest, the legitimate interest of victims in this country. I will put an advocate for the victims of the United States in that office for victims rights. That's something I agree with Norm. That's something Ronald Reagan did that I like, and we ought to do it again.**

**The fourth thing we should do is to give people a sense that we have a commitment to balance in fairness in the enforcement of criminal laws. There's
widespread support for severe punishment for the most severe white collar criminal offenses. This administration pulled down new sentencing guidelines in the white collar crime area, promised us 27 regional savings and loan task forces to deal with the savings and loan rip offs that have cost this country more than any taxpayer abuse in history. And to date only two of the 27 have been set up, and only one percent of the money that was ripped off from the American people has been recovered by the federal criminal justice system. And I can tell you, we are going to do better than that. We can, and we must do better than that.**

**The next thing I'd like to do is to say just a few words about drugs. Again
this is a complicated issue. It is very easy for a politician to talk about the drug war and to spout rhetoric, and I have gone out of my way to avoid saying things that sound like just somebody else screaming on the street corner. Because I have a brother of whom I'm proud who is a recovering drug addict, I know a little more about the complexities of this than a lot of people who run for office. But I can tell you here again, we can do better. We can do better on interdiction. We can use the**

resources of this country much better on interdiction. It can become an important part of our foreign policy. We can say we want to nourish the growing democracies in Latin

America, but if people want to do business with us, they're going to have to let us help them get their farmers into growing something besides things that will wind up killing the children of America. We must do it.

We can do what every serious federal prosecutor who's ever dealt in any detail with these drug cases has told me, and that is if you really want to get the big criminals, we can focus more on the money laundering aspects of their operations, and use the federal authorities to deal with the financial transactions that cross state lines that deal with federally insured institutions, that deal with those things that the states will never be competent to deal with because we will never have the resources. That is what the federal government ought to focus on in the law enforcement area. Go after the money, and we can get the big people.

I think we ought to do more for the communities that are hardest hit, and that's not only big communities, but smaller communities--some in my state would qualify. But we ought to help to organize extra efforts with extra help to bring together citizens' task forces, tenant management projects in the public housing facilities, school education programs, and other things that will be more intensely focused on the areas where drugs are in greatest use and where, therefore, violence and the threat to children is greatest.

And finally, I want the federal government to begin to help with the safe schools initiative. Years ago, the federal government's main involvement

with
local law enforcement was equipment, radios or other equipment. Now
what we
need is more metal detectors in our schools, and more security forces
there,
and a common effort to get uniform policies on searches and things of
that
kind, and federal matching funds to help to bring mentors and others
into the
schools to try to deal with these problems.

If no other part of a dangerous neighborhood in a dangerous city
can be safe,
the schools ought to be safe, and drug free. They ought to be havens.
And we
ought to leave them (inaudible).

I will say again, I care a lot about these issues. I care because I
know
personally about the scourge of drugs, I care because I had a friend who
thinks
he made a terrible mistake he never would have made if the Brady Bill
had been law,
I care because I have been moved beyond words by the courageous and
heroic efforts of Sarah and Jim Brady over these last several years, and
because there are people like Cathy Gould all over this country. And
their and their spouses service to our nation deserved to be honored by
our making our best efforts.

This can be an exciting part of our new partnership. This is not tax
and
spend government. The things I talked about are non-bureaucratic,
grass roots,
and common sense. And it's time we got about the business of doing
them.

Thank you very much.

in many different areas. And as you know, I have a longstanding support for capital punishment.

But let me answer the specific thing. I was briefed about this operation at about the time it was occurring, a little before. I knew that they had been working on it. But all the credit for this goes to the FBI and the local people; they did the work. And it's -- they've been working on this for some weeks now, and I don't think I should say more about it. The Justice Department will have more to say at an appropriate time.

Q Can you say whether you believe that everyone has been arrested who was involved in this? And have you had any communication, do you plan to have any communication with President Mubarak or any of the other possible victims?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not yet had any communications with any of the people that were on the list. I think the -- any questions about the nature of the conspiracy and the group should be answered by the law enforcement officials, not by me.

Q Mr. President, do you have the votes yet in the Senate for your budget to pass -- at this time, now?

THE PRESIDENT: I certainly hope so. (Laughter.)

Q Well, I ask the question because your spokesman said earlier that you didn't have them, but that you expected to by the end of the day. Do you have them now?

THE PRESIDENT: Who did? Who said that earlier?

Q Dee Dee said that, that you didn't have them this morning, but you expected to have them by the end of the day. Do you have them now?

THE PRESIDENT: Senator Mitchell is my ultimate authority on that. We're working our way through these amendments now and we just had, as I understand it, Senators Harkin, Metzenbaum, and Wellstone just announced their support for the package, pursuant to an agreement to reduce the size of the Medicaid cuts. There are still about \$10 billion Medicaid cuts over and above what the House put in, which was about \$50 billion.

So that will help, and that puts us three votes closer. And I just don't -- I can't say for sure. We're going to have a whole series of amendments which go through today. And then at the end of the day we may find ourselves in a position where some members want some things which can only come out of the conference, and they may have to just decide whether to let the bill go to conference or not. The House members had to make the same sort of decision. But I'm hopeful. That's all I can tell you -- I'm hopeful. We're working hard and I'm hopeful.

Q Does that bring it under \$500 billion, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Not to my knowledge. The last time I saw it, it didn't, Andrea. Now, I haven't seen the exact details of the last -- the last time I heard about it, about an hour and a half ago, it did not.

Q What kind of momentum do you want from this vote, and do you see this as a real turning point for your presidency?

THE PRESIDENT: There have been a lot of those lately. (Laughter.) The vote in the House was, and this will be. We have to go on to conference. I think -- this will say that -- this will be a loud -- if it passes today, this will be a very loud statement. It will say that both Houses of the Congress are committed to the largest deficit reduction program in history, to putting the taxes and the spending cuts in a trust fund, to spending cuts equal to and now greater than the tax increases into an extremely progressive program where those who can best able to pay are asked to pay.

The Senate Finance Committee bill, according to the Congressional Budget Office, distributes 78 percent of the burden to people with incomes above \$200,000 whose taxes were lowered in the 1980s while their incomes went up. So I think that this is a very -- it's a very important vote, and I hope we can prevail. But I never count my chickens before they're hatched.

Thank you.

Q Are you counting any Republicans? Any Republicans -- Hatfield or Jeffords?

THE PRESIDENT: I've asked; that's all I know.

Q Did you ask in phone calls?

Q Mr. President, is the final arrangement on gays in the military going to require them to stay in the closet, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No more questions. I have to answer their questions. Thank you.

END

1:53 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 22, 1993

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN SATELLITE FEED TO
CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

The Old Executive Office Building

10:50 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: I'm honored to address all the United States mayors at your conference. I want to thank you first for the strong support that you've given the economic plan I presented to the Congress and to the country. You supported it not because -- only because it's good for the cities, but because it's also good for America.

Your president, Mayor Bill Althaus, has certainly earned my respect and support because he's looked beyond party labels to support this plan because it's good for the people of his community. I look forward to having just that good of a relationship with your incoming president, my longtime friend, Mayor Jerry Abramson. And I want to say a special word about your host, Mayor Dinkins, a great mayor of a very great city.

As mayors, more than any other public official in this country, you have been on the front lines of public service. Every day you hear from people who have lost their jobs, who live in fear of crime, who desperately want to improve their children's schools and their own way of life. Many of you are trying to reknit a social fabric that has been unraveling for a long time now. From schools with metal detectors, to hospital emergency rooms crowded with gunshot victims, to children bearing children, you know what the real problems of America are.

I often think that being a mayor today is an act of faith that somehow our cities' problems will not overwhelm their promise. And our cities must always be the centers of commerce and culture, magnets for talent and ambition, places of hope and opportunity. We can't let the problems overcome the promise.

I wish I could be with you today in person, and I will look forward to doing that as you meet in the future. But my first obligation to you and to America is to keep fighting here in Washington for my economic plan. It will create jobs, increase incomes, offer hope and opportunity, and give us the freedom we need to invest in America in the future.

For 12 years we have seen, all of us -- you as mayors and me as a governor -- we saw what happened as we wrestled with many of the problems that grip America everywhere, and got a message from Washington, "you're on your own." Washington ran up the national debt from \$1 trillion to \$4 trillion and still reduced investments in

the things that make us stronger and wealthier and more secure as a people.

We got make-believe budgets from Presidents and mandates without money from Congress. And Washington never was willing to take responsibility for the future of this country, leaving it to the mayors and the governors to make all the tough choices.

Well, I don't expect anyone in that room today with you agrees with everything that I'm trying to do as President. But I think all of you understand that because of the massive debt we inherited, I can't do everything that I want to do. But I'll tell you this: I am determined to establish a new relationship, a new partnership with our nation's cities, based on respect and responsibility and an understanding that you ought to have more flexibility to do your work without so much micromanagement and regulation from the national government.

I also want to put the nation's money where our values are. I want us to invest in rewarding work, strengthening families and restoring our communities. And I want to set an example of responsibility by making the tough choices that have been avoided and evaded for too long here.

My economic plan is necessary and fair, and it will work. It brings down the national deficit by \$500 billion over the next five years. For every \$10 we cut the deficit, \$5 comes from spending cuts; \$3.75 from the highest income Americans, those in the upper 6 percent of income brackets; and \$1.25 comes from the middle class. Two-thirds of this tax burden comes from people with incomes above \$200,000 because they can best afford to pay. And over 100 specific spending cuts are over \$100 million each.

Now, it's easy to criticize this plan, maybe just because I've put forward a plan. Most of my critics don't have a plan of their own. Some say they're willing to cut Social Security and Medicare benefits for people just above the poverty line or cut more in veterans benefits than have been cut already, or cut tax credits for the working poor just to reduce the tax burden on the wealthy. Well, I draw the line there. I don't think that's fair.

I think that we need a fair tax system, not because we want to punish success, but because in the 1980s we ran up the deficit while raising taxes on the middle class and lowering them on upper income people.

Now I ask my critics in Congress, where are your tough choices? What are you going to do? If you want to reduce the tax burden on the wealthy, where will you make up the money? What will you do to reduce this deficit? Are you willing to make the same kinds of decisions that I have?

I wonder what the middle class, the working poor, the old, the sick, and the veterans will do if the failed policies of the past are not abandoned. I also wonder what they'll do if we don't ask all the rest of us to pay our fair share so that we can still continue to take care of them.

Make no mistake about it, I want to change the way Washington works with people all across this country. I want to move beyond the politics of both parties in Washington, beyond the politics of abandonment, of the politics of entitlement. We've got

to have a sense that we're doing this together. We can't do everything for the cities or the people of America, but we can't turn out backs on you either. And, frankly, that's what you've had for the last 12 years.

I want a new spirit of empowerment that offers you a hand up, not a hand out; that works with you instead of working you over. I want to offer more opportunity and demand more responsibility. And I know the mayors of this country are ready for that kind of arrangement. Just as we need to stop spending on things that don't work, we need to invest more in things that do work.

My plan does cut the deficit, but it finds the money to invest in empowering people to build better lives. I want to empower families to build better lives for their children, and am fighting to expand the Women, Infants, and Children's nutrition so that every expectant mother who needs help can get it.

I'm fighting for full funding for Head Start so that every child can start school ready to learn. I want to empower people through education. I'm fighting for tough standards for our students and our schools. I want to give them the resources they need to meet those standards. To offer young people new hope and teach work habits, I'm fighting for summer jobs. Congress has approved 580,000 publicly funded jobs and we're asking for another 215,000, and challenging the business community to match our commitment. The Labor Secretary Bob Reich has been there talking to you about that. I want to make it possible for tens of thousands of young people to pay off their college loans by serving the communities in which they live. That's the thing your previous speaker was talking about.

The national government can offer you our greatest resource -- our people -- to work in the streets, in the neighborhoods, in the communities; to work on programs that really change people's lives for the better, programs that you couldn't afford to have as mayors were it not for national service. And I'm proud to say that the national service bill has passed both committees in the House and the Senate just in the last few days with real bipartisan majorities.

To provide new opportunities for young people who aren't going to college, my plan contains the boldest national apprenticeship program our country has ever known, more funds for training in your communities. I want to empower low income people by making work pay. By expanding the earned income tax credit, we can establish a principle that will be important in every city in this country. If you work 40 hours a week and you have a child at home, you'll no longer live in poverty. We need to encourage full-time work, not lifetime welfare.

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 officers on our streets and promote community policing programs. That's the best anticrime program we can have.

I want to empower our communities to create new jobs, and I've proposed an empowerment zone program in excess of \$5 billion, so that communities can work with the private sector and we can finally see whether these incentives can attract businesses and created new jobs for people in our distressed inner cities and small

towns. I believe they will.

We're offering bold, new tax incentives for businesses to create jobs and asking each of you to create a strategy to rebuild your own community. We've learned that Washington can't solve problems from the top down, but that we have to help you. We also know you can't have capitalism without capital. That's why I have proposed a \$382-million funding for a network of community development banks all across this country to provide the credit and the banking services that are the lifeblood of local economies and that don't really exist in too many of our communities.

Almost a year ago, I left another convention in New York on a bus tour through America's heartland, to Mayor Althaus's hometown of York, Pennsylvania, to Mayor Abramson's hometown of Louisville, and to many of your own cities and towns. Every day I go to work in the White House, I think about how to create jobs and hope and opportunities for the people I visited on those bus tours.

I can't do it alone. I need your support in the tough choices that are coming up in Congress. If you'll stay involved and vigilant and vocal, we can create a vibrant economic growth for every community in this country. We can do it. We can cut the deficit. We can build on the successes we've had.

Just in the last five months you see interest rates down, homebuilding up, 130,000 new construction jobs -- that's the biggest increase in nine years -- 755,000 new jobs in the economy in only five months, 90 percent of them in the private sector. This program to bring the interest rates down through deficit reduction is working. And when we do it we will then have the funds we need to invest in the kind of partnerships that will help us to deal with the problems that all of you face.

So that's what I offer you -- a partnership, an economic program that works and, finally, over the long run, the way to deal with a lot of these underlying, deeply-seated cultural and social problems that I know have bothered all of you. We have to find new and different ways, one on one, to help to deal with the scourges of drug abuse, of crime, of unsafe streets, and of all these children who are out there having children themselves.

But I am very, very hopeful, because I still believe the most creative and innovative leaders in America are those at the grass roots. I'll work with you and I'll try to be the best partner you ever had in the White House.

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

MAYOR ALTHAUS: Mr. President, I'm sorry I must begin by taking issue with something you said. You expressed regret at not being with us. I say you are with us. Your policy initiatives are here, your Cabinet is here, your heart is here. I say you are with us, and I say thank you. (Applause.)

I want to take this opportunity and I want to call upon our friend, Mayor David Dinkins, for a comment, Mr. President.

Q Mr. President, thank you very much. As you well know, nearly all federal dollars flow through the states and then eventually the money trickles down to cities. It is clear to many mayors that for several federal programs, including the Intermodal

Service Transportation Efficiency Act of '91 -- or ISTEA, as we all know it -- and the federal criminal justice program, the dollars do not necessarily reach the intended priority projects in our cities.

State projects usually receive special consideration, while city priority projects are shunted aside. Mr. President, let me assure you that this is not simply an issue of who controls federal funds. It is much larger than that. It is an issue of great significance to many of us, because it determines whether city priorities are adequately addressed.

I would urge you, sir, and your Cabinet secretaries to seek direct funding solutions for city problems. We're only capable of solving some of our problems and our priorities with federal dollars if we receive the money directly.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, first of all, let me say a word of greeting to Secretary Brown -- I see him sitting next to you. I understand five of my Cabinet secretaries have been there and I can't find anybody on the phone here in Washington. I hope nothing bad happens while the Mayors Conference is going on. (Laughter.)

I wanted to say just a word about that. As you know, that's a matter that's been debated for years among the mayors, the governors, and the Congress. We are in the process right now, through the Vice President's Task Force on Reinventing Government, of reexamining the way the federal government relates to the cities and the states.

And if I might make a specific suggestion, I think it would be very helpful if you, or Mayor Abramson, if that's the appropriate person to do it, would designate a group of mayors to make a very specific proposal to our task force because -- and obviously, we'll have to invite people who might disagree to do the same thing -- but I think it's very important that we examine this because one of the things that I'm concerned about is the colossal amount of money we waste every year trying to micro-manage these grants, trying to have extra layers of regulation. And I think that a lot of these things need to be reexamined.

So I think the proper forum for us to do that in is this one. And it's on a very fast track because the report is due in September, so it's not anything we're going to dilly-dally around about. And I would like you to make a proposal to our commission. (Applause.)

Q With the Commission and assent of our President, I would be delighted to do that. I can demonstrate with respect to ISTEA, for instance, that in excess of \$300 million flowed to the state and we got \$4.3 million.

Q I'm very glad you're able to join us. And I might just mention I was a strong supporter of your stimulus package, and I caught quite a lot of flack about that from other Republicans. One of the reasons that I supported the package was -- and one of the things I pointed out to people was that as the federal government requires us to do things through mandates, I thought it was appropriate for us to seek the money to pay for those things.

THE PRESIDENT: Absolutely.

Q Yesterday the conference passed a strong resolution

calling for the President and Congress to pass legislation to end the practice of unfunded federal mandates. Senator Dirk Kempthorne, who is the former mayor of Boise, was here with us and indicated that he had introduced legislation that states very simply that if Congress gives a federal mandate, then Congress should also give us the money to pay for that mandate. Now, this is a bipartisan issue; it's one that affects city government, county government, state government, too. And we'd like to know what your position is with regard to unfunded mandates, and whether you're willing to join us in supporting Dirk Kempthorne's bill.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I haven't reviewed the bill, Paul, but I certainly think that we shouldn't have unfunded mandates. I spoke out against them as a governor. I told the mayors that I would be opposed to adding to your burdens. I don't believe in that. And I do want to -- I'll be glad -- I'll review the bill and see whether or not we should support the bill, too. But I have told our administration clearly that I don't want us up there on the Hill supporting bills to load up a bunch of new burdens on the mayors and the governors when they're broke, when we're not increasing funding to the states and the cities as we should. And I've sent a very clear signal on it. And I will review the legislation.

I also want to thank you and Bill Althaus and many other Republican mayors for supporting the jobs stimulus program. And let me say that, I think after we pass this budget, we'll be able, together, in a very bipartisan fashion, to try to make the argument that was made there again, which is that there is a difference between investment and consumption spending; and that while the federal government may be spending too much on regulation, on the programs of the past and on uncontrolled health care costs, we are actually not anywhere nearly where we need to be in targeted investments that create jobs and opportunities not only in the public sector but in the private sector.

And the mayors were very, very helpful in that regard. I'll never forget what you did. And I don't want you to think that the battle that you waged more ferociously than any other single group in the United States -- you did more to try to help that package -- and I don't want you to think that the battle you waged was for nothing, because the battle you waged was about an idea that we're still going to have to fight to get back into our national consciousness. Not all federal spending is the same; not all taxes are the same. We have to learn to make very rigorous distinctions if we want to grow this economy.

And so I do want to thank you for that. And I will review the Kempthorne legislation. Thank you.

Q Mr. President, I don't know that we've ever been called ferocious before, but we appreciate it. (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: I can't believe you were never called ferocious.

Q Mr. President, good morning. We very much appreciate your support and what you are able to put forward for job creation, infrastructure, enhancement, Head Start, immunization, and all that was contained in the stimulus package as well as the empowerment zones, which mean so much to our home towns.

The issue that has percolated through this meeting over

the last couple of days is defense conversion. We've talked a lot about the conversion that we look forward to happening in America from a military-based economy to a domestic-based economy, which you've talked about often.

The concern was that as we attempt to transfer technology, as we attempt to move research and development into the weapons of the future, which will be products and quality of products, that you've got the Defense Department entrenched with almost 40 percent of all our research funds still left in the Defense Department. You've got defense interested in this transformation and conversion; you've got the Commerce Department and my friend, Secretary Brown, interested; you've got the Labor Department interested. And we want to make sure that we can help and support in the effort -- and, of course, you've got the National Economic Council. But we want to make sure there's a focus and there's a game plan that we can support your efforts. And I wondered if you could share that with us.

THE PRESIDENT: Secretary Brown can discuss this in greater detail, but let me say that we have spent a lot of time through the National Economic Council, with all the departments that you mentioned, trying to make sure that we have a coordinated conversion plan.

Some of the work has to be done in the Defense Department. We are shifting more research and development into other areas. We are doing what we can to make sure that the work that is done in Commerce and Energy -- Energy has the national labs as you know, and the Labor Department that all these things are coordinated and that you will be able to work with the National Economic Council or with any Cabinet secretary and still have the benefits of all of us working together. We really tried to minimize the turf battles here.

I also asked for quite a large increase in defense conversion funds over the next five years, although I don't think it's as much as we need and I think we'll be asking for more as we go along. And I want to emphasize basically three things because this is not an easy issue. I've done a lot of work on this myself as a governor. We have to be prepared to retrain workers who can't keep the jobs they have. We have to be prepared to invest in companies to help them find dual-use technologies in the hope that those companies can keep as many workers as possible and can find new products and services they can provide. We also have to be prepared to invest directly in communities that will have to develop all new economic strategies. There are communities which basically don't have a diverse economic base today, where if they lose a base, for example, instead of a plant, that may have great difficulty in redesigning an economic strategy, even though they may have the resource of the base right there that they can use.

So my view is that we can't -- there is no silver bullet here. You have to work on the workers, the companies and the communities. And we've got to keep working on this. I will say this: I think there is a lot of sympathy and understanding of these problems in the Congress. And I think that the mayors will be able to have some significant successes in the years ahead. If we can go on and pass this economic program, lock down our determination to bring the deficit down and keep these interest rates down, then I think we'll be able to come back to the Congress on conversion issues and do quite well.

MAYOR ALTHAUS: Mr. President, a final comment from another old friend, Mayor Juanita Crabb of Binghamton.

Q Good morning, Mr. President. It means a great for you to be talking with us this morning, especially because mayors of this country and your administration are so close in policy and programs. As a matter of fact, I think it was barely a week after the election that we endorsed your Putting People First program.

Part of that program called for a 100,000 new police officers for the streets of our city. And as a matter of fact, one of the running themes through this conference has been the issue of safety for all of our people. We are very much into community policing and implementing and promoting those programs. But it would be very important for us to meet with you and also the police chiefs to implement your new proposal. And I would very much like to ask for that meeting.

THE PRESIDENT: I think that's a good idea, Mayor Crabb. I think the goal can be achieved, but it's important that we achieve it in a way that you feel is maximizing your ability to do a good job, and that we do it in a way that achieves the ultimate objective, which is safer streets and more robust and hopeful communities. So I'd like to have the meeting with you and, obviously, representatives of the police chiefs.

There are three or four different avenues that we can pursue that we can get to our ultimate goal of having 100,000 more police officers. And we really need to talk about what's best for you, what works best, how you can get folks with the maximum flexibility to pursue community policing strategies. I'm very interested in this. This is something that the Attorney General and I have had several conversations about already, and there are a lot of people in the White House itself working hard on this. I think we ought to get our group together and meet with your group and just talk it out and we can develop a coordinated four-year plan to get the job done. I'm anxious to do it. It's one thing we can do that will literally change the lives of most Americans who live in the communities affected by it. And we need to continue to work on it until we get the job done. (Applause.)

MAYOR ALTHAUS: Mr. President, we thank you so very much for taking your time for being with us. We appreciate not only your presentation, but your focused response to the questions that have been asked. And we are there with you shoulder to shoulder, as we have been in the past. You can count on us. We'll be counting on you, and hopefully, together we can make a brighter future for our cities. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mayor. Good-bye.

END

11:16 A.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

Embargoed for Release

Until Saturday, August 14, 1993

at 10:06 A.M. EDT

RADIO ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT TO THE NATION

The Parc Lane Hotel
Oakland, California

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. This week we took a big step toward restoring opportunity and prosperity to the people of our nation, when I signed into law our economic growth plan. It puts our house in order with the largest deficit reduction measure in our history, mandating more than \$250 billion in spending cuts, with substantial cuts in more than 200 specific spending programs. It makes over 90 percent of our small businesses eligible for tax cuts, if they invest to spur job creation. And it provides new incentives to lift people who work full time and have children in their homes but still live in poverty above the poverty line.

That's a real incentive for the working poor to stay at work and a down payment on our plan to end the welfare system as we know it.

With this economic plan in place, private analysts believe more than 8 million jobs will be created over the next four years. Already the plan has brought interest rates to historic lows and the stock market to historic highs. People are refinancing home loans and business loans, saving a lot of money, money that can be invested to grow this economy. And we've had about a million new jobs come into the economy in the last six and a half months. This plan will help us to restore the economy and revive the American Dream.

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 were 90,000 murders in America in the last four years, and a startling upsurge in gang activity, drive-by shootings and bloody carjackings.

There's a virtual war on many of our streets, and crime has become a national security issue to millions of Americans. I've worked to fight crime as an attorney general and a governor. I've worked with law enforcement officers, community leaders, victims groups. I know we can make our streets safer and our children's future more secure.

This week I announced my administration's anti-crime plan and law enforcement officers from all over America came to support it. People from Massachusetts to Mississippi spoke up. William O'Malley, a District Attorney in Massachusetts said the murder rate in Plymouth County had doubled, and the age of defendants in court is getting younger. One of the law

enforcement officers said that in his area the average age of a killer was now under 16 years of age.

Police Commissioner Bill Bratton of Boston spoke of the fear that grips his city where homicides have gone up 60 percent this year because of gangs and domestic violence. The attorney general of Mississippi pointed out that the crime wave has now reached small towns and rural areas. And we can't leave them out of our solution.

These facts could be repeated by any prosecutor, any police officer in the United States. We have to give these people the help they need to seize the control of our streets. And that's precisely what I'm determined to do.

Our new crime initiative goes back to basics -- toughening criminal laws and disarming criminals, putting more police on patrol, protecting students, restoring order to our streets. It also emphasizes some good ideas that do work -- community policing; working with citizens to prevent crime and catch criminals; and boot camps for youthful offenders to give them a second chance to develop self-discipline and other skills to live lawful, successful lives.

Society has the right to impose the most severe penalty on the hardened criminals who commit the most heinous crimes. I support capital punishment, especially against those who kill our police officers. This legislation expands the federal death penalty and limits the time available to criminals to appeal their sentences. The plan cracks down on the easy availability of guns. I'm eager to sign the Brady Bill, which requires a waiting period before the purchase of a handgun. And I've signed a directive ordering the Treasury Department to suspend the importation of foreign-made assault pistols, the weapons of choice for many gangs and drug dealers.

Our crime bill will fund the hiring of up to 50,000 new police officers to walk the beat. It will also create a police corps to allow young people to pay for college and then ask them to return to their communities as police officers in exchange for the educational benefit.

The plan expands the Cop on the Beat Program to help pay to put more police on the street, to hire more security guards to keep our schools safe, to beef up patrol in public housing in communities where small businesses are vulnerable to crime. We ask for new federal boot camps to provide wayward young people the discipline, the education, the training they need for a chance to avoid a lifetime of crime.

And we put these new tools into the hands of the toughest and most talented trio of crimefighters ever assembled at the federal level -- the Attorney General Janet Reno, a seasoned prosecutor from Miami; the FBI Director Louis Freeh, a streetwise former prosecutor and tough federal judge with a nationally acclaimed record of crimefighting; and Lee Brown, the former police chief of New York, Houston and Atlanta, the father of community policing, who now serves as our Director of Drug Control Policy.

But these law enforcement leaders cannot and must not wage this war alone. 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. Too many of our fellow citizens simply reject values like decency, order and the respect for the rule of law. Often we can yank people like that back to what is right and what is true.

Every one of us needs to speak up and provide better role models for our young people before we lose them to the meanness of the streets. We can take simple but effective actions like taking car keys away from teenagers and adults who are under the influence of alcohol or drugs before they get behind the wheels of their cars and risk great damage to themselves and others.

We can urge broadcasters and advertisers to tone down the violence we see on television and then theaters everyday and persuade them that there is a market for programs and movies that reflect and reinforce our values. We can remind people of the opportunities they have for community service so that they can express their patriotism and caring by giving something back to the country which gives us so much and helps people in need at the same time.

In short, we can work together as partners. And when we do, when the government works with us and not against us, there is nothing the American people can't do.

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.

Thanks for listening.

END

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 10, 1993

PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE PRESIDENT

The East Room

3:05 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. As we approach the end of this congressional session, just before Thanksgiving, it's important that our people know that here in Washington we are finally tackling issues that are central to the lives of all Americans, replacing gridlock in an action with progress in the pursuit of the common good.

In the last few months, we passed the largest deficit reduction package in history, interest rates and inflation have remained at historic lows, millions of Americans have been able to refinance their homes, investment is up, and more new jobs have come into our economy in the last 10 months than in the previous four years.

There's been a real effort to improve security for America's working families, with the dramatic expansions in the earned incomes tax credit, to help working Americans with children who live in modest incomes to do better through tax reductions. We've opened more of our products in high-tech areas to exports. We've passed the family leave law. We've expanded opportunities for people to invest in new businesses in this country. And we've presented a comprehensive plan that will put real health care security within reach of every American.

We're working on reinventing our government to do more with less, and I am proud to say that the Congress is clearly signaling today its determination to move on reforming campaign finance laws. A bill passed the Senate several months ago. Today the House committee is voting out a bill which I believe the House of Representatives will pass.

This is a record of real achievement. But in the next few weeks before we go home, Congress will be challenged to take even greater strides in protecting the personal security of Americans and in creating more opportunities for us to compete and win in the global environment.

The Senate is completing work now on our crime bill -- legislation that will fulfill the campaign promise I made to put 100,000 additional police officers on the street, to keep felons behind bars, to take criminals off the street, to provide boot camps and alternative service for first-time youthful offenders, and to remove guns from the hands of people who should not have them. We have a real shot now to pass the Brady bill. After years -- 12 years -- of heroic activism by Jim and Sarah Brady, Congress is finally determined, I believe, to stand up to the interest against the Brady

bill and to take action on crime, which is the number one personal security issue for most Americans.

And a week from today, Congress will decide whether to expand exports and jobs by passing the North American Free Trade Agreement. The case for NAFTA could not have been made more forcefully or eloquently than it was by Vice President Gore last night in his debate with Mr. Perot. Last night the Vice President showed that just stating the facts about NAFTA and showing our concern for the interest of working Americans can overcome the fears, the distortions that had been leveled against this agreement. NAFTA means exports; exports means jobs. No wealthy country in the world is growing more jobs without expanding exports.

When the American people hear that case, they showed last night they were willing to listen and willing to join not only millions of other Americans like those the Vice President called by name last night, but every living former president, former secretary of state, Nobel Prize-winning economist, and over 80 percent of the sitting governors.

The contrast we saw last night was clear. Mr. Perot warned members of the House of Representatives that they would face awful retaliation if they voted their conscience on NAFTA. The Vice President urged the members of the House to vote for hope against fear; to vote for the proposition that Americans can compete and win in the global economy; to vote their conscience and tell the constituents back home why they were voting as they were. And if the preliminary results on the debate last night are any indication, the members of the House of Representatives can trust the American people with the facts and with their own convictions.

This vote comes at a defining moment for our nation. We have been through a very tough period. For 20 years -- 20 years -- 60 percent of the American people have been working harder for the same or less wages. We have had great difficulty in increasing the productivity that is absolutely essential to creating jobs and raising incomes. But we have now done it. This country is now the most productive country in the world across a broad spectrum of manufacturing and service activities in this economy. We can win. And we have to decide, beginning next week, whether we're going to reach out to compete and win, or try to withdraw.

I will say again one point I want to make about NAFTA before I open the floor to questions that was not emphasized last night simply because it didn't come up as much. This agreement means more jobs, but the real job growth for America will come when two other steps are taken. It will come when all the other Latin democracies and free market economies also join in a great trade group with Mexico, Canada and the United States. And it will come because once this happens, we will have enormously increased influence in the world community to argue that we ought to adopt a worldwide trade agreement before the end of the year, to get that new GATT agreement. That will influence Asia, it will influence Europe if the House votes for NAFTA. The stakes for this country, therefore, are quite high. I believe the House will do the right thing.

I want to say, too, that I am grateful that today Congressman Hoagland, Congressman Kreidler, Congressman Dicks, Congressman Valentine and Senator Nunn announced their support for NAFTA. I think that we will see more coming in the days ahead, and I

think that by the time we get to vote counting, we'll have enough to win.

Thank you.

Q Mr. President, U.S. foreign policy endeavors have been less than successful in Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia. And on Sunday on Meet the Press you seemed to be lukewarm about your foreign policy team. Is Secretary Wharton being made your sacrificial lamb? And are you planning a shake-up of your foreign policy team? I mean, is that the signal?

THE PRESIDENT: No to both questions. First of all, I did not mean to be lukewarm. I have always followed a policy as long as I've been a chief executive of not discussing a lot of personnel issues. But I will say again what I said on Sunday. This team has worked hard on a lot of difficult issues. I think they deserve high marks for dealing with the central, large, strategic issues of this time -- dealing with the Soviet -- the former Soviet Union, working on the bringing down the nuclear threat, working on stemming nuclear proliferation, working on peace in the Middle East, working on putting economics at the forefront of our foreign policy.

Secondly, Mr. Wharton is not being made a scapegoat in any way, shape or form. What he worked on at the State Department, in my judgment, he did a good job on. He worked on reorganization; he worked on the aid programs; he worked on a number of issues that have nothing to do with the controversies which were thorny when I got here and are still thorny today in Somalia, Haiti and Bosnia. It would be a great mistake for anyone to misinterpret what happened.

I think you have to take his remarks on their own terms. But believe me, his departure has nothing to do with scape-goating. I have the highest regard for him. And I am grateful for the service he rendered.

Q Mr. President, there's a growing expectation that Israel and Jordan are going to sign a peace treaty when Prime Minister Rabin visits the White House on Friday. Could you tell us what's the likelihood of that? And also on Mr. Rabin, Israeli radio says that he's written you a letter asking you to cut the prison sentence of convicted spy Jonathan Pollard to 10 years. Are you going to do that?

THE PRESIDENT: First of all, I am delighted by the reports of progress in the relationships between Israel and Jordan. And as you know, we are talking with both of them. And we've been involved with that. But I don't think anything will happen Friday on that. I would be pleased if it did. But the truth is, we have no reason to believe that anything will be happening Friday.

On the Pollard case, it is true that the Prime Minister has written me about Jonathan Pollard. I have asked the Justice Department to review his case, as I do in every request for executive clemency. I have not received a report from them yet. And I will not make a decision on the Pollard case until I get some sort of indication from them.

Q Mr. President, there are some who suggest that you deliberately wanted to have the Vice President debate Mr. Perot in order to elevate Mr. Perot as a potential threat to Republicans down the road more than Democrats. Did you have those kinds of interests

in mind?

THE PRESIDENT: I wish I were that Machiavellian. It never occurred to me. (Laughter.) I wanted the Vice President to debate Mr. Perot because I believed -- and I know that the conventional wisdom around here was that it was a mistake -- but, first, I want to give credit where credit's due. The Vice President, not the President -- the Vice President had the idea that maybe this was the time to have a debate and to do it on Larry King.

My immediate response, however, was very positive, because I believe the American people -- first of all, we know they're hungry for debate. They know we have to change, and they're deeply skeptical of people in politics. So the more direct access people have to this issue, one that affects their lives, the more feeling they get for the facts and the arguments as well as for the conviction of the parties involved, I just think it's better. So there was no ulterior motive in that, whatever.

Q Mr. President, the polls indicate that Vice President Gore did do well in the debate last night and that Mr. Perot did not do so well. You clearly believe he was wounded on the issue of NAFTA. Do you think that carries over into his role in politics in general? Does it hurt his standing as a political force in this country in the future?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't have any idea. I don't know about that. I will say this: I think there are a lot of people out there who are alienated from the political system for good reasons. And it is -- one of the greatest frustrations I have as President is that it is often difficult for me to cut through the din of daily events here to keep speaking to those people and to try to keep them involved.

I think that they will feel more supportive of not only this administration, but of the American political system, if we can produce sustained economic growth, greater security for people who work hard and play by the rules; if we can produce a genuine effort to fight crime and to deal with the problems of the breakdown of the society and family in many of the troubled areas of our country; and if we can produce political reform -- if we can produce campaign finance reform and lobby reform -- and if the Congress sometime in the next few weeks passes a law that says they'll live under the laws that they pass and impose on the private sector.

These are the things that you keep hearing from people who voted in the last election for Mr. Perot. I think what we should focus on, those of us who are here, is addressing the concerns, the hopes and the fears of those people. And the rest of it will take care of itself. We'll just have to see what happens.

Q Mr. President, the White House has complained and Mr. Gore scored some points about Mr. Perot's exaggerations and exaggerations of the anti-NAFTA forces. But last night the Vice President said that 22 out of 23 studies have shown job increases. He cited a figure of 400,000. The Joint Economic Committee, a bipartisan committee of Congress, said that's not true. Doesn't it hurt their arguments for NAFTA when --

THE PRESIDENT: What did they say was not true?

Q Well, they said that the studies were being double

counted, and that he did not cite the job losses, so he wasn't giving a net figure and that actually the overall size of the economy, that those really are not that significant, or can't be properly counted.

THE PRESIDENT: That's what I tried -- let me respond to that on the specific allegations. I have always tried to couch NAFTA as a job winner, both gross -- a net job winner. That is I think that the evidence is clear that not just in the long run, but in the near run, we'll have had more job gains than job losses out of this. There will plainly be some job losses. But, the point I have tried to make, always, is we have a lot of job losses every year in America we can't prevent. So when we have an opportunity to create more jobs, we are almost more morally bound to do it when we can have a net job gain.

I think some of the most -- I don't think the Vice President willfully misstated that, because we've had this conversation a long time -- many times. But a lot of the extreme claims on both sides ignore the fact that Mexico itself, on its own terms, only comprises four to five percent of the size of the American economy. The size of the Mexican economy today is about the size of California's economy from the Los Angeles county line, the north line, down to the Mexican border. And, therefore, the ability of the Mexicans in the near term to hurt the American economy, or to totally inflate it, is somewhat limited.

As you know, we said that we thought we would gain 200,000 jobs over the next two years. Well, last month our economy produced 177,000 jobs. That's why I say -- let me reiterate what I said in my opening remarks. The thing that's important about this is that it makes a statement that we're reaching out to expand trade. It really will -- 200,000 jobs is nothing to sneeze at. And almost all of our people believe that the net will be well above 150,000. That is, that's nothing to sneeze at in two years, especially since they will be higher paying jobs.

But the important thing is that by showing we can have this relationship with Mexico, we will rapidly be able to move to conclude similar agreements with other market-oriented democracies -- with Chile, with Argentina, with a whole range of other countries in Latin America. And this then will give us the psychological leverage -- just as for the anti-NAFTA people this has become the repository for all their resentments, for us that are for it, it's become the symbol of where we want to go in the world. This will give me enormous leverage when I get on the airplane the day after the NAFTA vote and go out to meet with the General Secretary of the People's Republic of China, when I go out to meet with the Prime Minister of Japan and all the other leaders of Asia, when I try to convince the Europeans that it's time for a worldwide trade agreement.

And nearly everyone who has analyzed what we agreed to about the time of the G-7 on the GATT Round, the new trade agreement, concludes that it will add hundreds of thousands of jobs, significant jobs near-term to the American economy. So I say that, on balance, this is a huge deal for America, but both sides need to be very careful not to make extreme claims. This is a job winner for our country -- more jobs with Latin America, even more jobs when we have a new world trade agreement. It all begins with NAFTA.

Q Mr. President, do you have any regrets about your comments about labor during the Sunday television interview, your comment about the naked pressure that they've exerted on members of

Congress on NAFTA? And what are you going to do to kiss and make up with them?

THE PRESIDENT: I sent a little note to Mr. Kirkland the other day and said I hope my comments Sunday morning didn't ruin his Sunday afternoon. And I told him basically what I said before. I have enormous respect for many of the people who are fighting us on this. I just think they're wrong. But, specifically, I don't think a congressman who has been a friend of the labor movement for 20 years should be told that he or she will get an opponent in the next election or never get any more help on this one vote. I just disagree with that.

If you go back and look at the interview, I was trying to make the point that I thought in the Congress the labor movement was more -- a bigger force from keeping this passing than the Perot folks were. I didn't mean to hurt their feelings, but I can't retract what I said because I don't think it's right for people to be told, if you vote your conscience on this vote we're through with you forever, no matter what you've done with use before. I think that's bad and it's not conducive to good government.

Q We seem to be heading for one of those cliffhangers next week in the House, kind of high political drama that Washington enjoys. I can't imagine, though, sir, that perhaps you enjoy it quite as much. And I wonder as you look back on this if you feel that this issue could perhaps have been managed differently, perhaps an earlier start that would have enabled you to make what you seem to feel is a very strong case a bit more easily.

THE PRESIDENT: I think the only way we could have started earlier is if we'd been able to conclude the side agreements sooner, because keep in mind, first of all, I ran for this job with a commitment to support NAFTA if I could get the right side agreements. This thing was dead in the water in January when I became President. It was gone. There was no support among the Democrats in the House. There were Republicans who thought they weren't going to be able to vote for it. Yes, the opposition then got geared up and made a lot of charges against it. But the only thing we had to hold out was the promise that we could conclude side agreements that would improve the environmental issues and that would deal with the labor issues and that would give us some leverage for people to move forward.

If we had been able to conclude those agreements more quickly, then we could have started the campaign more quickly.

Q You don't think these side agreements added credence to the idea that it was a flawed agreement and perhaps hurt politically?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I don't think so. I don't know. Anybody can always second-guess. But what I always tried to say about NAFTA was that the concept was sound and that we needed an agreement with Mexico. One of the things we haven't talked about very much is it means a lot to the United States to have a neighbor with 90 million people that is moving toward democracy, that is moving toward an open economy and that is moving toward greater friendship with us. I mean, this is a big deal. If you want cooperation in the immigration problem, the drug problem, this means a lot to us.

I always felt that we would get there, but in dealing

with at least the people in our party, we had to be able to have something to show that would indicate we were making progress in these areas. So that's all I can say. We may be able to be second-guessed, but the thing simply wasn't ready, and I didn't have anything to argue with.

Q Mr. President, a moment ago you stated that your leverage would be increased in Seattle if you get a NAFTA victory. Could you come at it from the other side? If you have a NAFTA defeat on Wednesday, would that in any way diminish your prestige in Seattle or your ability to conduct foreign policy?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think it would diminish my ability to conduct foreign policy except in the economic area. I think it would limit my ability to argue that the Asians should open their markets more. And, after all, our trade problem, in terms of open markets, if you look at it, where is our trade deficit -- \$49 billion with Japan, \$19 billion with China, \$9 billion with Taiwan. We have a \$5.4 billion trade surplus with Mexico. So I think my ability to argue that case forcefully that "you ought to open your markets; look at what we're doing" will be undermined.

And I think, more importantly, my ability to argue that the Asians and the Europeans should join with me and push hard, hard to get a world trade agreement through the GATT Round by the end of the year will be more limited. There's no question about it.

Look, the anxieties that we have here -- the same thing is going on in Japan, where they're not generating jobs and they've got staggering income. Same thing in Europe; it's been years since the European economy as a whole has generated new jobs. So in each of these great power centers of the world there are these debates every day just like the one that went on last night between the Vice President and Mr. Perot. They're debating it -- are they going to be more open or more closed, which way are they going to go? And so I think that my ability to tip the scales in that debate in the right direction for history and for the American people will be limited significantly in the short run if we lose NAFTA. It will not be good for the United States.

Q Mr. President, beyond signing a crime bill, if and when one hits your desk, what else can you do? What else will you do about crime and violence?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think that there's a lot more that we have to do. I think the administration has got to examine everything we can do to try to put together an approach that will 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 civilize life can go on.

I think that the crime bill is very important. I don't want to minimize that. I know some disagree that it is. It really more make a difference if you put another 100,000 police out there. We're losing the ratio of police to crime. We have been for 30 years. This is an important issue. It matters whether we get these police out there, if they're properly trained and properly deployed in community policing.

But 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.

And I'll just say one last thing about that. What a lot of these folks that are in such desperate trouble need is a unique combination of both structure and order and discipline on the one hand and genuine caring on the other. It is impossible to structure life in a society like ours where there is no family or at least no supervising, caring adult on the one hand, and on the other hand where there is no work.

If you go generation after generation after generation and people don't get to work -- you think about your lives. Think about what you're going to do today, what you did this morning when you got up, what you'll do tonight when you go home. If you think about the extent to which work organizes life in America and reinforces our values, our rules and the way we relate to one another and the way we raise our children; and then you imagine what it must be like where there is no work -- I know the budget is tight. I know there are all kinds of tough problems. I know that people with private capital, even with our empowerment zones, may not want to invest in inner cities and decimated rural areas, but I'm telling you, we have to deal with family, community, education and you have to have work -- there has to be work there.

Q Mr. President, on the issue of crime, can you explain a little bit more about how the White House, how the administration is going to accomplish some of these things?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. 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 they 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.

Q Mr. President, you mentioned Senator Moynihan. He's proposed a federal tax on bullets that would make certain kind of bullets, particularly cop-killer bullets, prohibitively expensive. Do you support the general idea of an ammunition tax? And would you like to see it to be part of the financing for your health care package, as Senator Moynihan has proposed?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, Senator Moynihan has been very candid in saying that what he really wants to do is to try to use this to deal with the problem of gun violence in America. I think the health care plan that I put forward will finance itself in the way that we have. And I think we should proceed with that. I think that this idea of his, however, deserves a lot of consideration.

But one of the things that I question in my own mind is if some of these bullets are being manufactured solely for the purpose of having a devastating effect on someone's body if they hit someone's body, whether we ought not just to get rid of those bullets. Because if you look at the money that can be raised as a practical matter, in the context of this federal budget or the health care budget, it's limited. I have asked -- I agree with the Treasury Secretary. Secretary Bentsen stated our position. We think the Senator has given us an interesting idea. We're looking at it, we're seeing what the objectives are. But some of that ammunition, it would seem to me, there might be a consensus that we ought not to make it at all in this country.

Q Mr. President, it turns out that your friend, Jim Florio in New Jersey, may have lost the election by a narrow margin because of some -- an approach dreamed up by the Republican strategists which depressed black voter turnout. What do you think about that tactic?

THE PRESIDENT: First, I think we should all acknowledge that people have died in this country, given their lives to give other Americans, especially African Americans, the right to vote. And this allegation, if it is true -- and I say if it is true -- I don't know what the facts are, but if it is true, then it was terribly wrong for anyone to give money to anybody else not to vote or to depress voter turnout. And it was terribly wrong for anyone to accept that money to render that nonservice to this country.

Q Can you give us a count right now of how many votes you have in the House on NAFTA?

THE PRESIDENT: No, because it's changing every day. But we're getting a lot closer. I honestly believe we're going to win it now, and that's not just political puff. I think we'll make it. I'll be surprised if we don't win that.

Q -- what is going to happen to Latin America if NAFTA is not passed? What would be the impact in the United States, not in you, but in the people of the United States if NAFTA is not approved?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, if it's not passed, we'll lose a lot of opportunities to sell our products. We will not do one single thing to discourage people from moving to Mexico to set up plants to get low wages to sell back in here. We will depress the environmental and labor costs more than they otherwise would be depressed in Mexico, which will make it harder for us to compete.

Let me say, I know we've got -- no, I'm sorry. I want to introduce someone before we go, because I think I would be remiss here at a press conference with all of you not to do this. I'd like to ask Khan Pham to stand. Would you stand up?

I want to tell you a little bit about this young woman. She's here today with a program that puts role models and young people together, and she said her role model was Dee Dee Myers, so she wanted to come here and be here. (Laughter.) But let me tell you about her. Maybe she should be our role model.

When she was two-and-a-half years old, she was cradled in her five-year-old brother's arms as her mother made a desperate run for freedom from Vietnam. They forced their way onto an overcrowded small wooden boat after giving away their life savings for those spots. They endured heavy seas, were separated on the boat for a period of time. They watched people die before being picked up by a U.S. naval ship, the U.S.S. Warden.

After coming here, because of language barriers, her mother could only get jobs in manual labor. She also baked Vietnamese pastries to sell. She held two or three jobs at a time. Sometimes she didn't have enough money to wash the clothes so the family would have to wash them in their tub, while Khan and her brother would try to teach their mother English.

A couple of years ago, she missed several months of school while she single-handedly worked with all the agencies and authorities here to get her two sisters back from Vietnam and to the United States. Finally, they were reunited a year and a half ago, and they now live with Khan and her mother. She is 17, a senior at Reston High School of Virginia. She holds an office with her student government and she's a student representative elected to the Board of Governors, a city office in Reston.

And as I said, she's spending the day here today, and she's interested in being in the press today. But one day she hopes to be America's ambassador to Vietnam.

Thank you for coming here. (Applause.)

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

END

3:40 P.M. EST

It'll be bad for America if we do it.

Q Mr. President, so far you haven't talked about Haiti and Bosnia. The situation in those two countries seems to have gotten worse in the year since you've been elected. Right now, what can you tell us you're doing to reverse the situation in the short-term, or do you fear that this is go on all winter long in Bosnia as well as in Haiti?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the problem -- or the conditions in Bosnia at least seem to be that none of the parties now, including the government, at least at the moment we speak, based on what I knew this morning, are of a mind to make peace on any terms that the others will accept, because there are different military results being achieved on the ground there in different places in ways that make all the parties feel that they shouldn't agree now. Under those conditions, all we can do is to try to make sure that we minimize the human loss coming on for this winter; that we try to get the United Nations to agree to let the NATO position that the United States put together on the availability of air power in the event that Sarajevo is seriously shelled be an actual live option and not just something on the books; and that we make sure our humanitarian program works.

I will say this -- I want to emphasize this -- the airlift to Bosnia, which this nation has spearheaded, has now gone on longer than the Berlin airlift. And it's one of the most comprehensive humanitarian aid efforts in the history. And we'll have to keep doing it.

In Haiti, I'd like to say a word or two about that. First of all, it's important that the people of Haiti understand that the people who brought this embargo on were Mr. Francois and General Cedras, because they didn't go through with the Governors Island Agreement.

Now, I believe that Mr. Malval and President Aristide are willing to talk in good faith and try to reach an accommodation that would enable us to get back on the path to democracy and to implementing that agreement. I don't -- I grieve for the people of Haiti. We feed almost 700,000 people a day in Haiti. We participate actively, the United States does. I don't want anybody else to be hurt down there. But I think it's very important that the people of Haiti understand that the people that brought this embargo on them were Francois and Cedras in breaking the agreement that was agreed to by all parties there. And we have to try to reach another agreement so that the country can go back to normal.

Q The financial community has been worried about Mexico's policy of gradually devaluing the peso and saying that this would underscore the low-wage environment there. What would you foresee under a NAFTA pact that was approved as far as the relationship between the dollar and the peso? And would we end up finding the Federal Reserve having to support the peso because of our tighter economic relationship?

THE PRESIDENT: Actually, I would think that -- I want to be careful how I say this because I don't want anything I say now to be -- have an impact in the Mexican financial markets today, but I believe that you have to just say that the peso would become stronger if NAFTA passes because it would strengthen the Mexican economy. And, normally, when you've got a strong economy that's growing, the value of the currency will rise.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 17, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT ADVERTISING COUNCIL EVENT

Room 450
Old Executive Office Building

10:30 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Alicia. I think your family is here with you -- your family members, would you all stand up. Thank you for coming here with her. (Applause.)

I want to thank Alicia for that remarkable performance. You know what I said to her when I saw the PSAs? The same thing all of you are thinking -- I said, the one with you in it was a whole lot better. (Laughter.)

This is the culmination of a long effort by good people who want to do something about this terrible problem. I thank Phil Geier, the chairman of the Ad Council, and all those who comprise that Council and who support this work. I want to thank Jack Calhoun for the work he's done and the 123 organizations that make up his Crime Prevention Coalition and for his remarkable remarks here today.

I thank Saatchi and Saatchi for the work they did and others -- members of the Creative Community who are here with us today who have done their own public service announcements, changed their programming, made a common commitment in an earlier meeting with the Vice President and me to try to make a sustained effort to change the culture of violence that is gripping our country.

I want to say a special word of thanks and greeting to the chairman of our Corporation for National Community Service, Eli Segal, who is in Miami at the 7th Annual Youth Crime Prevention Conference. With 1,200 officers, teachers, community leaders and others active in crime watch projects, peer counseling, drug prevention programs and others, these people are going to have to carry a lot of the future of our common efforts to reduce violence in America.

You know, if you just read the big headlines in the papers today, a lot of them are very good. There's more growth, more jobs, more opportunity, a real sense of recovery in the country. But we will never become the country we ought to be if we lose another generation of our children to the violence that killed so many and holds the rest hostage.

I can tell you as the father of a teenager, every teenager in the country talks about this issue at home at night, discusses it over the dinner table, is concerned about it, worries about whether they have friends that are going to fall victim to

crime. And this is an incredible burden -- a burden you can see in the eyes and hear in the voice of Alicia; one that imposes on those of us who are grown an inordinate responsibility to change the conditions and the attitudes which have produced this incredible range of violence.

We now have a higher percentage of our people in prison than any country on the face of the Earth. No other nation has so high a percentage of their people in prison. And yet we worry that we don't have enough jail space and we have to build more.

The broadcast, the cable networks that are here who are supporting this effort and who will make time available are helping us to begin to make a difference. I want to say a special word of encouragement and thanks to them because they've done so much to help change our country for the better with other such campaigns -- the campaign to reduce smoking, the campaign to increase seatbelt use, the campaigns to remind so many young people that a mind is a terrible thing to waste, or friends don't let friends drink and drive.

President Roosevelt once said if he hadn't gone into politics he would like to have had a career in advertising. President Kennedy generated his first Peace Corps volunteers through ads like this. Messages can speak to dreams and respond to fears and bring people out of their shells. I hope that we can do that here today.

This industry, the entertainment industry, is working hard now to help America reduce violent behavior, by showing young people that there are alternatives to violence. They can help us in the search for a safer and a saner land.

To change people have to have a willing heart. We're working hard here on a crime bill which I hope so much will be passed soon to put more police officers on the street, to take more assault weapons off the street, to try to change the conditions in communities that exist by giving communities opportunities to help young people have something to say yes to instead of just something to say no to. But we have to have more willing hearts.

The cable industry will air these ads on 32 cable networks. The networks themselves have committed a high level exposure. Already 2,000 movie theaters have agreed to show the PSA on their screens. And we are now getting offers to put these PSAs on movies that are rented at video rental stores.

The motion picture association of American, under the able leadership of Jack Valenti and the video software dealers are really going to do a lot of good work on this. These commitments are new and unprecedented. I think they reveal an understanding by people in the entertainment industry that our children have an share with us daily.

We somehow have to find a way to encourage young people to settle arguments with words instead of weapons. We also have to encourage their parents to do the same thing, for domestic violence is still the cause of a lot of these killings. We have to show adults how common sense can ease tensions. We have to help communities set up programs to deal with this.

Last week, I was in Brooklyn College with nine people

who are giving their lives to various efforts to help people turn away from violence. I just want to mention two of them to you. I met a women named Clementine Barfield from Detroit, who had two sons, two of her teenage sons shot, and one killed in gang fighting. She is devoting her life to try to reach kids to make sure not only that they don't become victims like her son, but they don't become killers like the people who killed her sons.

I met a young man named Sherman Spears from Oakland, California, who is confined to a wheelchair, has had one leg amputated, lost the use of one of his eyes, often still in pain because he was caught in the cross-fire of a gun shooting. He is devoting his life to an organization which reaches out to victims and tries to tell them not to retaliate, not to seek vengeance, not to seek revenge; that no one ever gets even, and you have to go on with your lives.

These are the kinds of people we want to support. We will send specific suggestions to anyone who responds to the 800 line -- it's 1-800-WE-PREVENT. It's mentioned in the ad, and it's very important because the people who are going to air the ads can't do the grass-roots one-on-one work after the air is quiet.

In closing, let me just say this -- you probably heard Alicia Brown say this, I want to reemphasize it. In a few moments, she is going to the funeral of her sixth friend to die from gunshot wounds -- a 14-year-old child -- not in a war zone in a far away country, not in Somalia, not in Sudan, not in Angola, not in Burundi, not in Sarajevo, but in the capital of the greatest nation on the face of the Earth.

That is what has become of childhood, my fellow Americans. While the rest of us have pursued our dreams in life, had our families, raised our children, enjoyed the fruits of freedom, that is what has become of childhood. It is indecent; it is unacceptable. We can do something about it. And we owe it to them to do it.

Thank you very much.

END

10:47 A.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Los Angeles, California)

For Immediate Release

December 4, 1993

RADIO ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT TO THE NATION

Beverly Hilton Hotel
Beverly Hills, California

10:06 A.M. PST

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. Today I'm in Los Angeles to hold a meeting on the economy and its impact on Southern California. A year ago this month, I hosted a national economic summit to get the best ideas from all across America on how to implement the economic strategy I ran for President to implement -- a strategy to regain control of our economic destiny; to put confidence back into our people; to strengthen our families; a strategy to rebuild the American Dream by restoring middle class values of opportunity, responsibility and community, rewarding work and family and faith.

For too long the government in Washington ignored roadblocks that stood in the way of an economic recovery. Our investment deficit that hurts workers caught in changing times in communities plagued by crime; a budget deficit that drains money from our economy; a trade deficit that keeps us from selling our products and services around the world. All these roadblocks have kept America from moving and have hurt California especially, because California had so many high-tech employees in the defense industry, which as all of us know has been cut back a lot since 1987 and the end of the Cold War in 1989.

And now California, like the rest of America, is paying the price -- but even more so, not only because it's our biggest state, but because one in five jobs lost permanently in our economy in the last few years has been lost in the southern part of this state.

But during the time I've been President, we've tried to take these roadblocks head-on for all America. Let me say how. First, the strength of our economy and the security of our jobs is now tied to our ability to sell our products abroad. More and more Americans are becoming more productive. That means fewer people can produce more goods and services. That's a good thing to compete in the global economy, but only if we have more customers to buy those goods and services. That's the only way we can grow our economy, increase jobs, and increase incomes of working people.

That's why we just passed the North American Free Trade Agreement. With NAFTA we'll sell more products stamped "Made in the USA." We're also working hard on a world trade agreement between now and December 15th in the GATT talks. And we've established better trade relations with Japan specifically

and with the Asian countries in general.

California is our strategic link to the economies in Latin America and to the Pacific Rim. This state exports more than any other state. One in every 10 jobs out here is now tied to exports. We've launched our country's first national export strategy. It will benefit all the states in America. We've cut back government export controls on \$37 billion worth of high-tech communications products. It's good for trade. It's good for workers in high-tech industries in places like California, New York and many states in between.

Just yesterday we announced the third round of grants in our Technology Reinvestment Project. This plan helps defense firms to make the transition to a commercial economy. It takes military technologies developed with American tax dollars during the Cold War and puts them to use in the civilian economy. It will create thousands and thousands of jobs in the years ahead all across our nation. It's just part of a national defense conversion plan that totals \$20 billion in new investment over five years.

We've taken other steps to strengthen the value of work, our families and the communities we live in. For all of you who work and raise children and still live near the poverty line, we've expanded your earned income tax credit. About 20 million of you will pay lower income taxes next April 15th. For American families, this is a signal that we value work over welfare. We've also passed the Family and Medical Leave Law so that people can care for a sick parent or a new baby without fear of losing their jobs. We've redesigned dramatically the student loan program, lowering interest rates and making it easier for more of you to get student loans and to pay them back on better terms. And we've also made it much simpler and easier for people to get small business loans.

Our economic plan has brought the deficit down; interest rates are down; inflation is down; and people are beginning to benefit. People are beginning to buy their first homes, and over 5 million Americans have refinanced their home mortgages. Single family housing starts are at their highest level in six years, and existing home sales are at a 14-year high.

Maybe you've borrowed money to expand your business. Economic indicators from durable goods to business spending on equipment to auto sales show manufacturing and consumer confidence picking up. Personal income is up. And more jobs have been created in the first 11 months in this administration than in the entire four years of the previous administration in the private sector -- about 50 percent more now.

Now, all that is encouraging news. But, frankly, it hasn't reached everyone yet. It hasn't reached into every family with economic benefits. And way too many people still lack good jobs. As I said earlier, of all the jobs lost nationally since 1990, one in five are right here in Southern California.

This afternoon I'm going to Canoga Park in the western part of the San Fernando Valley for a meeting on the economy with business and community leaders. We'll meet face to face in an informal setting to go over their ideas to see what's

working and to identify what we could all be doing to create more jobs and more opportunity.

But our goal in California is the same as our goal nationwide -- to build an economic recovery that will carry us through the changes in our economy and put us on the road to lasting economic growth in a global climate that is very tough and highly competitive. For our nation to stay strong, every American must have a chance to compete and win. We've still got a lot of work ahead of us, but we're working hard. And all of you will have to work hard, too.

None of what we do in our economic session today will matter if people aren't ready to seize opportunities, take responsibility to rebuild their communities. This simply cannot be done by government alone -- certainly not just at the national level. Leaders can't protect the economic interest of our middle class if our people aren't living and working by middle class values -- rebuilding our communities from the ground up, home by home, street by street, and block by block.

I need all of you to help me so that we can do this together.

In times of change, we've always sought the new opportunities -- the new opportunities for ourselves, our families and our neighbors. That expansive, forward-looking spirit is what brought people out here to California in the first place, across wagon trails and over highways on the open road. Well, times have changed -- they always do. But we're trying to put America on the right road to reach a better tomorrow. Unemployment is down and jobs are up. We're moving in the right direction. But there is so much more to do. To move forward we have to go down the road together.

Thanks for listening.

END

10:13 A.M. PST

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

December 11, 1993

RADIO ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT TO THE NATION

The Oval Office

10:06 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning.

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."

Thanks for listening and God bless you all.

END

10:12 A.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

December 9, 1993

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN MEETING WITH MAYORS AND CHIEFS OF POLICE

The Indian Treaty Room

10:41 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mayor Abramson, and thank all of the rest of you for coming here. I have looked forward to this meeting and to receiving this plan ever since the first discussion we held.

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.

I would just like to make a couple of points, and then I came here, I'm sure along with the Attorney General the FBI Director and Dr. Brown, our Director of Drug Control Policy, as much to listen as to talk. I want to listen to you. But I would like to just put a few things on the table. 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.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Chicago, Illinois)

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One last issue I want to mention: I went to the Justice Department last week for what was a great celebration. We had hundreds of police officers there to celebrate the fact that after six years of bickering, the House and the Senate had both passed crime bills and had agreed on a common bill through their conference committees to send back so that each one of them could pass identical bills, so that I could sign a crime bill into law that would give us 100,000 police officers on the street -- that's a 20 percent increase -- that would ban 19 kinds of assault weapons and protect 650 hunting and sporting weapons, to make sure that this was not a gun control issue, this was an assault weapons issue; that would ban handgun ownership by minors; provide for safe schools; provide for three strikes and you're out, tough penalties, more prison cells and billions of dollars for prevention programs to give children something to say yes to, as well as something to say no to -- the biggest, toughest, smartest crime bill this country's ever passed.

Unbelievably, after eight days, nothing has happened. The bills are there. We need it. The American people know how bad we need it. The Democratic mayors and the Republican mayors have endorsed it. The Democratic governors and the Republican governors have endorsed it. Every police organization in the country, the attorney generals, the local prosecutors out there in the country where people know that crime strikes people without regard to race or political party -- everybody is for this crime bill. But here the crime bill is stuck in a web spun by a powerful special interest.

You see, before a bill can come to vote in the House of Representatives, it has to be voted out of the Rules Committee. And then the House has to vote first on whether the bill's going to actually be brought to a vote -- not on the bill, but whether it's going to be brought to a vote. It's a procedure.

The National Rifle Association is trying to block the vote on the rule because they are against the assault weapons ban, because they know that a majority of the House and the Senate will vote for this bill if it gets to a vote. So they are trying to block the vote on the rule, hoping that people can hide and say, well, I didn't really vote against the bill, but there was something about the way it was coming up I didn't like.

I got a letter from a kid from New Orleans last spring who asked me to do something about the crime problem. He said, "I'm nine years old and I'm really scared that something's going to happen to me." And nine days later that kid was shot dead. Now, we've been waiting for eight days for a vote on this crime bill. We have debated this. We fought the assault weapons ban. I thought the NRA was going to win, but we won fair and square. We only won by

two votes, but we won -- the police officers and those of us who don't want the cops to be outgunned. It was a fair and square deal. We won. And we won in the Senate. And it's in the bill. And I didn't think we could beat them, but we did. We worked like crazy, and we did.

It is wrong to let the NRA -- and other interest groups, too, to be fair, who have some other bone to pick with this bill, but who know it cannot be defeated on the merits, to use a procedural vote to keep the American people from getting the police, from the kids from getting this prevention money, from the people from getting the three strikes and you're out law, from the police from getting the help they need with the prisons and all the rest of this. This is a good deal, and we're not paying for it with a tax increase. We're paying for it by reducing the size of the federal bureaucracy by more than a quarter of a million between now and 1999.

And I want to plead with you to ask the Congress over the weekend not to let procedure get in the way of saving the lives and the future of the United States. We showed up here to make decisions. If anybody wants to vote against the crime bill, let them vote against it. There are people who are going to vote against it because they're honestly opposed to capital punishment, or because they're honestly opposed to the assault weapons ban, or because they're honestly opposed to the prevention funds. Let them vote against it. That's fine.

But do not let us pull another Washington, D.C. game here and let this crime bill go down on some procedural hide and seek. If we're going to have a shoot out, let's do it in high noon, broad daylight, where everybody knows what the deal is. (Applause.)

Thank you very much.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 14, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN EVENT WITH MAYORS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS

The South Lawn

11:35 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you. Please be seated. Thank you very much.

Ladies and gentlemen, as some of you may know, early this morning, two American helicopters, flying in Northern Iraq as part of Operation Provide Comfort to provide humanitarian relief to the Kurdish population there, were mistakenly shot down in a tragic accident by two United States jet fighters who thought they were Iraqi helicopters illegally in the area.

This is a terrible tragedy for the families involved and for the people in the Armed Forces who have courageously tried to protect the Kurds for many years now. And I would like to ask that, since so many of you put your lives on the line every day, we open this ceremony with a moment of silent prayer for those who lost their lives, their families and their loved ones.

* * * * *

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. (Applause.) Thank you very much, Mayor Riordan, Mayor Abramson, Mayor James, Mayor Daley. Sergeant Lawson, you gave a great talk today, and you represented people in law enforcement very well. And we thank you especially for being here. (Applause.)

To Attorney General Reno and the other federal officials who are here; all the distinguished mayors, the leaders of our law enforcement organizations, and all of you in law enforcement. I thank those of you on the front lines of fighting the crime problem for coming to here to Washington today to urge Congress to pass the crime bill now and without delay.

Behind me stand people who represent not only by their own courageous deeds, but by the uniforms they wear the heroes of law enforcement who stand behind all the rest of us every day. People who wake up every morning, put on a uniform and put their lives on the line to protect our safety. There are nearly 100 of them from every state in America. They do good work. They can not only catch criminals, they can prevent crime. And that's why we want to put another 100,000 like them on our streets over the next five years. (Applause.)

Last week, I was in communities all across America like those represented here today. The Attorney General was, too. And everywhere people wanted to talk about the crime problem, about the violence, about the tearing away of the future of so many children's lives.

MORE

When you go to Capitol Hill today, tell Congress that the people you and I work for have waited long enough. The people don't care about amendments that could slow the process down. They don't want partisan bickering. They want the bill certainly to be reviewed carefully and to be honestly debated. But this is not a problem, as Mayor Riordan so eloquently said, that the American people see in terms of partisan advantages.

Nearly one-third of all American families -- Democrats, Republicans and independents, whites, blacks, Hispanics, Asian Americans, you name it -- all of us, we share a common curse: In the most wonderful country in the world, we have the highest violent crime rate, the largest percentage of our people behind bars; cities where young people in gangs are often better armed than the police forces who are supposed to protect the rest of the citizens. We can do better than this, and this crime bill is a very good start. Ask Congress simply to give you the tools you need to do your job.

The 100,000 new police officers is a five-year goal. But I have made it clear to Congress that if they will go ahead and pass this bill now, even though it's mid-April, I will cut through the bureaucracy and the red tape to make sure that 20,000 of those new officers are hired, trained and ready to go to work within the first year of this bill. (Applause.)

More police officers on the street, in the neighborhoods, relating to the people who live there, properly trained and properly deployed, will lower the crime rate. In Los Angeles -- he was too modest to mention this -- but after the earthquake, Mayor Riordan and Chief Williams responded to a potentially explosive situation by increasing police presence on the street, increasing contact with the community, and there was instead of an increase in the crime rate, which was perfectly predictable, a dramatic decrease in the crime rate. The Los Angeles Times said it helped keep criminals off the street in record numbers. The people of L.A. rose to the occasion because they saw the police in their communities, they knew they were not alone, and they knew it was a problem that, together, they could deal with.

No matter how many more police we put into our communities, we also know that we have to do something about the relatively small percentage of our criminal population who commit the dangerous, violent crimes repeatedly. This crime bill does tell them, three strikes and you're out. As I have said several times and I said with the Attorney General over at the Justice Department a couple of days ago, this is a controversial provision of the bill. But let us not forget that for many violent criminals today, if the consequences of their crime are serious enough, they could get a life sentence -- one strike and you're out.

But state rules are different from state to state on parole eligibility. And there are many people that we now know are highly likely to continue to repeat certain kinds of very serious crimes. There ought to be a provision in our criminal law that identifies them and that protects the rest of the population and the law enforcement population, and permits us to say to other criminals who are not in that category, you have a chance to start your life again. So, is it right to have a three strikes and you're out law? I believe it is. And I think that we're doing the right thing to pass it in this bill today.

We also make available funding for 30,000 more prison cells so that we don't treat this as some sort of mandate on the states. We are trying to help the states to enact their own kinds of sensible punishment laws and bear some of the costs along with them. We also provide funding for smarter and less costly punishment for nonviolent criminals -- boot camps for juvenile offenders -- and significant, even dramatic, increases in drug treatment so that

people who are going to be paroled have a good chance to make it once they go back on the street.

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

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. (Laughter.) 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. (Applause.)

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.

You know, I ran for this job and moved to Washington because I wanted to help empower people back home all over America to solve their own problems. That's what this crime bill does. And another thing I am proud of is, we do it without new taxes even though, as Mayor James said, it is by far the biggest federal investment, and Mayor Abramson emphasized, by far the biggest federal investment in anticrime activities in the history of this country.

We do it by taking a major portion of the Vice President's reinventing government plan -- a plan to reduce the federal bureaucracy by 250,000 employees over the next five years and put all the savings into a trust fund directed to fund the crime bill. That's a pretty good swap -- reduce the federal government by 250,000 by attrition, by early retirement, with discipline over the next five years, and give all the money from the savings back to local communities to make our streets, our homes and our schools safer. (Applause.)

Again, let me thank you all for coming here. Let me remind you that this is not a partisan issue or a sectional issue or a racial issue or an income issue. If anything should unite our country, if anything should truly make us a United States of America in 1994, it should be the passionate desire to restore real freedom to our streets, to give our families back their security, to give our children back their future.

I thank all of you for what you have done to secure it. I look forward now to honoring these fine policemen and women behind me, and I urge you, take this opportunity to make it abundantly clear to the United States Congress that America should not wait another day, another week for a crime bill that will achieve these objectives. We need it and you can deliver it.

Thank you and God bless you all.

END

12:03 P.M. EDT

MORE

Jose Cerda
Room 224 OEOB

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

Press Release

February 9, 1994

PRESS BRIEFING
BY
DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY, DR. LEE BROWN

The Briefing Room

2:24 P.M. EST

DR. BROWN: Good afternoon. This morning I was with the President and the Vice President over in Maryland to announce the administration's 1994 national drug control strategy. As you know, this is the administration's first fully-developed strategy, and it deals on the interim strategy we released last September through my office, the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

This strategy includes the largest federal drug control budget ever, a record \$13.2 billion -- a reflection not only on the high priority the President places on addressing the drug problem, but also, the grave threat drugs pose to our community, to our economy and, most important, to our children.

Our new strategy departs from previous strategies in several important respects. The strategy places a new emphasis on treating chronic hard-core drug users who consume the bulk of drugs sold on the streets and fuel much of our violent crime. The research tells us that treatment works and that a dollar spent on drug treatment is repaid seven-fold in the form of reduced public spending and increased productivity. And so we're seeking \$355 million in new spending for treatment of chronic hard-core drug users.

The strategy places a new emphasis on reducing the demand for drugs, particularly among young people. And we're seeking a \$191-million increase in funding for safe and drug-free school programs.

The strategy proposes to make our community safer by adding new police to walk the beat, by expanding community policing and by promoting drug courts and boot camps. And the strategy rejects the misguided notion of legalization of illegal drugs, and calls on every family to take new responsibility for their children; calls on our communities to stand up for common decency and against drugs and violence.

You have in your package something like this which gives you some more detailed information, charts, et cetera, but I'll be pleased to take your questions at this time.

Q Dr. Brown, could you respond to William Bennett's comments to the effect that this is misguided, that you're taking money from interdiction and putting it into treatment, and that that simply doesn't work?

DR. BROWN: I would suspect Mr. Bennett has not seen our strategy because it was released today. We're not taking money from interdiction. Our belief is that supply and demand are equally important and, therefore, they should not be competing with each other. Indeed, the monies that we are proposing for our treatment and prevention efforts are new money.

MORE

The President did direct, however, a change in our interdiction. We do interdiction on our borders, keeping drugs from coming across our borders. We'll continue to do that. We're doing interdiction in what we call the transit zones, where the drugs are coming across the water. That's where the President asked us to make a shift because the drug trafficking organizations, they have made a shift. And, therefore, it's important for us to respond to the shift that they've made. The shift calls for a controlled shift to go into the source countries and place a greater emphasis there in helping them deal with the problem at the source countries -- like going to the sources. It's easier to stop it there. It's easier for us on our borders if we can dry it up there.

So we're not competing between supply and demand. Our request is for new funds for treatment and prevention.

Q But you're going to be doing less in terms of the Coast Guard, less in terms of that interdiction effort, is that correct?

DR. BROWN: The efforts will be appropriate for the threat that exists there at this point in time. And the reason we call it a controlled shift is because we anticipate that the drug trafficking organizations will also change and, therefore, we have to have the resources to respond if they do change.

Q Director Brown, can you be more specific on what the impact will be on the transit zones like South Florida? And does it not at least raise the risk that drug traffickers will return -- bring their routes back around through those areas?

DR. BROWN: It does raise the risk, and that's the reason we call it a controlled shift. We will not move all of our assets from the transit zone. But right now, the drug trafficking organizations have changed their strategy. They're using not so much just the fly-overs like we've had before, but they're using more now, the commercial flights into the country and more maritime. So we're going to change in response to their changes in strategy.

What we're doing right now we see as a better and smarter way of addressing the problem, where we're going to the source countries. And we want to see as rapidly as possible the source countries and transit countries take on the drug trafficking, narcotic trafficking problems themselves. We've seen that happen in Mexico. So our efforts will be to support them in more than one way -- their interdiction efforts in the source countries and transit countries as well as carrying forth some of our other goals such as democracy, institution building and human rights concerns. So drugs will be an equal partner with those concerns. But we will maintain our flexibility. If something -- if we see a strategy changes, we'll be prepared to change.

Q Dr. Brown, you're including money for community cops here, and that's one of the emphases in the administration's program. Yet in New York City, the Mayor has raised questions about how well the community cops program has worked there. Do you think there is something to his criticism and should we take a second, more skeptical look at the community cops idea?

DR. BROWN: I think the community policing is a very solid and sound way of using police resources. The Mayor's police commissioner is a strong advocate of community policing, and has been for years and years and he probably will continue to be.

We have to understand that we're talking about a major transformation of an institution. Community policing represents the only change we've ever seen in policing in America. If we go back to when we first started policing, because of corruption and political

interference there was a reform era that brought us to where we are today. That's the only change we've had so far. Now we see a quiet revolution in policing, where we're going to community policing as a second major change.

It worked for me in Houston. It worked for me when I was a police commissioner in New York City. In fact, after one year in New York City, crime went down in every major category. That had not happened in a 36-year history of that department. Community policing, I would predict, will become the policing style of policing in America, if not the free world.

Q Dr. Brown, there was some talk about the new strategy helping 140,000 more people than before. Do you have any idea what percentage that is of the total drug population and what percentage that is of the people in the past years that have been treated or helped to be treated in strategies?

DR. BROWN: We estimate that the hard-core drug population is about 2.7 million people, about 600,000 of those would be heroin, and the rest would be the crack cocaine, cocaine-dependent people. There is a gap right now of about 1.1 million people that could be benefitted from treatment. The 140,000 include what we have in our budget, \$355 million for treatment of the hard-core, plus funds in the crime control bill. As the President has pointed out, we have to tie these two together, the crime strategy as well as the crime control bill. That would close the gap by about 9 percent from those who need treatment and not receiving it right now.

Q So this hasn't happened yet. This is money that you need to get from the crime bill --

DR. BROWN: We have \$350-million increase in the President's proposal to the Congress. The rest would have to come when the crime bill is passed by the Congress.

Q And you're saying that you think you'll be reaching 140,000 out the 1.1 million that you're targeting, or should it be out of the 2.7 million?

DR. BROWN: Out of the 1.1 million gap, people who could benefit from drug treatment that are not receiving it right now. We might also add that the President's health care reform is extremely important. When passed by Congress, that would ensure that in addition to everyone having guaranteed health care, everyone would have also treatment for substance abuse. And that becomes extremely important. It will also go a long way toward closing the gap.

Q Just to clarify that number, of the 2.7 million hard-core users, does that mean that 1.6 million now have access to treatment and the 1.1 million don't and you're trying to reach that 1.1 million; or the 1.7 million are just -- they're untreatable?

DR. BROWN: It's not that they're untreatable. The resources are not there to treat them. So if we look at those who could benefit from treatment, we have a gap of 1.1 million. The 140,000 --

Q Who are the 1.7 million?

Q Where's the gap coming -- the gap from what? I don't understand -- we don't understand what the gap is. There's the gap of 1.1 million --

DR. BROWN: There are two steps. Let me ask Mr. Carnavale explain the two sets of data from health and human services.

MR. CARNAVALE: We have two sets of data. One, we have our own estimates of 2.7 million hard-core users. These are cocaine and heroin users in the population. HHS has its own estimates in terms of the number of people who could benefit from treatment. That's their term. The 2.7 million that we have represents the total hard-core user population. Now, within that 2.7 million, we don't know how many of those people may currently be in treatment. HHS has no idea how many total hard-core users there are, but they have a sense of how many they can treat.

So between the two of us, we have independent methods, but we both accept the fact that we have an enormous treatment gap. We accept their estimate for purposes of the strategy -- that we have a gap of 1.1 million people who need to get into treatment. And the current capacity of the system is about 1.4 million. And they're estimating about 2.6 million, I believe, for the number of people who should get into treatment.

Q Wait a second --

MR. CARNAVALE: Let me go back up on my notes here.
(Laughter.)

DR. BROWN: There are two different data sets --

MR. CARNAVALE: The 2.7 million represents our estimate of hard-core users, cocaine and heroin.

Q And you don't know how many of those are in treatment or not.

MR. CARNAVALE: We don't know at this point. We're trying to come up with a population estimate. No survey that currently exists comes up with a national estimate of hard-core use.

Q Whose department's estimate is that?

MR. CARNAVALE: That is our own estimate. We worked with HHS -- at least their data sets -- to compile it.

Q Which department are you with?

DR. BROWN: My office.

MR. CARNAVALE: Now, HHS has its own estimate of the number of people who could benefit from treatment. They currently estimate -- I'm looking to my helper here -- 2.5 million people who could benefit from treatment. Now, that estimate is based on a different methodology where they apply clinical criteria to the household survey on drug abuse and come up with people who have some kind of drug-related problem.

Now, their estimates when they go through this include a lot of marijuana users. And we're still working with them to find out how to deal with that population, because most treatment providers tell us they don't actually get a lot of marijuana users in their treatment programs.

So our hard-core user number represents our best guess of the total universe of the cocaine and heroin users. Their numbers represent the number of people who should get into the treatment system.

Q But why are you targeting only 1.1 million? That's what's unclear.

MR. CARNAVALE: That is the current estimate of the gap. If we accept their method, we'd have an estimate of the treatment

capacity and the number of people who could benefit from treatment. There's a gap of 1.1 million.

Q What do you mean by people who could benefit?

MR. CARNAVALE: People who exhibit -- they define hard-core use based on frequency of use, which is a tendency to use drugs at least weekly and who have exhibited some kind of behavior or psychological problems associated with that drug use. So that's their definition applied against their household survey.

The problem with that survey, again, is that it tends not to count hard-core use. It tends to miss a lot of hard-core users because they're not part of the household.

DR. BROWN: So what it all boils down to if we take their information, they feel it's a 1.1 million gap between those who could benefit from treatment and those who are receiving it.

Q William Bennett also says studies show that only one out of four hard-core users who go into treatment actually come out rehabilitated and, therefore, it makes little sense to focus so much of your energies on the hard-core user. Can you address that?

DR. BROWN: We see drug addiction as a chronic relapsing disease. Just as any other ailment receives treatment and may not be successful initially, the same thing is true with drug treatment. We know -- I know personally that treatment does work. I've had the chance to visit treatment facilities throughout this country. I've had a chance to talk to people who have been drug addicts, who have gone through treatment programs and are now productive citizens. In fact, at the event we had today, we had a person who had been in a facility for treatment who's now out leading a productive life.

Our position is certainly treatment does work, but it's not something that we just see as a one event in the lifetime of that person. There also -- we have to also tie into treatment all the other aspects of that person's existence. It may be job training, other aspects of aftercare, it may be problems in terms of transmittal diseases that the person may have. So we look at the totality of the person and provide for those problems. But we believe very strongly, based on our research and our knowledge, that indeed treatment does work.

Q So your strategy addresses those other problem?

DR. BROWN: That is correct. Our strategy looks at it in its totality.

Q Could you clarify the budget numbers again? I think you said that the new request in the budget is \$350 million additionally for treatment. The remainder of the treatment funds are in the crime bill. Does that mean the remainder of the treatment funds are in the prison treatment system?

DR. BROWN: There's \$355 million that we're requesting above and beyond what we have; and the rest would be in different places within the crime bill.

Q But almost all of them -- in fact, it's a prison treatment?

DR. BROWN: Is all of it prison treatment?

MR. CARNAVALE: Yes, most of it would be in the prison system.

DR. BROWN: The criminal justice system, which would mean people under supervision as well.

Q What about prison treatment in your budget? How does that -- and treatment of people in the criminal justice system already? How do you --

DR. BROWN: Under existing policies, the treatment in the criminal justice system -- or, sorry, in the prisons, people who are incarcerated, are handled by the jurisdiction. If it's a state prison, it's handled by the state. If it's a local jail, it's handled by the local manager of the jail.

Q How much of your proposal is addressed to marijuana and interdiction of marijuana or treatment? Did you break it down?

DR. BROWN: No, we did not break it down, but our efforts are mandated to address all illicit drugs. That includes marijuana, but it's not broken down.

Q How much money do you really need to do the job?

DR. BROWN: Have we figured that one out yet? (Laughter.) I'm not sure we have a definitive answer for you. What we would like to do is to have what the President's called for, that's treatment on demand. Now, the health care reform package will go a long ways toward helping us address that. We do believe even when we have treatment on demand -- I'm sorry, the health care reform package, which provides substance abuse treatment for all Americans, there still will be a need for our block grant, our public assistance to help deal with the hard-core drug use. We also want to make sure that we have an effective prevention program.

It's probably important to point out that when we look at the drug control policy, we are looking at more than just a line-item on the budget that says narcotics. We believe that the 100,000 more police officers under community policing is drug control. We believe that our enterprise zones is part of our drug control program. We believe that health care reform is part of our drug control program. The reason is because if we're going to really be successful in addressing the issue, we have to address the symptom as well as the underlying causes. So drug control under this administration will be a fundamental part of our plans, policies and programs to address domestic problems in general.

Q I realize you are not wanting to abandon the interdiction net. Would the net result of this shift of resources not mean a reduced federal presence at the border?

DR. BROWN: No, when we talk about the control shift, we really talk about the transit zones, not our borders. We'll continue an effort there. In fact, you'll probably see an increase along our borders as a result of NAFTA. We'll put more resources on borders.

Q So you're going to reduce federal presence at the transit zones?

DR. BROWN: There's a shift in resources at the transit zones. Some of the shift has already taken place. For example, there was a substantial cut from the Department of Defense by the Congress this year -- about \$300 million. That cut took place this fiscal year. And so we're holding that level for fiscal year 1995.

We will remain -- will continue to have a presence in the transit zones. We won't ever abandon that because, as I indicated earlier, it should be expected that the drug trafficking organizations will change their strategies just as they did with our

strong presence in the transit zones. So we'll have the capacity to respond when we see a change take place.

Q A couple of months ago when Dr. Elders made her comments about maybe drug legalization should be looked at, studied, and you and several other people said, no, that's the administration policy. A lot of people, including Mr. Bennett, said that was the only thing they really heard about drug policy and that was -- and now you come out with a statement today. Did they create a problem or has that created a problem for the administration because some people may still remember that that was the first thing --

DR. BROWN: The premise upon which your statement is based is not true. The President has spoken out at least 85 times on drugs last year alone. I was with him in Memphis where he gave two speeches. One got covered, but he gave two speeches that day. He and I even got out and walked the streets and talked to the people. We have been addressing it. The President's resolve to address the drug problem is not questioned, evidenced by many things that are already taking place.

For example, he elevated my position to a Cabinet level position, which I think goes a long ways in assisting us getting the resources we need to address the problem. He issued an executive order which gave more authority to my office in dealing with budget issues of the some 50 different agencies involved in drug control at the federal level. He issued a presidential directive to assist us in giving my office more authority in dealing with interdiction.

So we can go on and on, but the point is that the premise upon which the question is based is not true. The President has demonstrated over and over again his resolve, even to the extent it was a major issue in his State of the Union message.

Q Do you think you'll get all that you're requesting in the light that the Congress is saying let's get tough; the public is saying lock them up, throw the keys away? Are you sure that the shift towards prevention instead of just punishment is going to fly on the Hill?

DR. BROWN: We are not going to be successful in dealing with the crime and the violence problem unless we deal with the drug problem, particularly the chronic hard-core addicted drug user. They are the ones who commit a disproportionate amount of the crime. I think most Americans see that connection. They see clearly a connection between drugs, crime and violence. They want something done. They want the senseless crime and the violence to stop. And therefore, they're supportive of the efforts to deal with the crime in a way that we have not -- or the drug problem -- in a way we have not done before.

A big problem in the drug issue is the addict. Unless you deal with the addict through treatment, you're not going to deal with the problem. I think most people understand that. As I talk to people in Congress, they understand it as well. The fact that we have a crime control bill at the magnitude it is right now is because the American people have sent a very clear message. They're sick and tired and fed up of crime and violence. They know that there is a direct relationship between crime, violence and drugs.

I see it. I don't know a family, as I travel throughout the country, I haven't seen a family yet that has not been touched by the drug problem in one way or another. It's understood, and I'm very optimistic that the Congress will give the President what he's asking for in his drug control strategy.

Q The main shift that the administration is promoting in this strategy is toward treatment and prevention, yet the event

today took place in a jail. Could you describe why a jail was chosen as the place?

DR. BROWN: It also has a well-known, well-respected and a very -- and a model treatment program. We believe in treatment within the criminal justice system. If you arrest tens of thousands of people every year and the majority of them have a substance abuse problem, it makes good sense that you use the coercive power of the criminal justice system to get them into treatment. It's also why we support drug courts and boot camps. Again, getting people into treatment. If we can get them into treatment, it makes a difference. People who are in treatment commit less crimes. The longer they stay in treatment, the more likelihood of success. So we're there because they represent a model of what can be done under the auspice of criminal justice correctional institution to deal with treatment.

Q What kind of difficulty do you have to deal with if you are trying to convince other countries to go closer together with you? And how about the need to define and to implement kind of a worldwide strategy to push that kind of --

DR. BROWN: Our country will continue to provide leadership worldwide because this is a global problem. We will have a strategy for this hemisphere as well as working with other countries in developing strategies for their hemisphere, working through the United Nations. We're working with the various organizations -- Organization of American States, United Nations and others -- in terms of developing regional strategies which will fold into a global, worldwide strategy.

I personally went to Latin America and visited Panama and Colombia and Bolivia and Peru. And I did that because I think it's very important for one who's responsible for making public policy to see what goes on in those countries. And our strategy will differ from one country to another. I was very pleased with some of the progress that's being made there -- progress that has not been reported on in the last few years.

Colombia, for example, has probably demonstrated more political will to address the drug problem than probably any other country, evident by the fact that they spend about 10 dollars for every dollar we provide them with. Bolivia, under its new President, has developed a long-term plan to address the problem there. We're still working with Peru in some of the things that need to be done there in terms of other problems, plus developing a long-term plan.

But in addition to our efforts to change our interdiction efforts, we also want to continue to have leadership in addressing the problem because it is a global problem.

Thank you.

END

2:54 P.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 9, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN TELECONFERENCE CALL WITH MAYORS

The Oval Office

1:54 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Hello. Mayor Daley, Mayor White, Mayor Rice, Mayor Minor, welcome to the telephone conversation. I'm here with the Attorney General and with our Director of Drug Policy Lee Brown. And we're glad to visit with you.

Today I'm happy to announce that the four cities you represent and 30 others and towns across our country will receive the second round of grants to put more police on the street and to expand community policing.

The Justice Department has now received applications from 3,000 communities across the country and awarded grants in more than 100 cities and towns. It's obvious that every community in our country is coming to the same conclusion -- that more police officers on the street, properly trained and properly placed, will reduce the crime rate. And these grants today are another down payment on our pledge to put 100,000 new officers on the streets.

I've asked Congress, as I think all of you know, to send me a comprehensive crime bill as soon as possible that does that -- that puts 100,000 police officers on the street; bans assault weapons; expands boot camps, prisons and drug courts, and says to violent offenders, three strikes and you're out.

I've also provided funding for that crime bill in this budget through the five-year, \$22-billion violent crime reduction trust fund, that takes the money we're going to save from reducing the federal bureaucracy by \$250,000 over five years and pays for the police officers.

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

So I am very encouraged that at least we're beginning to make our contribution to this effort. I want to thank all of you for what you're doing to fight crime in your communities. I want to give you a chance to be heard today. And as I said, Lee Brown and Janet Reno and I are here; we want to support you and we want to do everything we can to succeed.

Mayor Daley.

MAYOR DALEY: Mr. President, on behalf of the people of the city of Chicago, we want to thank you for your strong leadership in taking back our streets and protecting our children from gangs and drug dealers. As I have said as Mayor of Chicago, this is a Clinton

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plan dealing with crime. And it's not only more police officers on the street, it also deals with treatment.

I wanted to thank Attorney General Reno and Lee Brown for active participation with local officials. I am here with Superintendent Rodriguez and Commander Watson and five community leaders dealing with community policing. And we appreciate your leadership and your commitment of the Clinton administration of reaching out not just to a mayor but to community people to get them involved in community policing and get them involved in treatment of young people dealing with drug problems.

And again, this is the leadership that you have provided, and we just thank you on behalf of the people of Chicago.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Mayor.

Mayor White.

MAYOR WHITE: Mr. President, as Mayor of the city of Cleveland, I want to thank you first of all for accepting our application and for supporting that application in making the announcement that you have made today. But I think even more important than just what is going on for the four cities that you are talking with today is the very firm, but yet very fair, but extremely pragmatic approaches you have taken to dealing with the problems of crime in this country. We cannot just be concerned about making the entire world secure when there are literally millions of Americans today who are living in fear and desperation.

I want you to know and the Attorney General and also Mr. Lee Brown to know that we in Cleveland are going to use this money wisely as a part of our expanding community policing program upon which the voters of the city of Cleveland agree to have a new community policing commander appointed.

But I also want you to know, Mr. President, in a larger context, that I and all of us as mayors, I believe, are pledged to do whatever it takes to support your crime bill. If it means going door to door in the Congress, if it means writing letters, whatever it takes, please know that we want to be your partners. And I can assure you that in Cleveland, you'll have a community policing program you can be proud of.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. We need your support for the crime bill. We need you up here going door to door. And we also need your support for the drug budget because the two things go together.

MAYOR WHITE: You'll have it.

THE PRESIDENT: Mayor Rice?

MAYOR RICE: Mr. President, I want to commend you on your active leadership. I think for the past 12 years the federal government has been missing in action and local government has had to fight crime by itself. So we welcome your leadership and we welcome this new federal involvement.

I would like to just briefly tell you how we are going to use these officers. Nineteen will be added to our community police teams, and they'll be spending a great deal of time in and around our schools to help keep our kids safe. And one will be added to our Team for Youth, working directly with police and social service agencies to steer at-risk youth away from violence.

I am joined today by our two police chiefs, Patrick Fitzsimons and Norman Stamper, and our chair of the public safety

committee, Margaret Pageler. We commend you for your comprehensive approach, and we definitely need tough law enforcement and stiffer sentences, but we also need to do more crime prevention.

I think the way you have put the crime bill together and this drug package says once again how you see a comprehensive approach in helping mayors in cities. I pledge to you that we'll give you all the support you need.

And I hope that all the members of Congress would talk to their mayors, because we're on the front lines, and we know how it really works. So we know the commitment to building jails has to be matched by a commitment to building jobs and hope. And we see that in your leadership, and I pledge to you my strong support in all of your endeavors.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much.

Mayor Minor?

MAYOR MINOR: Thank you, Mr. President. I'd like to thank you from the city of San Bernadino for your strong leadership and your ability to realize that the front line are the cities of the United States. And I'd like to thank the Congress for their ability to realize this also.

I want to tell you that this city will support you in its crime bill in any way that you need our help. I'd like to tell you that this grant will put 17 officers on the street, nine working as patrol officers and eight into the problem-oriented policing. I'd also like to say that this city has been involved in community-oriented policing since 1983. It's a very intensive labor procedure in community-oriented policing, and it's proactive. And these 17 officers will help make it work.

Thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mayor.

I'm going to give the telephone to the Attorney General now and let her say something, and then I'm going to give it to Lee Brown.

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Mayors, I just want to thank you. You have set an example in each of your cities as to how community policing can work both to prevent crime and to focus on the dangerous offender and get them identified. And I think it just forms a very sound foundation for the passage of the crime bill. And we all appreciate your help and support in this effort.

Here's Dr. Brown.

DR. BROWN: I want to congratulate the mayors and their police chiefs for being recipients of these grants. I want to particularly thank the mayors for supporting your police chiefs in implementing community policing, because indeed you're involved in a quiet revolution in policing in America -- a better, smarter, and more cost-effective way of using police resources.

Best of luck to you in your endeavors. Thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT: One thing I want to say as I sign off is that to all of those hundreds of communities who applied for these grants who haven't been given funds, that's why we need to pass the crime bill. If we do that, then we'll be able to help cities all over America. We'll be able to meet the demand and we'll be able to lower the crime rate. And I appreciate the support that all of you

have given to that. And thank you for your example. We'll just keep working together.

Thank you, and good-bye.

Q Mr. President, have you had any up-date on the situation in Bosnia?

Q Mr. President, are the allies on board on a new Bosnia strategy?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we've made a lot of progress, but I don't have a final word from Brussels yet. They're meeting and they're talking. So far we've got a good report back, but they haven't finalized their discussions. I expect, oh, in a couple of hours later this afternoon I'll have more to say about it.

Q Does the Serbian agreement to pull back their guns from the hills of Sarajevo meet the conditions that you are hoping to lay out at the end of this meeting?

THE PRESIDENT: I can't say, I want to wait until I get the final report from Brussels. I should be able to give you a clearer answer on that. It's a good thing that they have -- a good beginning, but it shows -- again, every time NATO shows a little resolve there, we get some results.

Q What's different about the proposals that you and the French have put forward then with previous threats? There have been lots of threats to launch air strikes.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, let's wait and see what action is taken. Again, I'll try to give you some good comments before your deadlines this evening, but I think I should wait until the meeting is concluded.

Q Can you tell us, are you backing off in your support for the Bosnian Muslims at all?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, no. That's not what this is about at all.

Q Now that you've had a chance to reflect a little bit on what the CBO said about your health care numbers, do you have any other comments --

THE PRESIDENT: No, I feel even better about it. I mean, the CBO said that we could have guaranteed private health insurance for all Americans; that it would reduce the government deficit and reduce government spending over the long run; that it wouldn't cost jobs for the American economy. I mean, I think the big-picture message is absolutely right.

I think in terms of the differences, I'm studying now the differences in their calculations and ours in the next five or six years, and, basically, they agree with us about how much it will cost. They think there will be more savings on the business side and fewer savings for the taxpayers in the short run. That's really the only difference as nearly as I can see.

But those are all things that we can work out. Those are relatively minor budgetary considerations and other things that we can work through to get our numbers in harmony with theirs. So I'm not at all concerned.

And I don't have anything else to say to what I said yesterday. I just think that to say that a private insurance payment from one private party to another should be on the government budget -- I just don't agree with that. I mean, otherwise every state in the country would have to put workers compensation payments on their

budget, and every state would have to put their mandatory drivers liability insurance on their budget. I just don't agree with -- I mean, I understand the argument, but again, I think that's something we can fix with the drafting of the bill. So I'm not concerned about it.

Q You're not worried about the short-term -- impact?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, but when I had a chance to study it further, I felt even better about their analysis because if you look at their analysis, they basically agree with us about how much the program will cost and how it will impact. They think in the short run more savings will flow to private sector -- to businesses and purchases, direct purchases of health care -- and less savings to the government. And over a five-year period, Senator Moynihan at the beginning of the day said the government will spend \$7.5 trillion or something in the next five years. This \$70 billion, it's a big number, but spread out over five years we can easily work through it. I think we can reconcile that. I'm not worried about it.

Q Have you spoken to President Yeltsin on the Bosnia situation, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet. We're trying to set up telephone calls sometime today, and I think we'll talk today.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

2:09 P.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 20, 1994

RADIO ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT TO THE NATION

The Oval Office

10:06 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. This morning I want to talk with you about crime and violence. All of us know it's too familiar a threat to Americans in almost every neighborhood in our country.

Right now, just as I'm delivering this address, the family, friends and neighbors of a 13-year-old boy are gathered in a church not far from the White House to lay him to rest. His name was Anthony Stokes. He was shot last Saturday night apparently by another boy about the same age.

Later this morning, as Anthony Stokes' family buries him, House and Senate negotiators will meet to finish work on the crime bill. Soon after, each member of the House of Representatives will face a simple choice -- to pass the toughest attack on crime in history, or to block it one more time.

We must not walk away from the American people in the fight against crime.

Anthony Stokes was killed just two days after Congress succumbed to intense political pressure and allowed the crime bill to be derailed. We fought hard over the last 10 days to get it back on track. And it is back on track because members of Congress of both parties have worked together in good faith, determined to deliver a crime bill for the American people.

Now Congress must finish the job and pass the crime bill I've been fighting for for nearly two years now. When they do, it's going to make a difference in every town, every city, every state in our country.

It's a tough bill. It'll put 100,000 new police officers on our street -- a 20 percent increase in the number of officers walking the beat, protecting our neighborhoods and preventing crime as well as catching criminals. It will shut down the revolving door on our prisons and make violent criminals serve their time. Police officers and law-abiding citizens should no longer have to watch in fear and frustration as dangerous criminals are put right back on the street.

It will stiffen penalties for criminals who prey on children. It will protect unsuspecting families from sexual predators in their communities by requiring local authorities to alert them to their presence. It will lock the most dangerous criminals up for good by making three strikes and you're out the law of the land.

But this crime bill is smart as well as tough, because our approach recognizes what the law enforcement community has been saying for years and years. There isn't a single victim of crime who

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wouldn't trade the toughest sentence in the world for some way to have prevented the crime from happening in the first place.

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

Finally, it bans deadly assault weapons that were designed to be used in war for rapid-fire combat. Today they are the weapons of choice for gangs and drug dealers who use them to outgun police officers and to kill innocent people. They don't belong on our streets, and the crime bill will take them off.

And the entire crime bill will be paid for -- and this is important -- not with a new tax, not by taking money away from some other needed service, but by reducing the size of the federal bureaucracy to its lowest level in 30 years.

This crime bill answers the call of every parent afraid that random violence will harm a child; of every police officer who's been hurt or killed by the terrible fire power of an assault weapon; of every innocent, law-abiding man, woman and child in America. The crime bill offers this pledge: From now on, our government will do everything we can to make sure that people who commit crimes get caught; that those who are guilty are convicted; that those who are convicted serve their times; that those who can be saved from a life of crime are found when they're young and given a chance to do better.

For all these reasons, and for a young man named Anthony Stokes who's being laid to rest today, we must not let this chance pass us by. We must seize the opportunity before us to make a dramatic difference in every neighborhood. And as we do, I hope we can make a difference in the way our government works.

Let today mark the beginning of a determined effort on the part of all of us to work in good faith across party lines. I have shown my good faith, and in so doing I have taken the risk that all people take when they talk to people who oppose them.

Soon the Congress will have a chance to show the risk was worth it. And once they pass the crime bill, the way will be clear for us to attack other problems together, across party lines, as the American people want us to do and as we should.

Thanks for listening.

END

10:12 A.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 21, 1994

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

The Oval Office

8:16 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: The vote in the House of Representatives tonight is a great victory for all law-abiding Americans. It's also a victory for all Americans who have longed to change the way government works here in our Nation's Capital; who have wanted us for a long time to go beyond labels and partisan divisions and false choices to common-sense solutions to our most profound national challenges.

For six long years, under two previous Presidents, our families were under siege; violence on our streets increased. Washington talked a lot about crime during these years, but did not act.

Well, tonight Democrats and Republicans joined together and they acted. They reached across party lines to pass the toughest and smartest crime bill in the history of the United States. The House moved beyond politics as usual to assume responsibility for protecting our citizens and for punishing those who prey on them, and for giving our children a better future.

I am very grateful for the cooperation in this effort of several members of the House in the Republican Party who worked hard with the Democrats in the House and with our administration to make improvements in this bill over the last few days. This is the way Washington ought to work, and I hope it will work this way in the future.

Let me remind you: This crime bill will put 100,000 police officers on our streets. It will keep repeat violent criminals off our streets with longer sentences and with the three strikes and you're out law, and with funds to build prisons to hold those criminals. It will prohibit juveniles from owning handguns, and ban deadly assault weapons, and provide prevention funds to our local communities to give our children something to say yes to and to give people the opportunity to teach our children who need it right from wrong.

And the entire crime bill was fully paid for -- and I want to emphasize this again -- this major attack on crime is fully paid for not with new taxes, not by taking money away from current expenditures, but by reducing the federal government to its lowest level in 30 years -- by over 270,000 -- a major focus of our reinventing government efforts. And all that money will be taken from the federal budget and given to local communities to empower them to keep the American people safer.

Still, in spite of the great strengths of this bill, many of the same forces that prevented a crime bill from passing for six years were also present here -- especially over the assault weapons issue. We received great pressure after the crime bill stalled in the House to simply remove the assault weapons ban. But we held firm, though the opposition was intense and the outcome was uncertain. We held firm because we owed it to the brave men and

MORE

women in police uniforms who go out and risk their lives for the rest of us every day, and we owed it to the law-abiding citizens of this country. We must never walk away from our fundamental responsibilities in this area.

Let me remind you now that this fight is far from over. We now move to the Senate, which must pass the bill this week. But I hope that the senators watched this debate, and I hope they watched the events of the last few days, and I hope they watched the Republicans and the Democrats working together for the safety of the people of the United States. After all, as I said the other day, this must not be a Democratic crime bill or a Republican crime bill, this crime bill must belong to the American people. And I urge the Senate to pass it without delay.

Q Mr. President, as you know there are many opponents in the Senate who are already threatening a filibuster. Do you believe there are 60 senators who will vote in favor of this package?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I would remind you that there were over 90 senators who voted for a crime bill that was about this expensive, cost about this amount of money. I have given them a way to pay for it without new taxes and without taking away from other government expenditures. The crime bill the Senate passed the first time had the assault weapons ban in it. It had prevention funds in it. It had tougher punishment in it.

So, since this bill is essentially what they passed before -- because the Senate also passed 100,000 police officers -- those who change their vote will have to explain it and will bear the burden of doing so.

We've seen enough politics on this crime bill. The time has come to pass it. And, yes, I believe that when the time comes there will be 60 votes to pass a crime bill.

Q Mr. President, you said you hope this vote changes the way Washington works. Will you change the way you work and tone down your partisan rhetoric and reach more quickly out to the Republicans?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, Mr. Fournier, I disagree with you. I have always sought first on every major bill to reach out to the Republicans. And the minute it became obvious that we had a chance to do so here, I did it.

I do want to say that that group which worked so closely with the administration and with some of the Democrats who were working on this bill proceeded in good faith. I appreciate what they did. I know they, too, were under partisan pressure on their side not to do it.

But as long as we can have a working bipartisan majority to get something good done for America, I'm going to be there leading the charge. And I'm hopeful that this represents a change in attitudes across the board. It's what I had hoped to bring to Washington when I came here. And I think it's what the American people want us to do.

Q What lessons have you learned from this exchange on the crime bill that you think might be useful in going forward with health care reform?

THE PRESIDENT: That's hard to say --

Q Specifically on the matter of the mainstream version now in the Senate -- is that something you would support?

THE PRESIDENT: The issue -- but the issue in every case is, are the people involved willing to look at what actually will work.

What happened to us here in this crime bill in the last couple of days is that we even had people meeting with us who voted against the assault weapons ban. We had people meeting with us who thought that the bill was too costly, but that there did need to be some money put into prevention to give these kids a better future. And the discussion was unfailingly about what was reasonable, what was practical and what would work.

What gets Washington all jammed up is when ideology and labels overtake what is the clear reality of a circumstance. And I think that that would be possible in the health care debate. But everybody would have to be willing to sort of leave their preconceived positions at the door, at least be prepared to moderate them some in order to achieve the goal that we all say we want.

Everybody says we want two things -- to keep the health care system we have, but, a, achieve coverage for all Americans; and, b, do it in ways that control costs in the years to come. The issue is, will we really look at that? And I hope we will. I am very hopeful.

All I can tell you is, I'm going to bend over backwards, even though I am not a member of the Congress, I do not control the procedures in the Congress. I think the fact that this procedure worked well should auger well for the future. And I hope people in both parties will at least seek this opportunity on major pieces of legislation.

Thank you.

Q Sounds like you support the mainstream proposal in the Senate.

THE PRESIDENT: That's not what I said. I don't know what it is, I haven't had a chance to study it.

Q Will you get your birthday wish and go on vacation?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope so. I don't know yet. I missed my other one by one stroke yesterday. (Laughter.)

END

8:24 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 14, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
DURING CHURCH SERVICES

Full Gospel AME Zion Church
Temple Hills, Maryland

1:25 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you so much. If you've been listening to the news the last few days, you know that the President has had his annual loss of voice. (Laughter.) But when I heard the choir today I kind of got my voice back. (Laughter.)

First, Pastor and Mrs. Cherry, on behalf of my wife, my daughter and all of our company here, thank you so much for making us feel at home today. This was a beautiful, wonderful day for us. We've brought some old friends of ours that we've known for many years, and several members of our White House staff. Our good friend, Congressman Albert Winn joined us -- we're glad to see you. Thank you so much, sir.

I came here today of two minds. Usually, on summer Sundays like this, Hillary and Chelsea and I go up to Camp David, and we go to the beautiful little chapel in the woods there. And instead of being in a vast church, we worship at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday morning with about 50 people, and about six or seven people singing in the choir -- (laughter) -- including the President, who gets to sight read the music when he can talk. (Laughter.)

I wanted to come here today for two reasons. First of all, because, as it turned out, I needed to hear the sermon. (Laughter and applause.) Next week, Pastor, I'll try to be a little more like Jehoshaphat. (Laughter and applause.) Maybe I won't have to ask you face all our enemies all at once. (Laughter.)

The second reason I wanted to be here is that this church to me symbolizes what American should be all about right now. And it also, I believe, came about because of all the things that America should not be about right now. I mean, let me ask you, how is it that a church in 1981 could start with 24 members, and in 1994 could have 16,000 members? How could an African American church with all of the cliches people say about

the black community in America have 16,000 members and over 40 percent of them be males? (Applause.)

God has worked through this Pastor and his wife and his family and all of you. But why did you have to come into being? Because of this great hole that's in our country now. Because of the breakdown of the families and the communities, and the loss of the things which hold people together inside and out -- not just the spiritual problems, but the jobs, too, and the opportunities and the things which make people believe in the future on this Earth.

And in that great vacuum, look what has usually happened. When people lose hope and lose their families and lose their communities and lose their sense of right and wrong, what has so often happened? Seventy percent increase in America in 10 years in the number of children being born out of wedlock. And let's get the whole record on -- today the fastest growth is among young, white women giving birth out of wedlock. Soon, if we don't do something about it, we'll all be equal -- too high.

In 10 years, a doubling of the rate of murder among teenage young people. Sixty-five people in America get killed every day. While we've been in church, another teenager has been murdered. Every two hours a teenager gets murdered in America. And in this great vacuum, you have teen pregnancy and drugs and crime and, worst of all, violence.

I wanted to come here because you are filling that void from the ground up and from the inside out. And I believe that this church could never have come into existence and exploded the way it has if everybody had been in a church, in a family, in a community, in a job, and had hope and direction inside and outside, and structure.

You've filled a vacuum with something good and pure and wonderful. And I thank you for it. It's beyond the reach of any president to do. It is God's work through a religious ministry. But the Bible says that the rest of us has ministries, too.

Do you remember when Martin Luther King said if you're just a street sweeper, just sweep the streets as if you were Michelangelo, painting the Sistine Chapel. (Applause.) Everybody has a job to do. And today, I don't think we have a bigger job in trying to keep our children alive and rebuild our families; and rebuild our communities; and to try to communicate some sense of right and wrong; and to give our kids something to say yes to, as well as something to say no to. It's two sides of the same coin.

And I'll tell you, before I got here, I've been pretty down the last two or three days because the Congress voted that crime bill down. Not because it's the answer to all life's problems; here is the answer to all life's problems. (Applause.) But because this country is literally coming apart at the seams for millions of our young people. And because there are too many streets where old folks are afraid to sit and talk, and

children are afraid to play. Because we're not really free anymore and people aren't free to pursue the American Dream anymore as long as we feel like we can just tear each other apart. Because our police officers go out on the streets where the gangs are supposed to -- are better armed than they are. And things are all mixed up now in our country. And so often it seems that petty political things, or superficial divisions keep us from doing what in our heart we know is right.

And I have been so troubled at the thought that at least those of us who have been given this authority by you -- the President, the Congress -- the least we can do is to help you to save the lives of your children. There are children in this church who have been gunned down; I know it. The least we can do is to help you to be protected. The least we can do is to put people on the streets who can not only catch criminals, but prevent crime as good law enforcement officers. The least we can do if people are totally hopeless is to get them out of your hair so they won't be bothering you. And the least we can do is to, yes, give your children more things they can say yes to, not just things they can say no to.

That's what all that debate was about in the crime bill. It really wasn't about whether if you had written the crime bill or I had or anybody else, it would have been just the way it turned out to be. What is a democracy, after all, but people getting together and putting their different ideas and then arguing it out and having a bunch of votes and a majority rules?

Alexis de Toqueville said many years ago, this was a good country, and as long as it was a good country it could be a great country. We're around after 218 years because more than half the time more than half the people have been right, and God has permitted us to stay and go and flourish. I believe that. Do you?

AUDIENCE: Yesss.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that's what this is all about. We don't have a bigger problem than the violence which is eating the heart out of this country, and the breakdown of the basic fabric of values that says it is wrong to hurt other people; it is wrong to act in an instant for some momentary advantage in ways that will devastate other people's lives; it is wrong to take this kind of advantage. And we have to find a way out of this that punishes wrongdoers, yes, but that also offers the hand of hope, that rebuilds our people from the grass roots up.

And in a political moment, the Congress walked away from that last week. There are people in my part of the country, good people -- they are in their churches today just like we're here -- who say, we don't break the law, and we go hunting every time they open the season, and we don't want any weapons being banned. These 19 assault weapons, folks -- I had a .22 when I was 12; you don't need an assault weapon to shoot a deer or to kill quail. (Laughter.) If you're that bad a shot, you ought to be doing something else. (Laughter.) You shouldn't be hunting. But their fears

are all welled up in them and they scare some of their members of Congress.

Then there are people who represent places where all the children can go to the ballpark, where they've got a place to go swimming in the summertime, where they're in church two or three times a week, and they literally cannot imagine what it is like for some of our children. And so they say, oh, these programs to let these kids play basketball at midnight instead of walk the streets are pork.

I tell you, folks, I will have to, like all the rest of you, answer to God for everything I have done, right or wrong. We all will. I have been a governor. I have presided over the execution of criminals. I have built prison cells. I believe in punishing wrongdoing. I think when people go out and deliberately hurt each other, somebody ought to do something to them and stop it. I believe that. And that's what this bill does.

But I also know that there are countless little children out there, and they could go one way or the other. You know what the best thing about this day to me was? When everybody was asked to come up here, there were all those beautiful young people standing here. They've got a chance now. And we have to give more of them a chance now.

I came here because I needed to hear the sermon. I came here because your church stands for what our country ought to be and where it ought to go. I came here because the Bible says that good Christians are also supposed to be good citizens. And I ask you this whole week to pray for me and pray for the members of Congress; ask us not to turn away from our ministry.

Our ministry is to do the work of God here on Earth. And that starts with giving our children and our families a place in which at least they can be safe and secure. It starts with standing up against this mindless violence which has torn the hearts out of people who are this church and nearly every church in the United States. It starts with trying to put families back together. And it is not the province of any one race. It is increasingly not the province of any region or any economic group. But it savages the poor the worst because that is where the families are most broken.

And I ask you to pray, and to speak to your friends and neighbors and to hope somehow we will all find the wisdom and the judgment to come back and do the will of God in our ministries, which is to make you as safe as we possibly can.

Thank you so much for giving us this wonderful day with you. God bless you all. (Applause.)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 21, 1994

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

The Oval Office

8:16 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: The vote in the House of Representatives tonight is a great victory for all law-abiding Americans. It's also a victory for all Americans who have longed to change the way government works here in our Nation's Capital; who have wanted us for a long time to go beyond labels and partisan divisions and false choices to common-sense solutions to our most profound national challenges.

For six long years, under two previous Presidents, our families were under siege; violence on our streets increased. Washington talked a lot about crime during these years, but did not act.

Well, tonight Democrats and Republicans joined together and they acted. They reached across party lines to pass the toughest and smartest crime bill in the history of the United States. The House moved beyond politics as usual to assume responsibility for protecting our citizens and for punishing those who prey on them, and for giving our children a better future.

I am very grateful for the cooperation in this effort of several members of the House in the Republican Party who worked hard with the Democrats in the House and with our administration to make improvements in this bill over the last few days. This is the way Washington ought to work, and I hope it will work this way in the future.

Let me remind you: This crime bill will put 100,000 police officers on our streets. It will keep repeat violent criminals off our streets with longer sentences and with the three strikes and you're out law, and with funds to build prisons to hold those criminals. It will prohibit juveniles from owning handguns, and ban deadly assault weapons, and provide prevention funds to our local communities to give our children something to say yes to and to give people the opportunity to teach our children who need it right from wrong.

And the entire crime bill was fully paid for -- and I want to emphasize this again -- this major attack on crime is fully paid for not with new taxes, not by taking money away from current expenditures, but by reducing the federal government to its lowest level in 30 years -- by over 270,000 -- a major focus of our reinventing government efforts. And all that money will be taken from the federal budget and given to local communities to empower them to keep the American people safer.

Still, in spite of the great strengths of this bill, many of the same forces that prevented a crime bill from passing for six years were also present here -- especially over the assault weapons issue. We received great pressure after the crime bill stalled in the House to simply remove the assault weapons ban. But we held firm, though the opposition was intense and the outcome was uncertain. We held firm because we owed it to the brave men and women in police uniforms who go out and risk their lives for the rest of us every day, and we owed it to the law-abiding citizens of this country. We must never walk away from our fundamental responsibilities in this area.

Let me remind you now that this fight is far from over. We now move to the Senate, which must pass the bill this week. But I hope that the senators watched this debate, and I hope they watched the events of the last few days, and I hope they watched the Republicans and the Democrats working together for the safety of the people of the United States. After all, as I said the other day, this must not be a Democratic crime bill or a Republican crime bill, this crime bill must belong to the American people. And I urge the Senate to pass it without delay. 

Q Mr. President, as you know there are many opponents in the Senate who are already threatening a filibuster. Do you believe there are 60 senators who will vote in favor of this package?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I would remind you that there were over 90 senators who voted for a crime bill that was about this expensive, cost about this amount of money. I have given them a way to pay for it without new taxes and without taking away from other government expenditures. The crime bill the Senate passed the first time had the assault weapons ban in it. It had prevention funds in it. It had tougher punishment in it.

So, since this bill is essentially what they passed before -- because the Senate also passed 100,000 police officers -- those who change their vote will have to explain it and will bear the burden of doing so.

We've seen enough politics on this crime bill. The time has come to pass it. And, yes, I believe that when the time comes there will be 60 votes to pass a crime bill.

Q Mr. President, you said you hope this vote changes the way Washington works. Will you change the way you work and tone down your partisan rhetoric and reach more quickly out to the Republicans?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, Mr. Fournier, I disagree with you. I have always sought first on every major bill to reach out to the Republicans. And the minute it became obvious that we had a chance to do so here, I did it.

I do want to say that that group which worked so closely with the administration and with some of the Democrats who were working on this bill proceeded in good faith. I appreciate what they did. I know they, too, were under partisan pressure on their side not to do it.

But as long as we can have a working bipartisan majority to get something good done for America, I'm going to be there leading

the charge. And I'm hopeful that this represents a change in attitudes across the board. It's what I had hoped to bring to Washington when I came here. And I think it's what the American people want us to do.

Q What lessons have you learned from this exchange on the crime bill that you think might be useful in going forward with health care reform?

THE PRESIDENT: That's hard to say --

Q Specifically on the matter of the mainstream version now in the Senate -- is that something you would support?

THE PRESIDENT: The issue -- but the issue in every case is, are the people involved willing to look at what actually will work.

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Thank you.

Q Sounds like you support the mainstream proposal in the Senate.

THE PRESIDENT: That's not what I said. I don't know what it is, I haven't had a chance to study it.

Q Will you get your birthday wish and go on vacation?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope so. I don't know yet. I missed my other one by one stroke yesterday. (Laughter.)

END

8:24 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 23, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY AND SERVICE ACT SIGNING

The Rose Garden

11:30 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. Thank you. Please be seated.

It was such a beautiful and, for August, a cool summer day, we thought we ought to move to the Rose Garden today and give us all a chance to enjoy this wonderful beauty.

Senator Wofford, Congressman Lewis, Martin Luther King, III, MR. Segal, ladies and gentlemen: We're here for the signing of the King Holiday and Service Act of 1994. And I have some words I want to say about that, but if I might, I'd like to mention a few things about the service that the Congress is engaged in performing at the present moment with regard to the crime bill.

On Sunday evening Democrats and Republicans in the House produced a victory for all Americans by passing the bill. They showed that, with a little faith and a lot of hard work, they could reach across the partisan divide that has held this country back for too long, to pass a bill that is both tough and smart, that is firm and compassionate, that gives us a chance to lower the crime rate and make our people safer.

Many of the best ideas in the bill were ones contributed by both Democrats and Republicans -- to put 100,000 police on the streets; to keep violent offenders off the streets with longer sentences and three strikes and you're out; to prohibit juveniles from owning handguns; to ban assault weapons; to provide innovative and proven prevention programs to give our children a chance to have a better future -- programs, I want to emphasize, that were sponsored in this legislation by members of both parties.

And one of the best ideas in the bill was also supported in both Houses by members of both parties; that is to establish a trust fund funded by the reductions in the federal work force over the next six years -- 270,000 -- to bring our federal government to its smallest size in over 30 years, and to give all that money back to our local communities for police, for punishment, and for prevention. Not by raising taxes, not by cutting other services, but simply reducing the size of the federal government to its lowest point in 30 years.

This trust fund was sponsored by leaders from both parties, including Senators Byrd, Mitchell, and Biden for the Democrats; Senators Dole, Gramm, and Hatch for the Republicans. It

passed the Senate by a vote of 94 to 4 the first time.

When this bill comes back it will be a little different from the bill that passed the Senate, but not much. It lasts six years instead of five years. It has some more money for border patrol and other problems. But it's not much bigger on an annual basis and it's all paid for in the same way. Every senator without regard to party ought to continue the bipartisan spirit that was established in the House for an American approach to an American problem. That is the service we ought to be performing today -- to make this an American crime bill, and to do it without delay.



The King Holiday and Service Act of 1994, in this bill, combines for the very first time our national holiday in honor of Dr. King with a national day of service. Nothing could be more appropriate, for it was Dr. King who said everyone can be great because everyone can serve.

I always think of the great line he said, that if a person was a street sweeper, he ought to sweep the streets as if he were Michelangelo painting the Sistine Chapel and try to be the best one in the whole world. That is what I think all of us ought to be about doing.

Dr. King taught us that our faith can redeem us, that the sacrifices of individuals can sustain us, that moral courage can guide us. He dedicated himself to what was in his time and what remains the most difficult challenge we face as a democratic people -- closing the great gap between our words and our deeds.

Now we are attempting in this bill and in this administration to accept this challenge, for those who are still barred from the American Dream, and for those who worry that their children will have less of it than they had. We're doing our best here to give government back to ordinary citizens, with an administration that is really more like American than any ever has been, not only in terms of its racial and gender diversity, but also in its commitment to excellence -- with four million new jobs, 20 million young people eligible for reduced college loans, 15 million working families getting tax cuts, and three years of reduction in our deficit for the first time since Mr. Truman was the President.

We demanded fairness in all public services, and especially in housing, not only in Vidor, Texas, but all across the United States. We fought to empower the next generation of our working people, beginning with Head Start and world-class educational standards and apprenticeship programs for those who don't go to college, and more and less expensive college loans and national service for those who wish to pursue higher education.

We fought to strengthen our communities with empowerment zones and community development banks. And we fought to make our people safer with the Brady Bill, and hopefully, with this crime bill.

But we know, and we learn here every day that laws alone cannot restore the American family, cannot give individuals the sense of self-worth and purpose, cannot make the American community what it ought to be. It takes the miracle that begins with personal choices and personal actions, and that cuts through the fog of cynicism and negativism that grips every American from time to time, and has often gripped this country too much.

Giving every citizen at the grass roots a chance to make a difference in his or her own life is a big part of what our efforts are all about. This law helps us to do that by linking the observance of Dr. King's birthday to a day of national service -- an extraordinary idea and a timely one because just next month we will launch Americorps in full-blown initiative, with 20,000 young people serving their communities at the grass-roots level and earning some credit to further their education while doing so.

Nothing could better serve the legacy of Dr. King. He was apathy's sworn enemy and action's tireless champion.

The King Commission has already sponsored seven national youth assemblies, where young people address issues for themselves, such as drug abuse, illiteracy and the importance of staying in school. The largest and most recent assembly took place in the capital of my home state, Little Rock, where Governor Tucker hosted 1,300 young people.

Overall, the Commission has already helped to recruit 4.5 million young people to sign a pledge where they say no to violence and drugs, and yes to serving in their communities. That is a truly revolutionary achievement.

With today's action we can broaden that effort. We can give many more an opportunity to make a difference, to respond to the needs of their communities, whether through tutoring children or housing the homeless, improving parks or keeping our people safer.

As Senator Wofford has said in what I think is one of his best statements, "The King holiday should be a day on, not a day off."

Dr. King's time with us was too brief. But his vision was so great, his moral purpose was so strong that he made us believe that we could be better than we are, and that someday we would be able to walk hand in hand together into a brighter tomorrow.

He said -- and I quote -- "Every man must decide whether he will walk in the light of creative altruism or the darkness of destructive selfishness. Life's most persistent and urgent question is what are you doing for others."

Today we can say with some pride, we have given all Americans a better chance to work together and to help others. This celebration of Dr. King will now be a celebration of his vision of community, his vision of service. And his life proves that it will work for all Americans and for our country.

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

(The bill is signed.)

END

11:40 A.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 10, 1994

RADIO ADDRESS
BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE NATION

10:06 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. Let me begin by saying that Hillary and I send our deepest sympathies and our prayers to the friends and loved ones of the 132 people killed in the air crash near Pittsburgh on Thursday. I know all Americans will send their thoughts and prayers to the grieving this weekend. Meanwhile, we're working to get to the bottom of what happened in the crash, and we're working to continue to assure the safety of American passengers.

All across our country this week, Americans came back from vacation. Our children are back in school, and for many families, this is what they regard as the real new year. As we get back to the business of our lives, it's a good time to stop and think about the work we have ahead of us as a nation.

Unfortunately, that work includes a stark fact about our children. Too many of them are growing up in fear. All too many are growing up without the values of mainstream society, without knowing the difference between what's right and wrong, and without believing that it makes a difference whether they do right or wrong.

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 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.

All these things will help us make this time a year and a season of renewal. It's a time in which I'll keep working to bring greater prosperity to our hard-working people. We already have over 4 million new jobs in this economy, but we've got a good ways to go. It's a time with our new crime law when we will send not just a legal, but a moral message across America, that Americans have a right to be secure in their homes, on their streets, in their schools and places of work. And it's a time with AmeriCorps when we will renew the ethic of service that has always been a key to our greatness, offering first 20,000, and in two years 100,000 of our young people a chance to earn some credit against a college education in return for serving their country at the grassroots level.

In all these ways, we'll be helping to fulfill our obligations to our children, to our nation and to our future.

Thanks for listening. (Applause.)

END

10:11 A.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 10, 1994

NATIONAL GANG VIOLENCE PREVENTION WEEK, 1994

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Robert Sandifer was 8 years old the first time he was arrested by police. He was 11 years old when he died, a victim, police believe, of a gang-related killing. He was also suspected of killing Shavon Dean, an innocent victim of an earlier gang-related shooting. In Shavon and Robert's hometown, the number of gang homicides has nearly tripled since 1980. And in neighborhoods across America, too many mothers and fathers have experienced the anguish of losing a child to the meanness of the streets. For them and for all of us, it is past time to end the violence.

At younger and younger ages, boys and girls are turning to gangs. 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 all those born in a home cordoned off against danger, with bars on the windows and chains on the doors, life on the streets seems all too often a taste of freedom they have never known. But American freedom is better than that. We know this. We see freedom at work every day in the determined faces of parents striving to make a better life for themselves and their children. And we see it every day in big cities and small towns across the country as Americans come together to put the spirit of community to work.

Confronted with the horror of children planning their own funerals, our Nation has begun planning for the future. Our first, best hope is in the common cause of those around us. A community that shares life's experiences can be an important source of strength and understanding in a world that seems filled with growing violence and diminishing hope. Families and communities are coming together across the country to bring hope to even our most troubled youth. In Birmingham, Alabama, where police officers are sponsoring athletic teams and tutoring programs in 52 neighborhoods, youth crime has dropped by 30 percent. In Los Angeles, teachers and sheriffs are working in teams to show kids alternative methods of resolving conflicts, encouraging them to develop a sense of self-worth apart from gangs. The 1994 crime bill seeks to provide grassroots programs like these the resources they need to push forward in their efforts and to succeed in their fight.

In an invaluable victory for citizens across the country, the Congress passed, and I will soon sign, a crime bill that is designed to save the lives of children like Shavon and Robert. This path-breaking legislation will punish hardened young criminals by requiring stronger penalties, and it will expand the use of community boot camps, drug courts, and other alternative sanctions to stop first-time offenders from

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(OVER)

beginning a lifetime of crime. It bans 19 of the deadliest assault weapons, and it goes a long way toward keeping guns out of the hands of juveniles. With strong measures of discipline and training, drug treatment and education, this bill takes on the sickness of gangs and drugs and gives our young people a new chance at life. Ours is important work: It is about trying to save a generation of children and to secure the future life of a country. It is a job we can surely do.

Ours remains the greatest Nation the world has ever known because we have not shied away from challenges. Rather, we have consistently sought to surmount them. The problem of gang violence is among the most profound we as a people have ever faced. We must respect our young people enough to give them a positive choice for the future. We must take responsibility for teaching them to choose what is right. The solutions are within our reach. The power to change America is within ourselves. Together, we must work to redeem the promise that every young life holds.

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 the week of September 12 through September 16, 1994, as "National Gang Violence Prevention Week." I call upon the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-four, 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
(New Orleans, Louisiana)

For Immediate Release

September 9, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN SPEECH TO NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION

Ernest N. Morial Convention Center
New Orleans, Louisiana

11:10 A.M. CDT

THE PRESIDENT: If I could sing like that, I would have never gotten into politics. (Laughter and applause.) Reverend Jemison; your President-Elect, Dr. Lyons -- (applause) -- to Dr. Richardson -- (applause), Reverend James, Dr. Mary Ross.

To all the distinguished Louisianans here present, including Reverend Governor Edwards; I thought he did very well today. (Applause.) Senator Breaux and Congressman Jefferson and Mayor Morial and all your state officials and legislators. Reverend Jackson. (Applause.) To all the members of my staff and Cabinet who are here.

Where are the people here with the administration? They're all here somewhere. (Applause.)

I want to say many things, but first we have a duty, I think, as Americans to take a moment of silence now for the 131 people who were killed in that awful air crash in Pittsburgh. Hillary and I send our deepest sympathies and our prayers to the friends and the loved ones of the crash victims. And I know that all of you and all Americans also send your prayers to the grieving.

Our Secretary of Transportation, Secretary Pena is there in Pittsburgh. I have talked with the Mayor and the Governor this morning and with Senator Wofford. All Americans should know that we will do whatever we can to assure their safety in travel. But let us today, in the painful recognition of our fallibility as human beings, mourn with a moment of silence those who lost their lives. Amen.

Well, Dr. Jemison, I thank you for that warm introduction. I have known you as a friend for a long time. When we were standing outside, about to come up, he was reviewing his more than 50 years in the leadership of this great church. That's a long time, worthy of honor, and I give it. (Applause.)

Two years ago I had a great moment with all of you in Atlanta when I was running for President. (Applause.) And last year, I was invited to appear and I couldn't; I had to give

my regrets. I sort of felt like the boy who skipped Sunday school. (Laughter.) I promised Dr. Jemison I'd be here this year no matter what, so I showed up, and I hope you have forgiven me because I feel at home. (Applause.)

Two years ago I came to you, and you responded. I asked you to work with me to give us at least a chance to change the direction our country was headed in. We had too much debt and too few jobs. We seemed to be going in the wrong direction where ordinary Americans were ignored, and people with money and organized power were heeded, but somehow the thing was not working.

As the Vice President used to say, what ought to be up was down, and what ought to be down was up. And that was a problem. I wanted a chance to try to move this country forward again and to try to pull our country together again.

Today, having served now for not quite two years, I guess what I want to say to you is I think we're doing a pretty good job of moving forward, but not nearly a good enough job of coming together. (Applause.)

I have here in the front some of my friends and former employers from the State of Arkansas -- would you all stand up? (Applause.) Thank you and bless you for being here.

I lived in a little state to the north of here for a while, you know. And I learned that it was not healthy to say one thing to one group and one to another. You had to say the same thing to everybody and mean it every day.

I never will forget when I was running for president, one of the most memorable days I had was speaking on one day of the weekend in Macomb County, Michigan, the prototypical, what they used to call "Reagan Democrat county," where there was a lot of what they used to call "white flight." And then the next day I went to a black church in Detroit where half the people were from Arkansas. And I gave the same speech I had given the day before, and people thought that was strange. And I said, is it so strange that we should say the same thing to all Americans and try to come together?

I want to talk to you today about that. I still believe what I believed two years ago -- that the government has a role to play in the future of this country and the future of our families and our hopes and our dreams, not as savior, but not on the sidelines -- just as a partner in progress. I still believe that, together, we can meet every challenge, that we can fulfill the hopes of our children. I still believe there are a lot of things we have to do that go way beyond the reach of government into the depths of the human spirit.

Today I say to you again, I think we're making a lot of progress, and I feel good about that. But I don't think we're doing as well as we should in coming together. (Applause.) And I don't feel good about that, and I want to examine that and what I could do better and what you can do better.

I noticed a columnist wrote the other day in the newspaper, he said, there's lots of things going right in this country. The economy is booming, we've got over 4 million new jobs, the stock market is up, the deficit is down, things look good in the future. Our country was just rated the most productive country in the entire world for the first time in nearly 10 years; we've got over 4 million new jobs -- as I said, the unemployment rate is down. A lot of things are going well.

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(Applause.)

We see around the world real progress -- peace in the Middle East, in the Holy Land -- something that should gladden the heart of every Christian. We see peace prospects and moving forward in Northern Ireland -- something many of us thought we would never see. We see the majesty of peace and democracy and freedom unfolding in South Africa. And I want to thank Reverend Jackson for his leadership of our election team over there in South Africa, doing that process. (Applause.)

And so the writer said -- he was writing about me -- he said, if things are going so well, why are people still mad at the President? Well, what he might have said is, you remember that old saying, "If I'm so rich, why I am not happy?" (Laughter.)

Well, there are a lot of reasons for that. But let me offer one. I just got back from vacation and when I was on vacation I went to church and I heard a minister I'd never seen before from a little town in New Jersey, called Red Bank. (Applause.) You know where Red Bank, New Jersey is? (Applause.)

The first thing he did was give us dispensation for being on vacation, which I felt good about. He said, life is not all work, it is also play and rest and worship. But he went on to say it's not only important to do all those things, but to get them right. And if you don't have faith, you won't have the rhythm right. You will find yourselves working at play and playing at worship and you'll have it all messed up. (Applause.)

Well, that's kind of what's going on in our country today. We still haven't quite got the rhythm right. So that even though we are facing a lot of our most profound problems, and even though we are clearly making progress in areas too long ignored, which many of you have mentioned here, we have to say: what is the real deal here? Why aren't we happier about it?

There are many reasons, but let me offer three. One is, whenever periods of profound change occur in the lives of individuals or nations, they are unsettling. Isn't that right? Can't you think of times in your own life when you were making a change, and every day you woke up and it was like there was this scale inside your body, and on one side of the scale was hope and on the other side of the scale was fear, and it seemed like every day, the scales would be in a little bit different balance until you finally got through this change you were going through.

We can all identify with that. That's what's going on in this country today. It's happened before. At the end of the First World War, we won this great battle and we didn't know what to do with ourselves, and so we just came home and folded up our tents. We thought we could withdraw from the world. And what happened? That's when the Ku Klux Klan first started rising up. At the end of the First World War, when we lost our concentration and we lost our way and we didn't know who the enemy was anymore. It's also when we had the first Red Scare, when everybody began to be accused of being a communist if they had unconventional opinions.

Then, at the end of the Second World War, the same sort of thing happened, except we knew better then to withdraw from the world. Harry Truman said, no, no, we're going to rebuild the country here at home for the soldiers and their families, and we're going to rebuild our enemies, Germany and

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Japan; and our allies in Europe.

And we know who the enemy is, it's the Soviet Union and communism, so we're going to have a great wall against communism, and we're going to fight this Cold War.

But, still, there was uncertainty. There was a new Red Scare, which came to its height under Senator McCarthy. And Harry Truman had a hard time getting people to change. You know, he was at 80 percent approval in the polls after he dropped the bomb which ended the war, but by the time he sent the second health reform legislation to Congress -- that's how long we've been trying to fix the health care system -- by the time Harry Truman did it the second time, he was down to 36 percent in the polls. Now, everybody talks about him like he ought to be on Mount Rushmore. (Laughter.) But I was for a family who supported him when he was living, and I know what happened.

Change is difficult. And when you're going through a period of change, we are vulnerable to getting out of our rhythm. The second problem is, we live in a time which almost seems to glorify the negative, the cynical, don't we? (Applause.) It's the old story -- there's a lot more people prone to see the glass of water is half empty than half full than there used to be, and to tell all the rest of us we're just fools if we see it half full; it's really half empty.

And then, frankly, let's face it: We still have some problems that are real deep in this country, that all the progress we're making does not necessarily touch. We have 4.1 million new jobs, the work force is expanding more rapidly than it did 10 years ago, the last time we had any kind of economic recovery, but lots of folks still out of work. A lot of folks live in places where they don't believe new jobs are coming. A lot of people are working harder; they have their job, but the don't think they'll ever get a raise.

Five million -- five million people live in working families who had health insurance five years ago, who do not have it today. (Applause.) So we have some real problems. Governor Edwards alluded to the most heart-breaking of all -- those that involve the children of this country, their sins and their abuses, and their loss of their childhood and their innocence, and our loss of their future. The 11-year-old boy in Chicago, Robert Sandifer, who sprayed gunfire at a group of kids and killed a 14-year-old girl and then killed himself; his grandmother saying, I could not reach you.

And then in New Jersey, the 13-year-old who stole a gun to end a petty argument and the life of his 11-year-old friend. In Detroit, Rosa Parks was attacked by a crack addict for \$53. In my hometown, an 82-year-old woman, attacked by two teenagers, brutalized and sexually molested -- 82 years old. These aren't Baptist problems or Catholic problems or Jewish problems. Contrary to what some people say, they're not black or white problems. No, the 11-year-old in Chicago was black, but the teenager in New Jersey who killed, and the victim were both white.

Rosa Parks is a hero to African Americans and a hero to people who have been oppressed throughout the world, but the 82-year-old woman in my hometown was a white lady, and so were the people who attacked her.

These problems and the problems behind them that brought the children to the miserable point in life where they

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did what they did. These are the things that are gnawing at our spirit that we have to address so we can get the rhythm right, we can go on and face the challenges of this time, all the changes. And we can make change our friend if we know that we are grounded. That is what your faith is about. But it is also now what our citizenship must be more about.

I note that there are many voices from all sectors preaching to us today about the decline in our values. In a way I welcome them all. And whether they are traditionally our allies or our adversaries, we should listen for the truth of their words; and if they are true, we should heed them. (Applause.)

On the other hand, I would issue two cautionary notes: We should not let the voices of despair make our insecurities even deeper. That is wrong. (Applause.) That is wrong. There have always been problems in every society and there will be until the end of time. That is the lesson of the Scripture. So for all the people who try to use the difficulties of the moment to dampen the energies of Americans, to defeat our spirits -- I say, that is wrong. The Scripture says, let us not grow weary in well-doing, for in -- we shall reap if we do not lose heart. (Applause.)

The darkness of every storm provides a new chance for renewal -- every storm. And so does this one. So to all those who preach that we need to return to the values of our faith, I say, we do. But the real issue is, what are we going to do about it? Not what are we going to say about it, but what are we going to do about it? The saying is important, for we, in words, come to visualize the future. And we need the vision so that we do not perish. But we must act on the vision. And that's where all the problems come.

You know the old story about the preacher who was preaching his best on Sunday morning and thought he had finally reached everybody in the service? And he said, I want everybody who wants to go to heaven to stand up right now, and everybody in the whole church stood up except Sister Jones who had not missed a day of church in 40 years. And he was crestfallen. It broke all his concentration. He stopped the sermon.

He said, "Sister Jones, you have not missed a sermon in 40 years. Do you mean to tell me you do not want to go to heaven when you die?" And she popped right up and she said, "Oh, I'm sorry, preacher, I thought you were trying to get up a load to go right now." (Laughter.)

Now that's a big problem, isn't it? We all want to do it somewhere down the road, but if we have to do something right now, well that's something we better think about. (Laughter.) So the challenge is, what are we going to do right now? Not later, but now. Right now. (Applause.)

I say this to the people who always say the glass is half empty, always being pessimistic, always being negative. They have it easy. That lets you out of any responsibility at all. You adopt a pessimistic, negative attitude. You be cynical. It just relieves you of any responsibility for doing because then doing doesn't matter. Right? (Applause.)

All I can tell you is, there would be no free American sitting in this place today if the pessimists and the cynics and the negative people had ruled this country all along the way. (Applause.)

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Our obligation and our power flows out of two simple lessons I was taught about our whole civilization many years ago in college. One is that the future can be better than the present -- not perfect, but better. And the second is that each of us has a personal, moral responsibility to make it so. That is the simple lesson -- (applause) -- that will get our rhythm back, that will put us back in harmony, that will enable us to enjoy our progress and still keep working on the deep and profound things that are challenging us and dealing with the unsettling impact of this changing time.

My vision is that we will go into the 21st century as a country more free, more prosperous, more united -- and more open to making change our friend than we have ever been.

Yes, we are beginning to see results. Yes, the economy is doing better. Yes, we are seeing more fairness as well as more progress. We did raise taxes on the wealthiest one and a half percent of Americans to bring the deficit down, but we also gave tax cuts to 15 million working families just above the poverty line to say, you got off welfare, you're working, we're going to reward you being a parent and a worker. We did that. We are making progress. (Applause.)

We got 180,000 more kids in Head Start. We're going to immunize a couple of million more children so that by 1996 all the kids two years of age and less like this little kid here, will have their shots. We're doing more to provide job training for people who lose their jobs, and we made 20 million Americans eligible to refinance their college loans at lower interest rates with a longer repayment terms. These things are important. They matter. (Applause.)

Work -- the dignity of work is central to our ability to build a future. The second thing we have to do is not just talk about how we need stronger families, but think about what I can do and you can do to make them stronger. (Applause.)

We didn't cut taxes for those 15 million working families for just political reasons. We did it because people have got to be able to succeed today as workers and as parents. And if we want people to work and parents, we have to reward work. That's why the Family and Medical Leave Act was so important. How can you say you want people to be good family members and then fire them if they have to take a little time off to have a baby or take care of sick parent? (Applause.)

There's a bill in the Congress I really believe in, sponsored by Senator Metzenbaum, to make adoptions easier and to make it possible for people to adopt children across racial lines if nobody else is there wanting to adopt the children. (Applause.) Don't leave kids in the limbo of foster care for years and years and years. Give them a chance to do it.

The third thing we have to do is to make our communities stronger. We have to act as if we believe what we talk about all the time, that we're all in this together. The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development is here today. Henry Cisneros has done more to come up with a program to end homelessness than anybody in the last 10 years. We've been talking about it. He's trying to do something about it. It makes us stronger as a community.

The welfare reform bill is about community -- empowering everybody to participate. The enterprise zones are about giving poor communities the incentive to draw capital to

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put people to work. These things will make our communities stronger.

And the crime bill was about communities. Because if your streets aren't safe, if your schools aren't safe, if people don't feel secure, it's hard to call them to higher citizenship. What did Edwin Everett say -- if you've got the right to vote but you're scared to go to the polling place, it's hard to talk about citizenship. That's why it was important.

We're also trying to change the way government works, reforming the way we finance our campaigns and try to at least tell you what the lobbyists are doing in Washington with new disclosure requirements, a bill that would make Congress live under all the laws it imposes on you. That's not a bad idea, I think. (Applause.) These things are important.

We're trying to prove something that I always believe -- that you can have diversity and excellence at the same time. Look at our Cabinet: Five African Americans, more than twice as many as ever served. (Applause.) Fifteen percent of all appointments, more than twice as many appointments to the federal courts as the last three presidents combined are African Americans. (Applause.)

But what really ought to make you clap is that these judges have the highest percentage of well-qualified ratings by the American Bar Association since they have been giving out the ratings. They're not just from different racial groups and men and women; they're well qualified. (Applause.)

So there are things that government can do. This crime bill I want to talk about because it runs into the question of harmony. There are a lot of things the government can't do. There are things the government can do, and it's still not enough. I know that crime bill wasn't perfect. And I know it imposed great, great challenges for the African American members of Congress and for many people and religious faiths because it contains capital punish provisions. And many people oppose capital punishment for everyone, and many others say that African Americans are more likely to get the penalty, because poor folks are more likely than non-poor folks to be convicted and sentenced to death.

I know that there are those who say that when we build more prisons and make sentences for repeat offenders longer and tougher, that will have a disproportionate impact on the African American community. But to that, I say this: Every time you look at the evening news, there's another funeral. And there's a disproportionate number of black kids lying in those pine boxes, too. (Applause.) And that's wrong. That's what's really wrong. And we have got to find a way, imperfect though it is, to get all the Americans together, with all their different perspectives, and move forward on this issue because if people are not safe, we're in trouble. And if we put the 100,000 police on the street and do it right, they'll prevent crime, not just catch criminals. (Applause.)

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

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But if you really want it, to lower the crime rate, reduce violence, and save more kids' lives, all the work is still to be done. All the work is still to be done. And it's like asking Sister Jones to go to heaven -- we've got to do this right now. We have to -- if we believe there is a crisis of the spirit, a crisis of values in this country, we have to do something about it right now. (Applause.) And we've got to do it where we live.

I would like to suggest just four simple things that go beyond government programs. And you know them all, and many of you are doing them all. But every American can make a contribution. We are raising a whole generation of kids who aren't sure they're the most important person in the world to anybody. (Applause.)

Now, consider this: Today, about 40 percent of all children are born in the homes where there was never a marriage. Twenty-seven percent of all pregnancies end in abortion. I don't care what your position is, whether you're pro-choice or anti; that's too many. That's not about serious health problems or emotional problems.

So when the miracle of conception occurs, less than half of those miracles wind up being babies born into homes where there's a mother and a father and where the kid's got a better-than-even chance of having the life that most of us have, or we wouldn't be here in our neckties and nice dresses today. Now, that's just a fact.

Dr. King once said, "Whom we wish to change, we must first love." (Applause.) And I know not everybody is going to be in a stable, traditional family like you see in one of those 1950 sitcoms, but we'd be better off if more people were. I was raised by a wonderful mother who worked, who cared for me, who was a widow when I was born, went through a difficult marriage. And at least every now and then I find somebody who thinks I turned out all right. (Applause.)

So it can happen, but we have to say, who is going to care for these children?

In every single study that's ever been done of young people who did well against all the odds with terrible circumstances and all the things that could have gone wrong, it is always, always, always the case that they had a relationship with somebody who cared about them. Somebody. (Applause.)

I don't think we ought to give up on families. Yesterday I met with a number of ministers and one friend of mine who pastors a massive church in the Washington area, an African American church, has made the mission of his church the rebuilding of the family. Over 40 percent of the members are male, and he left our breakfast to go back to meet with 150 couples who had split up or never married. Some of them were divorced. Sometimes people had flown in from thousands of miles away. He was trying to get them back together for the children's sake and because it was the right thing to do. We need to do more of that. (Applause.)

But he's not just talking about it, he's doing something. If that's not an option, then somebody's got to love these children. When I was in Des Moines, Iowa, in the campaign, I saw a white lady holding an African American baby that had AIDS. She was from Iowa. The kid was from Miami. She had been abandoned by her husband. She had two children of her own. She was living in an apartment house, working at a meager job. She thought it was God's

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will that she take a child who was sick and abandoned. And she did it. If she could do it, a lot of the rest of us should as well. (Applause.)

Someone has got to care for these children. I've heard Reverend Jackson talk about this. I think about it all the time as my daughter grows up. We have to find in families where the mother is doing all the work and there needs to be somebody outside the family, a male figure, who can at least relate to children, who can say things like, what are you reading and how are you doing in class. This is right and this is wrong. I'd like to see your report card. What do you want to do five years from now? (Applause.)

You know, how many children do we know -- how many children, how many of these kids that are shooting one another never think about five years from now? The future to them is five minutes from now. Why is that? Because no one is asking them about it. Where there is no vision, people perish. They cannot visualize five years from now. (Applause.) So that's the first thing.

The second thing we've got to do is help these kids at least grow up without fear -- which means we've got to keep them from getting shot and stop them from shooting. And laws can help, and policemen can help, but every two hours in this county another kid under the age of 19 dies from gunfire. A-nine-year old boy wrote me from this city right here in New Orleans and said, please do something about this. I'm afraid I could get killed. And on Mother's Day, a month after he wrote me, he got killed just walking home from school.

Now, there are things people can do in their neighborhoods to stop this. We are giving you more tools in terms of the laws and the police, but we've got to have help. Schools can be made safer. Walking routes can be made safer. Use the Crime Bill funds. The churches are eligible to participate -- and give kids something to do after school to get them off the street where they can be in recreation. (Applause.) I got so tired when we were debating that Crime Bill hearing people badmouth Midnight Basketball. I'd a lot rather have somebody shooting hoops than shooting bullets. (Applause.) But you have to make that work.

The third thing I would say is, we have to be more honest. Sometimes it is almost embarrassing, I know, but we've got to be more honest with our young people in teaching them to respect themselves -- their bodies, their souls and their futures. (Applause.)

And we always talk about how irresponsible it is for young men to father these children and run off, but we've got to get more young women to make a different choice in life too. We have simply got to find a way to deal with this.

Thirty years ago one of 40 white births was out of wedlock, now it's one in five. Thirty years ago, one in five African American births was out of wedlock, now, over half. But the white out-of-wedlock birthrate is growing much faster than the African American rate. So, we are going to have equal opportunity for all before you know it. (Laughter.)

You're laughing to keep from crying, but it's not funny; is it? We're going to see a merger of this. No more race discrimination; more than half of everybody's babies will be born where there was never a marriage. That is a disaster. It is wrong, And someone has to say, again, it is simply not right. You shouldn't have a baby before you're ready, and you shouldn't have a baby when you're not married. You just have to stop it. We've got to turn it around.

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Now I want to make it clear we shouldn't stigmatize these babies and when they're born we should to take care of them. We ought to love the babies. We ought to love the parents. We ought to give them the best future we can, but we have to tell people, look at the facts. Look at what happens to people. Look at their incomes, their education levels, their future. We've got to get people out of thinking that the future is five minutes away and realize it is five years or ten years or twenty years away. And you have to do that.

I'll try to do my part, but this is not a government deal. This is the way people are behaving, as if there was no respect for themselves and no future. We have to stop.

Finally, let me say, I ask you to help lead us in bringing back an ethic of service to this nation. We're going to kick off our National Service Program on Monday which will, this year, involve 20,000 young Americans in serving their community, many of them in church groups. The Congress of National Black Churches is an active participant in national service. We want kids working with churches to solve a lot of these problems and earning credit for their college education. Year after next we'll have 100,000 young people. You can put them to work. When people are serving one another, when they're acting as role models, they'll be better people themselves. And you can do that.

All these things you can do -- help our kids be safer, help make sure every child is loved by somebody and disciplined by somebody and cared for by somebody. And help our kids change this culture which is ending family life and childhood as we know it and bring us back to the spirit of service.

Finally, let me say this: I came here to say this because I don't believe in preaching at people. I believe you are the heroes of this whole thing. A lot of you have been out there like the little Dutch Boy with your thumb in the dike against all these forces for years. A lot of you have been doing these things. A lot of you have run the day care centers and run the recreation programs and run the prison ministries and counseled the young people. You have done this. But America now knows that we must all do this.

So I say, I honor you. I honor the members of your church that get up and go to work every day and follow the law and pay their taxes and do their best to raise their kids. And let us say for the record since all America is watching this, most of the members of your church do exactly that. They play by the rules, and they work hard and they do their best. (Applause.)

But let's not kid each other, folks. I'm going to go back to Washington. And I'll keep trying to create jobs. And we'll do a good job of that. And we'll open America to the world. I'll keep working for peace and freedom around the world. I'll keep working for better education and training opportunities. I'll keep trying to solve this terrible riddle of why we can't get jobs in the inner city and poor rural areas. And we'll try to find ways to do that.

But in the end, if we're going to get the rhythm right, if we're going to enjoy the progress we're making, even in an imperfect world, we have to get the bedrock right. We have to know that the spirit that we believe in is rifling through this country and is going to work.

You know, Paul -- St. Paul -- was not Timothy's father, but he was his spiritual father. And he said, when I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, I put thee in

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remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God which is in thee. I believe and you believe that every child has a gift of God within them. When the gift dies, it is our sin as well as theirs, and our loss as well as theirs.

So let us leave here resolved to stir up the gift of God that is within us and do those things that will enable us to go forward with joy and confidence to make the future what it ought to be.

Thank you and God bless you all.

END

12:52 P.M. CDT

MORE

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 25, 1994

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

The United States Senate made history today. The long, hard wait is finally over -- and the American people are going to get the action against crime they have been demanding for over six years.

I want to thank the Members of both parties, in the House and Senate, who answered the call of ordinary Americans to get this job done.

With a little good faith and a lot of hard work, Republicans and Democrats overcame the partisan divisions and false choices that have blocked anti-crime efforts time and time again.

And because they did, children will be safer and parents will breathe a little easier. Police officers will no longer be threatened by gangs and thugs with easy access to deadly assault weapons designed only for war. Violent criminals are going to learn quickly that the revolving door on our prisons has been locked and bolted shut.

This Crime Bill is going to make every neighborhood in America safer -- and the bipartisan spirit that produced it should give every American hope that we can come together to do the job they sent us here to do.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 26, 1994

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Today I have signed into law, H.R. 4603, the "Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, FY 1995, and Supplemental Appropriations for FY 1994."

This Act provides funding for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State; the Judiciary; and several smaller agencies.

This Act marks a bold first step in our effort to combat violent crime in America. In this Act, the Congress has provided \$2.3 billion in funding to support the key new programs in the newly-passed Crime Bill. Foremost, the bill makes good on the promise of the Crime Bill by providing \$1.3 billion to begin putting 100,000 new police officers on the street over the next 6 years.

The Act will enable the Justice Department to escalate its efforts to secure the border and to control illegal immigration. Resources are provided to expand the number of agents at high-risk crossing points to deter illegal immigration, improve the equipment available to agents to increase their effectiveness, expedite deportations of criminal illegal aliens, and increase asylum adjudications. The Act also provides, for the first time, a funding source to help States that are burdened by large numbers of criminal illegal aliens in their prisons. This \$130 million initiative highlights the Federal Government's commitment to share the responsibility for reducing the fiscal impact of illegal immigration with affected States.

A total of \$100 million is provided to States to upgrade their criminal records databases, continuing implementation of the Brady Bill to ensure that handguns stay out of the hands of criminals. Innovative programs such as boot camps and drug courts are supported to promote cost-effective methods of dealing with young nonviolent offenders. Finally, funds are provided to stop or penalize those criminals who prey, intentionally, on women.

This Act, coupled with the Crime Bill, will provide the foundation for our bold new strategy of fighting crime in the United States.

The Act also provides important funding for some of my investment priorities, including development of the information highway, the defense conversion projects of the Economic Development Administration, and projects to foster high technology at the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

In addition to providing important funding for fiscal year 1995, the Act provides urgently needed emergency funding for fiscal year 1994. Due to an increased need for disaster assistance, stemming primarily from the Northridge earthquake

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(OVER)

in California and the recent flooding in the Southeast, the Disaster Loan Program of the Small Business Administration (SBA) is out of funds. This Act provides \$470 million for SBA's Disaster Loan Program. Concurrently with signing H.R. 4603 into law, I am informing the Congress of my designation of these funds as an emergency requirement, thereby making them available.

Finally, this Act provides important funding for our contribution to United Nations international peacekeeping efforts around the world. These efforts are essential to reducing regional tensions and preventing or stopping the horror of war.

Unfortunately, the Act does not provide sufficient funding for the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for fiscal year 1995. If the Congress does not provide additional funds for the SEC before adjourning in October, the SEC will have to shut down before the Congress returns next year. To avoid this, I urge the Congress to enact legislation providing the necessary budgetary resources for the SEC prior to the start of the new fiscal year.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

THE WHITE HOUSE,
August 26, 1994.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 5, 1994

CRIME PREVENTION MONTH, 1994

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BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Finding solutions to the problems of crime and violence must be a top priority for our Nation. Parents should not be afraid to let their children walk to school alone. Children should never hesitate to play in neighborhood playgrounds. No longer should innocent Americans of all ages find their lives forever changed by crime. Americans have endured enough.

Our Nation made a major leap forward in the effort to find lasting solutions when I signed into law the long-awaited crime bill -- the toughest, smartest Federal attack on crime in our history. The Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act is the first major Federal anti-crime legislation enacted in 6 years. It authorizes more than \$5 billion in Federal assistance over the next 6 years to help States and communities implement a broad range of new crime and drug abuse prevention programs.

Prevention is the first, critical step in my Administration's three-pronged strategy for crime control. Accompanied by stringent law enforcement and by certain, appropriate punishment, prevention is one of our Nation's most effective weapons against crime, violence, and the spread of illicit drugs. Across the country, people are already working to bring about positive change in their communities. They are establishing neighborhood watches and citizen patrols. They are working with law enforcement officers to close down drug houses. They are cleaning up playgrounds and parks and creating drug-free school zones. They are taking back their streets from all those who would seek to cause harm.

The National Citizens' Crime Prevention Campaign -- sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice, the Advertising Council, the Crime Prevention Coalition, and the National Crime Prevention Council -- is also working to help implement crime prevention efforts in American urban, suburban, and rural areas and on U.S. military bases worldwide. The Crime Prevention Coalition sponsors Crime Prevention Month each October to emphasize the importance of personal involvement and to promote community-police partnerships for crime control. Crime Prevention Month challenges every American to take individual and collective action to prevent crime. It teaches us that working together, we can make a difference.

The Congress, by House Joint Resolution 363, has designated October 1994 as "Crime Prevention Month" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this month.

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NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 1994 as Crime Prevention Month. I encourage residents in communities throughout the Nation to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-four, 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

October 13, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS DINNER

Capitol Hilton
Washington, D.C.

7:52 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Thank you so much, Tom and Bob. Thank you for the kind words. Thank you for the "Top Cop" honors. Before we came out, Tom also made me a New York City detective. (Laughter and applause.) So now, after two years, I finally have an excuse for all the traffic I stop when I go up there. (Laughter.)

I'd also like to say what a single honor it is for me just to be on the stage with these 12 fine officers behind me who will be recognized later, and who put their lives on the line every day, as so many others do. But I am profoundly honored to be here with them, and I honor their achievements.

I also want to say a special word of thanks to the members of Congress who are here, who supported the crime bill; and especially to all of NAPO's members and all the law enforcement community who fought so hard with us to pass that Crime Bill. Dennis Flaherty and Mick Ganley who hosted me in Minneapolis are here, and they deserve some special thanks, too, because I think we sort of jump started the effort to pass the Crime Bill in Minneapolis that day when those who wanted to kill it on a technicality thought we were dead and gone, and expected us to give up. We didn't because you didn't, and now we have the Crime Bill thanks to you -- to all of you -- and I thank you for that. (Applause.)

There are some other folks here from the Law Enforcement Steering Committee I want to recognize -- John Pitta of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association; Jim Rhinebarger, Johnny Hughes of the Troopers Coalition; Chris Sullivan with the International Brotherhood of Police Officers. I thank all of them for their support as well.

You know, I came here 20 months ago, having lived in Washington only when I was a young man, as a college student. I was never part of the political environment here. I found, looking at it from a distance, things to admire, but much to question. And I must say, having gone through this Crime Bill debate, I have a lot of admiration for those people in both parties who hung in there with us, but still much to question.

You know, around here, people talk a problem to death, and then when the time comes to do something about it, everybody looks for a reason not to do it. I saw it happen with the deficit, I saw it happen with crime. But there are real things in this Crime Bill, as Tom said. And I guess that's what I really want to emphasize.

Yesterday at the White House, we had the kick-off of the Crime Bill. Just 12 days after I signed it, we release the first round of police grants to 400 communities of all sizes, all across the country, all the way from little bitty towns in our most rural

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states to our largest cities. And I saw small town mayors and small town police chiefs come up to me and say, you know, finally someone has done something to help us keep our streets safer, our schools safer, our neighborhoods safer.

I met a young officer from Ocean City, Maryland who was hired last year in one of our police hiring grants -- you know, we started this last year and have already put about 2,000 more police officers on the street. Already, this young man had apprehended a serial rapist on his bicycle beat, as a community police officer. That one officer has already made a difference in countless people's lives who will never know him, because they will not be victimized by the person he caught.

Over the next five years, another 100,000 police officers, just like him and just like you, will join you on the beat around the country, because of the crime bill which has passed. That amounts -- if all of them are actually put into direct patrol, that will amount to a 20 percent increase in the direct police coverage the American people have. It will lower the crime rate, it will make people safer, it will make them feel more secure, it will make them feel greater confidence in their government and in the way their tax dollars are being spent. And if it hadn't been for you, fighting like crazy in the eleventh hour, it wouldn't have happened. So I thank you for those efforts. (Applause.)

You know, somebody asked me when we started this why I felt so strongly about this, why I wanted to do this so much. And there are a lot of reasons. The first job I ever had as an elected official was as attorney general of my state. And I have worked with police officers and in the criminal justice system for a very long time now. For a dozen years, I served as the governor, I had to build a prison system, run a parole and probation system, carry out the capital punishment law of my state, develop boot camps and other alternatives for first-time, nonviolent offenders, and generally watch as this country became more violent and our response to it was clearly inadequate.

I've also been to quite a few funerals of law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty. And it only takes one to make an indelible impression and to impose on every other citizen a terrific obligation to do what we can to turn this situation around.

A lot of you probably saw when I was campaigning for the crime bill, I often read from a letter a nine-year-old boy from New Orleans sent me, named James Darby, saying that he and his classmates were afraid to walk on the street in New Orleans, and would I please make his life safer. He just knew I could do it; after all, I was the President. A couple of weeks after James Darby wrote me that letter, he was shot dead on the streets, just because he happened to be in the wrong place -- not because he did anything wrong.

A couple of months ago, a young 13-year-old honor student here in Maryland, right across the District Line, was shot standing on the street. His whole life before him. And we think sometimes, only kinds who live in violent neighborhoods are affected by this. That's not true.

The day after the Crime Bill passed, I found a note on my desk at the White House which almost made me cry -- a carefully typewritten note from the son of a member of my administration who is 10 or 11 years old. And he said, you know, I have been following this Crime Bill all summer long, and I know you may think that a kid like me wouldn't worry about it. I know I live in a nice house in a nice neighborhood, and I go to a nice school, but every time I go downtown to the movies, I think there is a good chance I'll be shot

with my friends on the street. And now that this Crime Bill has passed, I'm going to sleep better tonight.

Think about it. In your country, in 1994, a 10-year-old kid writing a letter to the President like that. And just a couple of days ago I was in Michigan and I met with the editorial board of The Detroit Free Press, and they got all these letters from children, because they've got a great children's project in the newspapers out there, trying to save kids and give them a better future. And they read me a letter from a young girl named Porsha, who just said she wanted me to make her feel free again. And as long as she felt in danger, she wasn't free.

So I don't think what I did as your President was so remarkable; it was my plain duty. What I thought was remarkable was that people would be looking all over town to find excuses not to do it. We shouldn't have had to work as hard as we did to do it, but that's something I've learned about coming to Washington -- every change is twice as hard as it ought to be, but then again, when you get it done, it feels twice as good as it would have otherwise, so I thank you all for that. (Applause.)

You know, tonight I can't leave here without noting that thousands of our American forces are standing up for our nation's mission in Haiti and in the Persian Gulf. And I hope that our prayers will be with them; we should be so proud of them -- they are astonishingly, remarkably able men and women. But it's also important that the American people know that today, the most dangerous work of our society is done in trying to contain violence here at home. And the men and women who put on a uniform every day and try to give girls like little Porsha a sense of security and real freedom, who try to make sure there won't be any more James Darbys, who keep on going even when people they work with have been shot or wounded, who deal with all the frustrations and anxieties that come along with thinking that problems can never be solved, we owe you an enormous amount.

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 in -- 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.

The big problem we have to face now is that the rate of random violence among children, people under 18, is still going up. But what I wish to say to you is that America now knows that we can't ask you to do all the work alone. People are willing to go shoulder-to-shoulder with you in your communities. Public opinion in this country demanded that this crime bill be passed, and we are going to keep going until we get the crime rates down -- not holding the line, driving them down. Driving them down. (Applause.)

The things that are in this bill, starting with the police, the 100,000 more jail cells for serious offenders, the stiffer penalties, the prevention money, the assault weapons ban, the ban on handgun ownership by juveniles. These things are important, and they will help you to drive the crime rate down. (Applause.) I hated to step on the applause line on the assault weapons ban -- (laughter) -- but I thank you for doing that.

All these things will matter. We now have enough experience with the Brady Bill to know that because of the Brady Bill, thousands and thousands of people who had no business being able to buy handguns have not gotten them. We know that now. (Applause.) So what I ask you to do is to go home, make sure this crime bill works. If you think it's not working, you let me know. We are going to reduce the size of the federal government by a quarter of a million and more over the next six years, and take every last red cent in reducing the size of the federal government to its lowest level since President Kennedy was here, and pay for the Crime Bill. That's how we're paying for it.

All the money is going from the federal bureaucracy to communities to help fight crime. We have got to spend this money properly. We have got to do honor to the people we honor tonight and to all of you. Help us spend the money right, convince the people back home we did the right thing, and convince them to look forward with hope and optimism. We know what to do, we have the tools to do it, we can make America a safer place. And with your leadership and God's grace, we will.

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

END

8:05 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 30, 1993

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT,
THE VICE PRESIDENT,
ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO
SARAH BRADY,
MELANIE MUSICK,
AND
JIM BRADY
DURING SIGNING CEREMONY OF
THE BRADY BILL

The East Room

1:00 P.M. EST

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for joining us on this happy occasion. Our apologies for the slight delay in the program. Seven Central American presidents were here, and the room had to be rearranged.

In addition to acknowledging the President and the First Lady and my wife Tipper, I want to acknowledge the members of Congress who are present -- Senator George Mitchell, the Majority Leader; Senator Joe Biden, the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee; Senator Howard Metzenbaum, the longtime sponsor of the bill in the Senate right here. (Applause.) From the House of Representatives, the longtime sponsor of the bill in the House, Representative Charles Schumer. (Applause.) Representative Don Edwards, the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee; Representative James Sensenbrenner, Representative Rom Mazzoli, Representative Bill Hughes, Representative John Conyers, Representative Craig Washington, Representative David Mann, Representative Pat Schroeder, Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton, former Congressman Beryl Anthony. and from the administration -- I will introduce Attorney General Janet Reno in a moment -- Secretary Lloyd Bentsen, and Director Lee Brown. and enforcement officials who are present, if I may. Ron Noble, Assistant Secretary for Enforcement in the Treasury Department; Guy Caputo, Director of the Secret Service; John Magaw, Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; and George Weise, Director of Customs.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is a great moment, an incident which started as a tragedy for Jim Brady, galvanized Americans so we could accomplish something new in American history. It has been a long, hard battle. So many here have been an important part of this struggle.

It is my honor to introduce someone who helped to fight this battle as a local law enforcement official, working with the Bradys before she joined the administration and someone who has worked as a vigorous advocate for law enforcement in this administration.

Attorney General Janet Reno. (Applause.)

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Thank you, Mr. Vice President. Since that grim day in 1981, the Bradys have been an inspiration to all Americans. Since that day, the tremendous physical courage of Jim Brady has been an example for us all. Never to give up.

Together, Jim and Sarah have raised a wonderful son, Scott, who will celebrate his 15th birthday in December. Together, they have fought back and they have never given up. But not just content with that, since 1987, they have tried to bring reason to guns in America in a way that should be an example for us now and for the future. There were bleak days. There were days when Sarah had to go it alone -- when she would appear on courthouse steps by herself with no entourage fighting for the Brady Bill. And together they never gave up.

They're an example for all Americans that we can make a difference -- that one person, that one family can make a difference in violence in America. And this day is a culmination of just remarkable example of American heroism. But the most important thing on the day the Brady Bill passed, Sarah was asked, "What are you going to do now?" And Sarah said, "I'm going to keep fighting, and we're going to get the ban on assault weapons passed." And then Jim chimed in -- (applause).

Jim and Sarah and Scott are an example to all Americans that we can end the violence that is tearing us apart; that as a family, that as individuals, each of us can and will make a difference.

Sarah Brady. (Applause.)

MRS. BRADY: Thank you, General Reno. She didn't tell you that on that courthouse step alone, fighting for the Brady Bill, there was one other woman -- the Attorney General herself. And right along the way this year since we've been fortunate enough to have her in Washington, she's been right along with us.

It's a special day for us all. I don't think it every occurred to me that I would be this emotional. And I walked in and looked at the faces here and the memories that come back over these past seven years -- every face I look at brings back a different memory.

And I want to thank a lot of people here, and I'm going to try to do it as quickly as possible. Everybody here has helped. And each of you in your own way reflects many others across the country. First of all, I want to say to have an administration, an Attorney General, a Vice President, and a President who we knew would sign this bill is of the utmost importance.

I'd like to draw attention also to another President, who we feel very close to, President Ronald Reagan, who supported it and came out for the Brady Bill, and who made it a badge of honor for Republicans -- (applause) -- and brought this bill into the arena where it was not a partisan issue.

I would like to thank the men and women in blue who have by the hundreds of thousands come to Washington to fight for this over the years, marched for us, been in press conferences, and more than anything else who day in and day out give their lives for all of us. (Applause.)

To our bill sponsors, Senator Metzenbaum, Congressman Schumer, Congressman Sensenbrenner, and our very first Ed Feighan, and all the rest of the members of Congress who had the guts to speak out early and support us all along the way when sometimes it wasn't easy. And I know one of the earliest ones was a Senator from Texas -- and in Texas that wasn't so easy in those days; and he now, of course, sits on the President's Cabinet. So for all the Congress who have supported us, my thanks.

Our friends, Handgun Control, board and staff, are phenomenal. Over the years, they've worked their heart out. And I want to talk a little bit about the victims around the country who have suffered and suffered terribly, and who've gotten involved in this movement. And I know today for them is a very special day, and we thank them for what they've done.

For everyone who's gotten involved, I can't -- I don't know how to say that this is all part of everything a team, a large team, did together.

There's one man in particular now I want to talk about, and that is a gentleman by the name of Pete Shields, who was my predecessor. And it was Pete Shields who made this movement what it is. Before anyone else got involved or thought, he, after losing his son to gunfire, quit his job, came to Washington and decided to work for this noble cause. Pete Shields was Chairman of Handgun Control when I joined; and he was until the year before his death, until he passed away last winter. And we owe a great debt of -- a great debt of gratitude to Pete and to Pete's family -- (applause).

And I only have one or two other words I want to say. Our critics have said that the Brady Bill was only symbolic. Well, I think there is some symbolism in the Brady Bill -- it's symbolic of teamwork, of people from all over this nation working together to pass something that the people wanted. I think it's symbolic that members of Congress could stand up to a large lobby. I think it's symbolic of a lot of things. But I don't want anyone to feel that that's all it is. The Brady Bill is not just symbolism. It will begin to make a difference. It will begin to save lives. We read in The Post this morning that in four states alone, over 50,000 people were stopped in the last four years from getting weapons illegally -- or over the counter. It will help.

And to tell you a little bit on a personal level of how it would have helped her, I want to introduce a very special young woman. Her name is Melanie Musick. I met her several years ago when she came, like so many of the victims have come to Washington to help us, she came to tell her story and to plead. And her story is one of many in the past, and one of many in the future who we hope will be saved by the Brady Bill.

And now I'd like to introduce to you a very special young woman, Melanie Musick. (Applause.)

MS. MUSICK: I would like to start by thanking Jim and Sarah Brady for the many years that they have taken out of their lives for such a worthy cause. And they have done it because it is something that they believe so strongly in and that they know will save lives.

I'd also like to thank President Clinton for his leadership role and taking a stand and urging the Congress, "if you'll send it to me, I'll sign it." And I thank him for his

leadership in that.

I'm an ordinary citizen. I'm not an activist and I'm not in the political arena. But I decided I had to get involved because of something that happened in my life. On April 24th, 1990, two police officers came to where I was working and informed me that my husband had been shot and killed while eating lunch in a food court in a mall in Atlanta. The man who killed my husband had just been released from a mental institution the day before. A waiting period deterred him from buying a gun in the city of Atlanta. However, he went to a neighboring county and bought the gun that killed my husband. The Brady Bill could have saved my husband's life if there had just been a waiting period and a background check.

I think the waiting period is important for two reasons. It allows people to cool off from anger and from whatever is disturbing them at the time and it also allows for information to get into the system so when they do a background check, it is accurate. The release papers on the man who killed my husband was not even written up until after the shooting -- a day-and-a-half later after he was released. That's why I feel a waiting period is still so important in part of the Brady Bill.

I can't bring my husband back, but I do know that the Brady Bill is going to save other people's lives -- the lives of people that I love and care for, my friends, my family. It could save their lives. I know from my own experience that the Brady Bill will help stop people from losing members of their families to senseless violence. It will work.

But the fight isn't over. There's people in Congress who want to weaken the Brady Bill, to have the -- provision lowered from five to three years regardless if there's an instant background check or not. We need to stay involved. We need to stay active. We need to keep the pressure on our members of Congress and let them know how important an issue that this is.

The Brady bill is not the solution to the problem. But it is the first step in a multiple problem-oriented society that we have. We need rational, practical legislation to reduce the violence in our country.

This is an important day for me and for all Americans. Not only because the President is signing the Brady Bill, but because it shows that the system work. It shows that average people can make a difference.

Thank you. (Applause.)

MRS. BRADY: Thank you, Melanie. And now, someone who's been my inspiration for 12 years -- well, a lot longer, really. (Laughter.) Jim Brady.

MR. BRADY: This is a very important day for me and for Sarah and for all of those that worked so hard to see the Brady bill become law. But it is even a more important day for America and for America's children.

Twelve years ago, my life was changed forever by a disturbed young man with a gun. Until that time, I hadn't thought much about gun control or the need for gun control. Maybe if I had, I wouldn't be stuck with these damn wheels. (Laughter.)

But Sarah led the charge and I followed in her footsteps because I know firsthand

the damage that guns can do. It is that knowledge that I have tried to share with lawmakers, with voters and with children. Too many young people believe that a gun is the answer to their problems. I can tell them it is not. I can tell them about the pain and the frustration. I hope that they will listen.

Today, we know that someone was listening. After nearly seven years, the Brady Bill is about to become the Brady Law.

Thank you, President Clinton, for your commitment to seeing this day realized. What we are witnessing today is more than a bill-signing, it is the end of unchecked madness and the commencement of a heartfelt crusade for a safer and saner country. (Applause.)

MRS. BRADY: You know, I think I've heard these words said before, but I never thought I, in my entire life, would have the opportunity to say them. But I have the distinct honor to introduce the President of the United States. (Applause.)

And I just want to say again to him, thank you for making this possible. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Sarah and Jim, and General Reno, Mr. Vice President, Mrs. Musick, thank you for your wonderful remarks.

There were two members of Congress who inadvertently were not introduced. I want to recognize them because they've played a major role in this. One of our Democratic leaders in the House, Steny Hoyer, and Senator Herb Kohl from Wisconsin, who also sponsored the bill to make it illegal for minors to possess handguns, and I thank you for that, sir.

Senator Metzenbaum, Congressman Schumer, Senator Mitchell and others who gave birth to this great effort. To all the law enforcement representatives, the governors, the mayors, the folks from Handgun Control who are here. To the families whose lives would have been changed for the better if the Brady Bill had been law. Mrs. Musick, and my friend, Cathy Gould and her children, Lindsey and Christopher who lost a husband and father who would be here today if the Brady Bill had been law. I am honored to have all of you here in the White House.

I also want to say a special word of thanks to the members of Congress who were out there early on this, when there was some considerable political risk either attached to it, or thought to be attached. The Brady Bill was first introduced almost seven years ago by Congressman Ed Feighan of Ohio on February the 4th, 1987.

I can't resist saying a special word of thanks to the members who come from difficult districts who voted for this bill. My good friend, and Congressman Beryl Anthony from Arkansas lost a tough race in 1992, and part of the reason was that he voted for the Brady Bill. And the NRA came after him in an unusual election. He said to me on the way in here, he said if it cost my seat, it was worth it. (Applause.)

Everything that has been -- that should be said about this has already been said by people whose lives are more profoundly imbued with this issue than mine. But there are some things I think we need to think about that we learned from this endeavor as we look

ahead to what still needs to be done.

Since Jim and Sarah began this crusade, more than 150,000 Americans -- men, women, teenagers, children, even infants -- have been killed with handguns. And many more have been wounded. One hundred and fifty thousand people from all walks of life who should have been here to share Christmas with us. This couple saw through a fight that really never should have had to occur; because still, when people are confronted with issues of clear common sense and overwhelming evidence, too often we are prevented from doing what we know we ought to do by our collective fears, whatever they may be.

The Brady Bill has finally become law, in a fundamental sense not because of any of us, but because grass roots America changed its mind and demanded that this Congress not leave here without doing something about this. And all the rest of us, even Jim and Sarah, did was to somehow light that spark that swept across the people of this country and proved once again that democracy can work. America won this battle. Americans are finally fed up with violence that cuts down another citizen with gunfire every 20 minutes.

And we know that this bill will make a difference. As Sarah said, The Washington Post pointed out that about 50,000 people have been denied the right to buy a handgun in just four states since 1989. Don't let anybody tell you that this won't work. I got a friend back home who sold a gun years ago to a guy who had escaped from a mental hospital that he hadn't seen in 10 years. And he pulled out that old form from the 1968 act, and said, have you ever been convicted of a crime? Have you ever been in a mental hospital? The guy said, no, no -- and put the form back in the drawer. And 12 hours later six people were dead and my friend is not over it to this day. Don't tell me this bill will not make a difference. That is not true. (Applause.) It is not true.

But we all know there is more to be done. The crime bill not only has 100,000 new police officers who, properly trained and deployed, will lower the crime rate by preventing crime, not just by catching criminals. It also has a ban on several assault weapons, long overdue -- (applause); a ban on handgun ownership and restrictions on possession of handguns by minors; the beginning of reform of our federal firearms licensing systems; and an effort to make our schools safer. This is a good beginning. And there will be more to be done after that.

But I ask you to think about what this means and what we can all do to keep this going. We cannot stop here. I'm so proud of what others are doing; I'm proud of the work that Reverend Jesse Jackson has been doing, going back now to the streets and talking to the kids and telling them to stop shooting each other and cutting each up, and to turn away from violence. I'm proud of people like David Plaza, not so well-known, a former gang member who has turned his life around and now coordinates a program called Gang Alternative Programs in Norwalk, California, telling gang members they have to take personal responsibility for their actions and turn away from violence. Reverend William Moore, who organized parents and educators and other clergy in North Philadelphia to provide safety corridors for kids going to and from school. One hundred and sixty thousand children stay home every day because they're scared to go to school in this country. And all the police officers on the street who have restored confidence in their neighborhoods, becoming involved in ways that often are way beyond the call of duty; people like Officer Anthony Fuedo of Boston, who took a tough section of East Boston and transformed it from a neighborhood full of fear to one which elderly people now feel safe sitting on benches again.

We can do this, but only if we do it together. And I ask you to think about this: I come from a state where half the folks have hunting and fishing licenses. I can still remember the first day when I was a little boy out in the country putting a can on top of a fencepost and shooting a .22 at it. I can still remember the first time I pulled a trigger on a .410 shotgun because I was too little to hold a .12 gauge. I can remember these things.

This is part of the culture of a big part of America. But people have taken that culture. We just started deer season -- I live in a place where we still close schools and plants on the first day of deer season -- nobody is going to show up anyway. (Laughter.) We just started deer season at home and a lot of other places. We have taken this important part of the life of millions of Americans and turned it into an instrument of maintaining madness. It is crazy.

Would I let anybody change that life in America? Not on your life. Has that got anything to do with the Brady Bill or assault weapons, or whether the police have to go out on the street confronting teenagers who are better armed than they are? Of course, not.

This is the beginning of something truly wonderful in this country if we have learned to separate out all this stuff we've been hearing all these years; trying to make the American people afraid that somehow their quality of life is going to be undermined by doing stuff that people of common sense and goodwill would clearly want to do. And every law enforcement official in American telling us to do it.

So, I plead with all of you today, when you leave here to be reinvigorated by this; to be exhilarated by the triumph of Jim and Sarah Brady and all these other folks who didn't let their personal losses defeat them but instead used it to come out here and push us to do better.

And each of you in turn, take your opportunity not to let people ever again in this country use a legitimate part of our American heritage in ways that blinds us to our obligation to the present and the future. If we have broken that, then there is nothing we cannot do. And when I go and sign this bill in a minute, it will be step one in taking our streets back, taking our children back, reclaiming our families and our future. Thank you. (Applause.)

(The bill is signed.) (Applause.)

END1:32 P.M. EST

**Sarah Brady and
Coalition of Prosecutors for Clinton/Gore Endorsement
Remarks Governor Bill Clinton
Romulus, MI
October 17, 1992**

Thank you very, very much. Thank you. Thank you very much. I want to thank my long time friend, Frank Kelley, with whom I served as attorney general, and who was elected attorney general of Michigan when I was 16 years old. Never let it be said that there's no job security in politics.

I always say that the attorney general was the best job I ever had. Unlike being governor or president, you don't have to hire or fire much, or tax or cut. And when you do something that's really unpopular, you can always blame it on the Constitution.

I want to thank the former attorneys general who are here, as well as the remarkable representation of attorneys general who are here. I want to thank Norm Early for his eloquent statement, and for the statement on behalf of the prosecutors around America, more than 200 of them now.

I want to thank Bob Scully again for the support that he has given me, and the work that he's done on behalf of our law enforcement officials.

I'd like to say a special word of thanks to the delegation from my state. I see at least three of them. My attorney general Winston Bryant, my friend of many years, prosecutor Mark Stodola who worked in my

first campaign for Congress in 1974. I've still never asked him to fix a speeding ticket.

And Karen Curry, the coordinator of our prosecutors at home. But most of all, like most of you, I want to thank Cathy and Lindsey and Chris Gould and Sarah Brady for their presence here today. For they remind us of what this election is really all about.

I could hardly bear to listen to the eloquent statement of Cathy Gould. This is a complicated issue. Those of us who have dealt with it for a long time know that when our children's children are here in this country, there will still be crime. There has always been violence in America. We know that crime is somehow related to the deterioration of the economy and the combined deterioration of the economy and the social structures that affect so many millions of our people, what has happened to our communities and to our families.

But we know that somehow it is raging out of control now in ways that no civilized society should accept. Surely our country does not have to be the most violent on earth, with the largest percentage of its people behind bars of any nation on earth. And when you hear people like Cathy Gould and Sarah Brady talk, you ask yourself, "have we done all we can", and if we haven't, how can we sleep tonight.

You know, my exposure to the issue they discussed, it's interesting, it goes back to a personal experience I had with someone who was on the other side of the issue presented by the Brady Bill. I had a friend many years ago who ran a little hardware store in a little town in North Arkansas, and he sold guns. And a man he hadn't seen in ten years came in his store and said, I want to buy a handgun. I want to go out and do a little practicing. He, like most of the people in our state, you know, were gun owners and skeptical of all this, and the '68 gun control law is all we have. And so he pulled out this form. He said, now, have you ever committed a crime, have you ever been in a mental institution. Of course, no, no. And he put it right back in the folder and went on, sold the guy the gun. Within eighteen hours six people were dead. The man

had escaped from our own Veterans' Mental Hospital. Six days before he'd lost his mind as a result of his experience in Vietnam.

It was in some days almost no one's fault, except a system that wasn't smart enough not to put guns into the hands of people who are mentally unstable. And yet, my friend who just did what thousands of other people in his position do every day in this country, almost never got over it, and was plagued for years by the thought that somehow he was responsible for what had happened.

So I say to you today, I do not promise miracles in the fight on crime. But I understand what it's like, having been an attorney general, having been someone who's worked for victims of crime for years, having tried to be a real friend to the prosecutors and law enforcement people in my state.

What I promise you is a partnership, not rhetoric, not hot speeches, not cheap 30 second television ads, but a genuine partnership to make the people of this country safer, and to make our policies saner, and to bring us closer to the kind of country we ought to have by supporting law enforcement, and doing things we know will work.

The Brady Bill ought to pass, and there ought to be a waiting period in this country until there is an automatic, absolutely verifiable way of using computer technology to check on people's records in a more rapid way. It ought to pass. And I'll do my best to put it through.

We ought not to have assault weapons whose only purpose is to kill in the hands of people on the street, when the police don't have a fighting chance. It's wrong.

And for those who seriously claim that we ought to allow untrammelled ownership of those weapons because of sporting and target practice, come on down to Arkansas at any duck, turkey or quail season, we'll show them any number of other weapons options they can

have. That is an absurd argument. It is a ridiculous argument. And it's time we took the side of people in law enforcement.

We ought to have 100,000 more police officers on the street. Thirty years ago there were three police officers in this country for every serious crime.

Today there are three serious crimes for every police officer. And yet we are

organized in such a way that over 50 percent of all the rest are made by police

officers in their first three years on the beat. It is time for America to make

a serious commitment to community policing, to having people back on the beat, working the same neighborhoods, making relationships with people in ways that prevent crime as well as expedite the handling of criminal cases. It cannot be done without greater resources. With greater resources it can be done.

I have seen crime rates go down in certain neighborhoods in New York City for

the first time in 36 years after community policing. I have seen it in Philadelphia. I've seen a fifteen percent drop in the crime rate in the city of Houston, after over 650 new police officers were added to the beat through prevention.

But it cannot work unless the resources are there. How will the federal government provide 100,000 more police officers? First of all, by getting the crime bill passed, instead of killing it, that has funds for people at the local level.

Secondly, by embracing the suggestion of Senator Sam Nunn, the chairman of

the Senate Armed Services Committee, that as we downscale the military we give properly trained and certified men and women coming out of the military the opportunity to continue to earn their military retirement by doing law enforcement work here at home.

Thirdly, by embracing and expanding the concept of the national

police corps,
giving people the opportunity to work off their college loans if they are properly certified police officers, and work for two years at reduced pay, let them wipe out a four year college loan.

I think those three things could help us to prevent crime, and make our streets safer without in any way undermining the quality of law enforcement in America.

The third thing I think we ought to do, again echoing what Norm Early said,
is to raise the interest, the legitimate interest of victims in this country. I will put an advocate for the victims of the United States in that office for victims rights. That's something I agree with Norm. That's something Ronald Reagan did that I like, and we ought to do it again.

The fourth thing we should do is to give people a sense that we have a commitment to balance in fairness in the enforcement of criminal laws. There's
widespread support for severe punishment for the most severe white collar criminal offenses. This administration pulled down new sentencing guidelines in the white collar crime area, promised us 27 regional savings and loan task forces to deal with the savings and loan rip offs that have cost this country more than any taxpayer abuse in history. And to date only two of the 27 have been set up, and only one percent of the money that was ripped off from the American people has been recovered by the federal criminal justice system. And I can tell you, we are going to do better than that. We can, and we must do better than that.

The next thing I'd like to do is to say just a few words about drugs.
Again
this is a complicated issue. It is very easy for a politician to talk about the drug war and to spout rhetoric, and I have gone out of my way to avoid saying things that sound like just somebody else screaming on the street corner. Because I have a brother of whom I'm proud who is a recovering drug addict, I know a little more about the complexities of this than a lot of people who run for office. But I can tell you here again, we can do better. We can do better on interdiction. We can use the

resources of this country much better on interdiction. It can become an important part of our foreign policy. We can say we want to nourish the growing democracies in Latin

America, but if people want to do business with us, they're going to have to let us help them get their farmers into growing something besides things that will wind up killing the children of America. We must do it.

We can do what every serious federal prosecutor who's ever dealt in any detail with these drug cases has told me, and that is if you really want to get the big criminals, we can focus more on the money laundering aspects of their operations, and use the federal authorities to deal with the financial transactions that cross state lines that deal with federally insured institutions, that deal with those things that the states will never be competent to deal with because we will never have the resources. That is what the federal government ought to focus on in the law enforcement area. Go after the money, and we can get the big people.

I think we ought to do more for the communities that are hardest hit, and that's not only big communities, but smaller communities--some in my state would qualify. But we ought to help to organize extra efforts with extra help to bring together citizens' task forces, tenant management projects in the public housing facilities, school education programs, and other things that will be more intensely focused on the areas where drugs are in greatest use and where, therefore, violence and the threat to children is greatest.

And finally, I want the federal government to begin to help with the safe schools initiative. Years ago, the federal government's main involvement

with
local law enforcement was equipment, radios or other equipment. Now
what we
need is more metal detectors in our schools, and more security forces
there,
and a common effort to get uniform policies on searches and things of
that
kind, and federal matching funds to help to bring mentors and others
into the
schools to try to deal with these problems.

If no other part of a dangerous neighborhood in a dangerous city
can be safe,
the schools ought to be safe, and drug free. They ought to be havens.
And we
ought to leave them (inaudible).

I will say again, I care a lot about these issues. I care because I
know
personally about the scourge of drugs, I care because I had a friend who
thinks
he made a terrible mistake he never would have made if the Brady Bill
had been law,
I care because I have been moved beyond words by the courageous and
heroic efforts of Sarah and Jim Brady over these last several years, and
because there are people like Cathy Gould all over this country. And
their and their spouses service to our nation deserved to be honored by
our making our best efforts.

This can be an exciting part of our new partnership. This is not tax
and
spend government. The things I talked about are non-bureaucratic,
grass roots,
and common sense. And it's time we got about the business of doing
them.

Thank you very much.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

December 20, 1993

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN SIGNING CEREMONY OF THE CHILD PROTECTION ACT

The Roosevelt Room

11:54 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: I'm delighted to see all of you here. And I want to especially recognize Secretary Shalala and my good friend Marian Wright Edelman. Senator Biden, thank you for being here, sir. Congresswoman Schroeder; Congressman Edwards; and my former colleague and longtime friend Governor Jim Thompson from Illinois; Oprah Winfrey; Lynn Swann, and Andrew Vachss. Thank you all very much for helping this day to come to pass.

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 child care 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 have been convicted of felonies. It's very important that we give working parents peace of mind about child care.

A majority of mothers with young children now work outside the home. Six million children are placed in formal day care settings everyday. 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 is nothing more important that our government could be doing now.

Like all change, passing this important law has not been

easy. And there are many to thank. First of all, I thank you, Oprah, for a lifetime of being committed to the well-being of our children and for giving child abuse issues such wonderful coverage on your show. You wrote the original blueprint for this law, and we're grateful -- becoming a tireless advocate for its passage, lobbying members of Congress of both parties for more than two years, and lobbying the President -- people occasionally do that, too. (Laughter.) All of us, but especially our children, owe you their gratitude.

Now we can help to prevent child abuse with this measure, not just to catch people who do it. It's a great cause and a remarkable achievement, and I want to thank all the rest of you who were involved in it.

Finally, let me say, especially for the benefit of the members of Congress here, this is the last piece of legislation I will sign from this session of Congress. It wraps up a very productive session -- a session that dealt with family leave and motor voter and a new economic plan that brought low interest rates and recovery, with the National Service Bill that I think will galvanize the imagination of a whole generation of young people, with new trade legislation and with the Brady Bill. But this is a good bill to end on -- a bill that ends where all of us should begin -- by putting our children first.

Thank you very much. I'd like to invite you all to come up here for the signing.

(The bill is signed.) (Applause.)

END

11:58 A.M. EST