

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 11, 1997

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE JUVENILE JUSTICE CONFERENCE

Georgetown University

12:09 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Attorney General Reno, Ray Kelly, Father O'Donovan. Let me say to my good friend Father O'Donovan, I never know when I come to Georgetown whether being introduced as the University's most well-known alumnus will be a liability or an asset -- it just depends on what month I come, I think. When Ray Kelly said he considered the Jesuits the Marine Corps of the Catholic Church, I never really thought of that. And then he went through that litany, you know, "the few, the proud" and all that -- I was thinking about the ones who taught me in class. I was thinking, the few, the proud, the brutal. (Laughter.) But brilliantly brutal.

I love this place and I thank Father O'Donovan for having us here at the conference. I also want to thank the Attorney General and Ray Kelly for the truly unprecedented partnership that they have established with local law enforcement officials and others who are interested in the safety of our streets and our children throughout the United States. We have here representatives of the Fraternal Order of Police, of the Major Cities Chiefs Association, the law enforcement community -- a lot of other people who just work with young people and try to help give them something to say yes to.

I'm glad to see our friend Jim Brady here. The country owes a lot of thanks to Jim and to Sarah, for with courage and persistence and good humor, they have saved a lot of lives with the Brady Bill, the Assault Weapons Ban and others. (Applause.)

We are here today to talk about what we can do together to build safer neighborhoods and stronger neighborhoods as part of the preparation of America for a new century. Today, I want to talk about violent youth gangs and the illegal guns they use -- the biggest problem, perhaps, we still face in that ongoing struggle.

But, as Ray Kelly said, this is a good time to be involved in law enforcement because the good guys are winning and the tide of crime is being rolled back. Four and a half years ago, I can honestly say, when I went around the country in 1992 seeking the Presidency and began to talk about the importance of more police and effective prevention programs along with tougher punishment -- and actually I said I was confident that we could bring the crime rate way down over a sustained period of time -- most people did not believe me.

You might be interested to know that every national survey I've seen says that most people still don't believe it -- (laughter). Even though those of you who are involved in this endeavor know that crime is now down for several years in a row and we had the largest drop in 35 years last year, most people still don't believe it. It may be because a crime story still leads the evening news. It may be the accumulation of personal experiences;

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nearly everybody has someone in their family who has been victimized. It may be an instinctive feeling that whether the crime rate has gone down or not, it's still too high and there are still too many of our children at risk.

But nonetheless, it has gone down. And a lot of you in this room have helped to make it so. And we tried to work with you and also to learn from you what actually works -- not what sounds good in a television ad, not what sounds good in a political campaign, but what actually works: putting more police on the street, taking gangs and guns off the streets, having proven, effective prevention programs that keep our children out of trouble and prevent crimes from occurring in the first place.

That's what we tried to do with the Crime Bill and the Brady Bill, with the assault weapons ban, with the Violence Against Women Act, and the other things that the Attorney General spoke about. It's what we've tried to do with our strongest effort ever to make our schools drug free and gun free, to have zero tolerance for guns in schools, to make it illegal for minors to possess handguns, and for adults to transfer handguns to minors. It's what General McCaffrey is working so hard on in his position as our nation's drug czar.

And thanks to all of you, the strategy is working. Even the juvenile crime rate showed some decline in 1995, and the juvenile crime arrest rate has begun to go down as a result of your unceasing efforts. But we know that juvenile violence is still a huge problem. We know violent youth gangs still terrorize our streets. We know innocent children are still being swept up in them and may soon be innocent no longer.

According to a report released by the Justice Department, unless we act and do more now, the number of juveniles arrested for violent crimes will more than double by the year 2010. We have got to show the same progress with young people, with juvenile crime, with violence, that we have seen in the overall crime rate with adults in the last five years. Keep in mind, this year when school started, we had the largest class of children starting school and the largest number of people in school in the history of America. This year is the first year that the number of school children exceeded the high-water mark of the baby boom; which means that demographically we have just a few years to deal with our young people and give them a future and something to say yes to, and to deal with this gang and drug and gun problem before the sheer change in population will begin to overwhelm our efforts.

So I think we know enough, and a lot of you have shown us enough to be just as optimistic about this as we now can be about the general problem of crime. But we also have seen enough and we know enough to know that we have to move and move now.

In February, I sent juvenile justice legislation that I felt was very smart and very tough to Congress to declare war on gangs and guns, but to do things that you say and that you have shown will work. It was largely modeled on Boston's famous Operation Ceasefire. It guarantees new anti-gang prosecutors that are desperately needed to pursue and prosecute violent juveniles. It gives prosecutors the right to seek tougher penalties. It supports initiatives like Operation Night Light in Boston, where police and probation officers actually make housecalls to young probationers and their families to make sure that they live up to the rules of their probation. And when I was in Boston, not very long ago -- we spent over a half a day there -- the people said that their compliance rate was around 70 percent, which I'm quite confident is the highest in the country. But these things will work.

MORE

Because about 40 percent of juvenile crime occurs after schools closes and before parents come home -- so much for the argument that parents don't make any difference -- the youth violence strategy we presented would help to launch 1,000 after-school initiatives all over the country, again, modeled on what is working today -- not rocket science, just following the leader to save lives.

We know now that children should be allowed to stay in school or involved in other activities rather than left on street corners until their parents come home from work. We know now that it would be better if our children had teachers or community leaders or team leaders as role models, not gang leaders. We know that our children should be supervised by caring adults, not young people who have entered a gang culture.

The bill that I presented dealt with all this. It also is just as tough on guns as on gangs. I don't care what anybody says -- guns are still at the heart of the gangs that strike at the hearts of our communities and families. Every year thousands of children and young people are killed by them, even more wounded and maimed. Listen to this: teenage homicides by firearms tripled in the 10 years between 1984 and 1994; and the number of juveniles actually killing with guns quadrupled during the same period.

When the National Center for Health Statistics tells us that teenage boys are more likely to die from gunshot wounds than from any other cause, we know that we have more than a duty -- we have a moral obligation to keep fighting against this terrible scourge of gun violence, to build on the path-breaking work done by Jim Brady and others, and to go beyond what we have done so far.

That's why the juvenile crime bill I presented to Congress extends the Brady Bill to prevent juvenile criminals from purchasing guns when they reach legal age. You shouldn't be able to commit a violent crime at 16 or 17, then buy a handgun for your 21st birthday. This bill would make that illegal, and I hope all of you will help us pass it. (Applause.)

The bill also requires that child safety locks be sold with guns to keep children from hurting themselves or each other. Unbelievably, a third of all privately owned hand guns in our country are left both unlocked and loaded. Every one of them has the power and the potential to make the life of one of our children lost by accident or design. Child safety locks are simple and inexpensive, but they do have the power to prevent tragedy.

I feel so strongly about them that in March I ordered federal agencies to give them to our agents. Today, every FBI and ATF agent has such a child safety device, and by the 15th of October every federal agent -- from the DEA to the U.S. Marshal to the Border Patrol to the Park Police -- will have one as well. If a child safety lock is good enough for law enforcement, it ought to be good enough for the general public. These commonsense measures will help to cut off young people's access to guns that can cut short their lives.

Today, we are taking comprehensive action to protect our children and our communities from juvenile crime and gun violence. In Boston, where many of these efforts are already in place, youth murders have dropped 80 percent in five years and not a single, solitary child has been killed with a handgun in a year and a half -- in a year and a half. We can do that. (Applause.) Again I say, this is not rocket science, this is replication.

You know, when I was in Houston a couple years ago and I saw the juvenile crime rate going down there when it was going up everywhere else, the Mayor said, it's not very complicated, I've got 3,000 kids in a soccer league and 2,500 in a golf league -- and most

of them didn't know anything about either sport before we started. This is not rocket science, it is replication. We know what works. There is no excuse for not doing what works. And there is no excuse for the Congress not giving you the tools to do what works.

Now, I believe the approach embodied in the legislation I presented gives us the best chance to prevent more of this violence and to actually break its back -- that's what I believe. I believe it because I have seen so many of you do it. Now, the bill that passed the House of Representatives I think falls far short of the goals of the bill that I presented, and far short of reflecting what you have proved works. A juvenile crime bill that doesn't crack down on guns and gangs, that doesn't guarantee more prosecutors, more probation officers and more prevention programs after school is a juvenile crime bill in name only.

I understand you can pass a bill and make it very popular if all it does is seem to penalize people. And I am not against tougher penalties -- we have toughened a lot of penalties since I have been President. But to pretend that you can do that and not guarantee the police, the prosecutors, the probation officers and the prevention programs and expect to have results is simply wrong. You work in this area and you know it. So let's go back to the Congress and get a bill that will give you the tools to give our children their futures back and our people their neighborhoods and their streets back. We can do it together. (Applause.)

Let me just say something about one specific problem. The illegal guns that youth gangs use do not just come out of thin air. They are bought and sold, traded and given in trade, just like any other guns. And all too often, it is adults who are making the transfer. So, today, I'm directing the Secretary of the Treasury, Bob Rubin, to require all federally licensed gun dealers to post signs in their stores and issue written warnings with each gun they sell to put adult gun purchasers on clear and unambiguous notice that selling or giving a handgun to a minor is dangerous, it is wrong. But it is also against the law. And it is a felony so serious that it can carry a penalty of up to 10 years in prison. I want every adult who buys a gun to see that sign and think about it before they give a child a gun that could wind up in gang violence. (Applause.)

In the last four years, we have proven that if we work together and learn from each other, we can begin to turn the tide and win the war, as Ray Kelly said. Now we have an opportunity that is real and genuine to build on that progress. Your presence here, your enthusiasm, and what I know about the work you have done back home give me great hope that we can give our children a safe and orderly environment where they can make the most of their lives.

We know that a lot of this will have to be done at the community level. When we did the Summit of Service that the Presidents sponsored in Philadelphia, one of the five things we said we wanted for our children was a safe environment for every child in America to grow up in. And we know that a lot of that has to be done by you. But we also know that we at the national level have our responsibility, too. And our responsibility now is to continue to implement the Crime Bill and put the community police officers out there, to be faithful in our enforcement of all the federal laws that we can, and to deal with the special problems of guns and to pass a smart, balanced juvenile justice crime bill that does more than talk tough.

I pledge to work with Congress of both parties to pass such a bill. I look forward to working with all of you to get the job done, but I say again: The most powerful argument for doing it is the experience you have already had, the successes you have already achieved, the lives you have already saved.

When you know what works and you do it, and you see children's lives reclaimed, it becomes unconscionable not to do more. I am determined that we will do more and that we will win this incredibly important struggle.

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

END

12:28 P.M. EDT

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION SYMPOSIUM ON YOUTH VIOLENCE AND CRIME

June 11, 1997

Announcement

- Today, President Clinton announced he will act to further restrict youth access to guns by directing the Treasury Department to publish regulations requiring federal firearms licensees to post signs and issue written notifications warning handgun purchasers about transferring guns to minors.

Background

- Guns are at the heart of our nation's youth violence epidemic. Guns -- and handguns in particular -- have fueled the surge in juvenile murders. Since 1984, the number of juveniles killing with a gun has quadrupled. And teenage boys today are more likely to die of gunshot wounds than all natural causes combined.
- The Administration's juvenile crime legislation gets tough on guns by: increasing penalties for illegally transferring guns to juveniles; expanding the Brady Law to prohibit violent juveniles from owning guns as adults; and requiring federal gun dealers to provide child safety locks with every gun sold.
- The President believes there is more we must do to cut off the easy access to guns for our kids. For almost every gun that gets into a juvenile's hands, an adult had an opportunity to stop that transfer from taking place.
- The President's directive ensures that Treasury will do everything in its power to put adult gun purchasers on notice about their legal obligation to keep handguns away from our kids. The directive calls for Treasury to issue regulations requiring all FFLs to post signs and issue written warnings with each handgun sold that:
 - (1) Make clear that it is generally illegal for any adult to transfer a handgun to a minor, or for minors to possess a handgun;
 - (2) Make clear that violation of the prohibition on transferring a handgun to a juvenile may be punishable by up to 10 years in prison;
 - (3) Warn that handguns are a leading contributor to juvenile violence and fatalities; and
 - (4) State that safely storing and locking handguns will help ensure compliance with this law.

Clinton Administration's Anti-Gang and Youth Violence Strategy

- The President's strategy seeks to break the back of violent gangs, reduce youth violence, and provide kids with alternatives to steer them away from gangs, guns, and drugs. In addition to getting tough on guns, his strategy includes \$200 million for local prosecutors, probation officers, and anti-gang task forces and funds after school programs to keep kids off the streets and out of trouble.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: FIGHTING JUVENILE CRIME

"As I begin my second term as President, the next stage in our fight must center on keeping our children safe and attacking the scourge of juvenile crime and gangs. I want every police officer, prosecutor, and citizen in America working together to keep our young people safe and young criminals off the streets. This should be America's top priority in the fight for law and order over the next four years."

-President Clinton

Radio Address, January 11, 1997

Juvenile Crime Rates are Dropping for the First Time in Years

- In the years before the Clinton Administration, the juvenile crime rate was increasing at alarming rates. Between 1987 and 1993, the juvenile violent crime arrest rate increased 62%.
- In 1995, the juvenile crime arrest rate decreased for the first time in 7 years. The rate decreased 2.9% in 1995.
- The juvenile murder arrest rates has declined sharply during the Clinton Administration. In 1995 the murder arrest rate for juveniles declined 15.2% — the largest one-year drop in more than 10 years. Since 1993, the juvenile murder arrest rate has dropped 22.8%.

[Source: FBI, 1995 Uniform Crime Report, 10/96]

Fewer guns in the hands of our children. President Clinton signed into law a youth handgun ban in his 1994 Crime Bill. The ban makes it a federal offense, with some exceptions, for an adult to transfer a handgun to a juvenile, or for a juvenile under the age of 18 to knowingly possess a handgun or handgun ammunition. [Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, P.L. 103-322]

Zero tolerance for guns in schools. In October 1994, President Clinton signed into law the Gun-Free Schools Act, and issued a Presidential Directive later that month to enforce "zero tolerance" in our schools — you bring a gun to school, you don't come back for a year. [Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994, enacted as part of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994, P.L. 103-382, signed on 10/20/94]

Strengthened efforts to clamp down on illicit gun markets, especially those that provide guns to children. The President directed the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to implement the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative in 17 pilot cities. Through this initiative, law enforcement traces all guns used in crime that are seized by Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers, using the trace information to identify and prosecute illegal gun traffickers. [Memorandum on the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative to the Secretary of the Treasury and the Attorney General, 7/8/96]

Strengthened and expanded the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act. President Clinton expanded the Drug-Free Schools Act into the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act of 1994, making violence prevention a key part of that program. The President's proposed FY 98 Budget contains a \$60 million increase for Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program, which reaches 97% of the nation's school districts. Schools use these funds to keep violence, drugs and alcohol away from students and out of schools. [ONDCP, The National Drug Control Strategy, 1997: Budget Summary, 1997]

Supporting curfews at the local level. The Clinton Administration has encouraged communities to adopt curfew policies because they can help fight juvenile crime and keep our children safe. The Justice

Department issued a report highlighting the successes of community-supported curfew programs. For example, New Orleans' curfew program, in combination with summer jobs and recreational programs, resulted in a 27% drop in juvenile crime during curfew hours in 1994, compared to the previous year. [Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Programs, 5/96]

Expanding truancy programs. Truancy prevention initiatives have been shown to keep more children in school and dramatically reduce daytime crime. For example, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, local police officers participating in their anti-truancy initiative pick up truant students and take them to a Boys and Girls Club for counseling. Since the anti-truancy initiative began, daytime burglary has dropped 33% and daytime aggravated battery has dropped 29%. The President has issued a guidebook to school districts nationwide which outlines the central characteristics of a comprehensive truancy prevention policy and highlights model initiatives in cities and towns across the country. [Department of Education, Manual to Combat Truancy, 7/96]

Encouraged schools to adopt school uniform policies to help reduce violence while promoting discipline and respect. [Public Papers of the Presidents, Memorandum on the School Uniforms Manual, 2/23/96]

Placing child safety locks in guns. The President is fighting for legislation to require child safety locks on every gun sold in America. He has already signed a directive to every federal agency, requiring child safety locks in every handgun issued. [Memorandum on Child Safety Lock Devices for Handguns, 5/5/97]

THE AGENDA AHEAD

The President recognizes that juvenile crime will be the largest threat to our communities in the future. That is why he has proposed a bill that will be a full scale assault on juvenile crime. The President's bill:

Targeting gangs and violent juveniles, with new prosecutors and anti-gang initiatives, including the authority to try violent juveniles as adults when they commit adult crimes. The President's Anti-Gang and Youth Violence Strategy provides grants to localities to fund scores of new prosecutors and anti-gang initiatives so that they may pursue, convict and sentence gang members for their crimes.

Keeping our kids gun- and drug-free, by requiring gun dealers to sell child safety locks with every handgun, expanding the Brady Law to prevent juveniles convicted of violent crimes from buying guns when they turn 18, and enacting tough new measures to crack down on drunk or drugged driving.

Keeping our kids on the right track through anti-truancy measures, curfews, and keeping schools open late and on weekends to keep children off the streets and out of trouble.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 10, 1997

JUVENILE JUSTICE SPEECH

DATE: June 11, 1997
LOCATION: Georgetown University Conference Center
BRIEFING TIME: 11:00 am - 11:30 am
EVENT TIME: 11:50 am - 12:30 pm
FROM: Bruce Reed/Rahm Emanuel

I. PURPOSE

To highlight your ongoing commitment to combating juvenile crime, and announce a new initiative to keep guns out of the hands of juveniles.

II. BACKGROUND

You will be the keynote luncheon speaker at the Department of Justice Conference entitled, "Curbing Youth Violence and Drugs: Communities Working Together." This day-long conference is timed to coincide with the ongoing debate in Congress on the youth violence and anti-gang legislation. The conference consists of four panel discussions that are aimed at highlighting the essential components of the Administration's Anti-Gang and Youth Violence Initiative: (1) targeting guns and drugs; (2) targeting gang violence; (3) enforcement strategies that work; and (4) prevention and intervention strategies that work. You will speak after the first two panels. Secretary Cuomo will close the Conference after panels three and four.

In addition to calling on Congress to send you a tough juvenile crime bill, you will be announcing that you are directing the Treasury Department -- within its existing authority to regulate Federal Firearms licensees (FFLs) and enforce the Youth Handgun Safety Act -- to issue regulations requiring FFLs to post signs and issue written warnings with each handgun sold that:

- (1) Make clear that it is generally illegal for any adult to transfer a handgun to a minor, or for minors to possess a handgun;
- (2) State that violation of the prohibition on transferring a handgun to a juvenile is punishable, in some circumstances, by up to 10 years in prison;
- (3) Warn that handguns are a leading contributor to juvenile violence and fatalities; and
- (4) Suggest that safely storing and locking handguns can help ensure compliance

with this law.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Briefing Participants:

Erskine Bowles
Rahm Emanuel
Bruce Reed
John Hilley
Jose Cerda
Michael Waldman

Event Participants:

Attorney General Reno
Father O'Donovan, President of Georgetown University
Undersecretary of Treasury Ray Kelly

The audience will consist of approximately 200 local law enforcement, prevention specialists, juvenile justice advocates and youth workers. The 26 people participating in the panel discussions throughout the day and representatives from the national law enforcement organizations will be in the front row. *Jim Brady, who has endorsed your directive, will also be in the front row.*

IV. PRESS PLAN

Open Press.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- Father O'Donovan will make welcoming remarks and announce you, Attorney General Reno, and Undersecretary Kelly onto the stage.
- Undersecretary Kelly will make remarks.
- Attorney General will make remarks and introduce you.
- You will make remarks, work a ropeline, and then depart.

VI. REMARKS

Remarks Provided by Speechwriting.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DRAFT AS of
8pm 6/10

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

SUBJECT: Enforcing the Youth Handgun Safety Act

A major problem in our Nation today is the terrifying ease with which our young people gain illegal or unintended access to guns. Firearms are now responsible for 12 percent of fatalities among all American children and teenagers. Criminal use of firearms by young people is a national tragedy. Between 1984 and 1994, the number of juvenile offenders committing homicides by firearms nearly quadrupled. Moreover, firearms are the fourth leading cause of accidental deaths among children ages 5 to 14 and are now the primary method by which young people commit suicide. A recent study supported by the Department of Justice found that slightly more than half of all privately owned firearms were stored unlocked and approximately one-third of all handguns were stored both loaded and unlocked. We must do all we can to prevent both illegal and unintended access to guns by juveniles.

To address this issue, my Administration has consistently called for toughening our laws to help reduce youth gun violence. Specifically, we have fought for and gained passage of: (1) the Brady Bill, to allow local law enforcement to conduct background checks before handguns are sold; (2) the Assault Weapons ban, to keep deadly assault weapons off the streets; (3) the Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994, to establish a policy of "zero tolerance" for guns in our schools; and (4) the Youth Handgun Safety Act, to prohibit, in most circumstances, the transfer to or possession of a handgun by a juvenile.

More recently, we proposed comprehensive juvenile crime legislation that, among other things, would continue to crack down on youth gun violence by increasing penalties for transferring a firearm to a juvenile, prohibiting violent juveniles from owning firearms as adults, and requiring Federal firearms licensees (FFLs) to provide a child safety lock with every gun sold. I hope the Congress will enact these important measures as soon as possible.

Until the Congress acts, however, there is more we can do to keep guns out of the hands of our Nation's youth. Existing law already bans the transfer of handguns to minors and juvenile possession of handguns, except in specified circumstances, and grants the Department of the Treasury authority to prescribe rules and regulations to implement this provision. I direct you to take the authorized steps necessary to do everything in your power to enforce the provisions of the Youth Handgun Safety Act -- and specifically, to promptly publish in the Federal Register proposed regulations requiring that FFLs post signs on their premises and issue written notification with each handgun sold to non-licensees warning that:

- (1) Federal law prohibits, except in certain limited circumstances, anyone under the age of 18 from knowingly possessing a handgun, or any adult from transferring a handgun to such a minor;
- (2) violation of the prohibition of transferring a handgun to a minor is, under certain circumstances, punishable by up to 10 years in prison;
- (3) handguns are a leading contributor to juvenile violence and fatalities; and
- (4) safely storing and locking handguns away from children can help ensure compliance with Federal law.

I also direct you to provide me with a written status report within 60 days on how you will carry out this directive.

Your implementation of this directive will help inform gun purchasers about their responsibility under Federal law to keep handguns from our children. It will also insure that gun purchasers are warned about the frequency with which handguns kill or injure our kids.

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- The President believes there is more we must do to cut off the easy access to guns for our kids. For almost every gun that gets into a juvenile's hands, an adult had an opportunity to stop that transfer from taking place.
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THE AGENDA AHEAD

The President recognizes that juvenile crime will be the largest threat to our communities in the future. That is why he has proposed a bill that will be a full scale assault on juvenile crime. The President's bill:

Targeting gangs and violent juveniles, with new prosecutors and anti-gang initiatives, including the authority to try violent juveniles as adults when they commit adult crimes. The President's Anti-Gang and Youth Violence Strategy provides grants to localities to fund scores of new prosecutors and anti-gang initiatives so that they may pursue, convict and sentence gang members for their crimes.

Keeping our kids gun- and drug-free, by requiring gun dealers to sell child safety locks with every handgun, expanding the Brady Law to prevent juveniles convicted of violent crimes from buying guns when they turn 18, and enacting tough new measures to crack down on drunk or drugged driving.

Keeping our kids on the right track through anti-truancy measures, curfews, and keeping schools open late and on weekends to keep children off the streets and out of trouble.

2465

U.S. Department of Justice
Symposium on Youth Violence and Crime

Curbing Youth Violence
Communities Working Together

June 11, 1997

AGENDA

8:30 am
South Gallery

Registration

9:00 am-9:15 am
Salon II

Opening Remarks

Janet Reno
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC

9:15 am-10:15 am

Panel One

Targeting Guns and Drugs

What works to break the links among kids, guns, and drugs?

Moderator

Laurie Robinson
Assistant Attorney General
Office of Justice Programs
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC

Panelist

Frederick W. Thelen
United States Attorney
Western District of Pennsylvania
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Panelist

Patricia L. Williams
Co-President
GRIEF—Gun Responsibility in Every Family
Muncie, Indiana

Panelist

Mark Rosenberg, M.D., M.P.H.
Director
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Atlanta, Georgia

Panelist

Leon M. West
Director
National Anti-Drug/Violence and Hate Crime Program
The Congress of National Black Churches
Washington, DC

Panelist

Naya Albitz
Chair
Board of Directors
Amity Foundation
Miramonte, California

Panelist

Hun Khem
Former Gang Member
St. Paul, Minnesota

10:15 am-10:30 am
South Gallery

Break

10:30 am-11:30 am
Salon H

Panel Two

Targeting Gang Violence

What works to dismantle the appeal and the power of gangs?

Moderator

Reggie L. Robinson
Deputy Associate Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC

Panelist

Christopher P. Droney
United States Attorney
District of Connecticut
New Haven, Connecticut

Panelist

Joan Moore
Distinguished Professor Emerita
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Panelist

Ralph C. Martin, II
District Attorney
Suffolk County
Boston, Massachusetts

Panelist

Roland E. Johnson
Governor
Pueblo of Laguna
Laguna, New Mexico

Panelist

Elizabeth Glazer
Assistant United States Attorney
Southern District of New York
New York, New York

Panelist

Gilbert Salinas
Program Coordinator
Teens on Target
Los Angeles, California

11:50 am-1:15 pm

Salon H

Keynote Address

Lunch and Keynote Address

Bill Clinton
President
United States of America

1:15 pm-1:30 pm

Mid-Day Remarks

Kent Markus
Counselor to the Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC

1:30 pm-2:45 pm

Salon H

Panel Three

What Works: Enforcement

What are the best strategies for identifying, prosecuting, and punishing juvenile offenders?

Moderator

Shay Bilchik
Administrator
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Office of Justice Programs
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC

Panelist

Veronica F. Coleman
United States Attorney
Western District of Tennessee
Memphis, Tennessee

Panelist

William J. Stewart, III
Assistant Chief Probation Officer
Dorchester District Court
Juvenile Division
Dorchester, Massachusetts

Panelist

Gary French
Lieutenant Commander
Boston Police Department
Youth Violence Strike Force
Boston, Massachusetts

Panelist

J. Dean Lewis
Judge
Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
Spotsylvania, Virginia

Panelist

Sonia L. Burgas
Director
Office of Crime Prevention and Security
Office of Public and Indian Housing
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Washington, DC

Panelist

Eric Chavez
Former Gang Member
Seattle, Washington

2:45 pm-3:00 pm

Break

3:00 pm-4:15 pm

Panel Four

What Works: Prevention and Intervention

How can we stop juvenile crime before it starts?

Moderator

Jean Nelson
Director
President's Crime Prevention Council
Washington, DC

Panelist

Anthony Amato
Community Superintendent
Community School District 6
New York City Board of Education
New York, New York

Panelist

Jerald L. Scott
International Director
Special Program on Substance Abuse and Related Violence
United Methodist Church
Washington, DC

Panelist

Harry Shorestein
State Attorney
4th Judicial Circuit
Jacksonville, Florida

Panelist

Janice Eberly
Franchisee
Durger King Academy
Eugene, Oregon

Panelist

Robert J. Brennan
Lieutenant
Palo Alto Police Department
Palo Alto, California

Panelist

Sister Jeanne Gribaud
Youth Advisor
Office of the Mayor
Boston, Massachusetts

4:15 pm-4:45 pm

Closing Remarks

Andrew Cuomo
Secretary
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Washington, DC

5:00 pm-6:00 pm
West Lobby
Salons A & B

Reception

06/05/97 10:03am

**BRIEFING FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
REMARKS BEFORE THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT'S
CONFERENCE ON CURBING JUVENILE CRIME**

June 11, 1997 Georgetown University Conference Center

Point of Contact: Eric Rosen (514-8359)

Material Prepared by: Eric Rosen and Kinney Zalesne (514-9665)

Material Reviewed by: Nicholas M. Gess (514-3465)

Let me take this opportunity to express my warmest welcome to all of you who travelled to Washington today to be part of this important discussion on curbing youth violence. I am pleased to see so many familiar faces, and I am excited to hear about the wonderful work all of you are doing. You are examples from all around the country of the good that can be accomplished, and the success that can be achieved, when communities work together to develop creative solutions to the problem of juvenile crime. Your very presence here today is indicative of your commitment to finding the right solutions, and I applaud all of you on the efforts you are making.

We in the Justice Department decided to have this conference because we wanted to highlight those strategies that are working around the country in curbing youth violence. We also wanted to bring all of you together to better explain how we in Washington view our role. For the past four years, I have worked with the President to implement a comprehensive strategy to stem the tide of violent crime. That strategy has three basic premises: 1) put more police officers on our nation's streets; 2) implement tougher punishments for our citizens who break the law; and 3) develop smarter crime prevention programs to help turn a potential criminal into a productive member of society.

Happily, we are starting to see some concrete results from this strategy. Crime figures show that for

the fifth year in a row the number of violent crimes decreased. This marks the longest period of decline in over 25 years. Last year, for the first time in seven years, the national juvenile violent crime arrest rate and the juvenile murder arrest rate went down. And recently, we were pleased to be able to announce that last year saw the largest drop in violent crime since 1960, the year the FBI began reporting on crime rates in all 50 states. These are promising signs. But they are not a signal for all of us to ease up in our efforts. Indeed, juvenile crime rates are still unacceptably high in many of our communities. And expected demographic shifts over the next twenty years suggest that the problem of juvenile crime may get worse before it gets better.

06/10/97 TUE 15:15 FAX 202 514 7864 DOJ OPLA 2000

So what can all of us do to give our children the tools they need to succeed and to create the safe community they need to be able to flourish? Each of us has a role to play. Those of you here know this already. From the former member of an inner-city gang to the federal prosecutor discovering new tools at her disposal, from the probation officer riding along with cops on the beat to the school superintendent working to keep his schools open after hours, today's group shows just how important it is to involve citizens from every corner of our national community if we are truly going to wage a winning battle against youth violence. Because no newly-passed statute can create the lifelong relationships between mentors and youth mentees that I've seen develop. And no elaborate grant program can substitute for the corporate CEO

who decides to give an at-risk youth a job for the summer.

Does that mean there is no need for a new strategy to better target federal resources at the scourge of youth violence? Absolutely not. And that is why the President and I have been working these past few months to encourage Congress to enact an Anti-Gang and Youth Violence Act. The debate on Capitol Hill is now in full swing. Some lawmakers want to toughen our statutes to deter youth violence and punish youthful offenders. Others are working towards a refined crime prevention effort that discourages our children from turning down the wrong path in the first place. All of these proposals are well-intentioned. But I think most of you would recognize that the most effective approach

06/10/97 TEL 15-15 FAX 202-514-7664 DOB OFER
is a balanced one -- one that is both tough and smart, reflecting the importance of both punishment and prevention.

And that is why I am so pleased with the comprehensive strategy to combat youth violence the President put forth this past February. This important legislation includes four key elements:

- targeting gangs and violent juveniles;
- keeping our children gun- and drug-free;
- keeping our children on the right track; and
- reforming the juvenile justice system.

We target gangs and violent juveniles by directing new resources for additional local prosecutors so that they can pursue, prosecute, and punish gang members.

06/10/97 TUE 13:13 FAX 202 514 7604 DCS GLEA 2011

We have introduced new anti-gang initiatives, such as giving prosecutors the authority to try violent juveniles as adults when they commit adult crimes. We strive to keep our kids gun- and drug-free by requiring gun dealers to sell child safety locks with every handgun, by expanding the Brady Law to prevent juveniles convicted of violent crimes from buying guns when they turn 18, and by enacting tough new measures to crack down on drunk or drugged driving.

We work to keep our children on the right track by proposing new investments in an At-Risk Children Initiative - a program that will help communities establish anti-truancy, school violence and other plans aimed at keeping high risk juveniles on the track to success. These new resources will be used to keep

schools open late, on weekends, and in the summer, to keep young people off the street and out of trouble.

Children need to be held accountable for their actions when they break the law. At the same time, we need to give them the support they need and the opportunities they deserve to stay on their chosen path.

And finally, we propose a redesigned, streamlined component within the Justice Department that is better equipped to respond to the changing nature of juvenile crime. Our guiding principles in creating this new office have been to increase flexibility for state and local governments, and to be more focused, more efficient, and more effective in our support of state and local prevention and enforcement efforts.

I will be working with the President in the weeks and months ahead to ensure that these changes in our federal laws are made so that Washington can better assist people like you in the impressive efforts you are mounting around the country. But I will also be reading the letters you send in the mail, listening to the presentations you make at conferences such as these, and speaking out on the value of the work people like those of you assembled here today do. Because ultimately, it will take a collaborative effort amongst us all. We must learn from each other's failures and listen to each other's successes if we are to ensure our young people the upbringing they deserve.

Communities need to work together in order to develop the innovative solutions that are necessary to

curb youth violence. It is inspirational to see all of you here today and to hear about the wonderful ideas you represent. I am convinced that we are making progress towards our goal of giving our children the safest and most secure future possible. With all of your help, I know we can make that goal a reality. Thanks to all of you again for coming, and I wish you the best over the course of your day. Thank you.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 11, 1997

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE JUVENILE JUSTICE CONFERENCE

Georgetown University

12:09 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Attorney General Reno, Ray Kelly, Father O'Donovan. Let me say to my good friend Father O'Donovan, I never know when I come to Georgetown whether being introduced as the University's most well-known alumnus will be a liability or an asset -- it just depends on what month I come, I think. When Ray Kelly said he considered the Jesuits the Marine Corps of the Catholic Church, I never really thought of that. And then he went through that litany, you know, "the few, the proud" and all that -- I was thinking about the ones who taught me in class. I was thinking, the few, the proud, the brutal. (Laughter.) But brilliantly brutal.

I love this place and I thank Father O'Donovan for having us here at the conference. I also want to thank the Attorney General and Ray Kelly for the truly unprecedented partnership that they have established with local law enforcement officials and others who are interested in the safety of our streets and our children throughout the United States. We have here representatives of the Fraternal Order of Police, of the Major Cities Chiefs Association, the law enforcement community -- a lot of other people who just work with young people and try to help give them something to say yes to.

I'm glad to see our friend Jim Brady here. The country owes a lot of thanks to Jim and to Sarah, for with courage and persistence and good humor, they have saved a lot of lives with the Brady Bill, the Assault Weapons Ban and others. (Applause.)

We are here today to talk about what we can do together to build safer neighborhoods and stronger neighborhoods as part of the preparation of America for a new century. Today, I want to talk about violent youth gangs and the illegal guns they use -- the biggest problem, perhaps, we still face in that ongoing struggle.

But, as Ray Kelly said, this is a good time to be involved in law enforcement because the good guys are winning and the tide of crime is being rolled back. Four and a half years ago, I can honestly say, when I went around the country in 1992 seeking the Presidency and began to talk about the importance of more police and effective prevention programs along with tougher punishment -- and actually I said I was confident that we could bring the crime rate way down over a sustained period of time -- most people did not believe me.

You might be interested to know that every national survey I've seen says that most people still don't believe it -- (laughter). Even though those of you who are involved in this endeavor know that crime is now down for several years in a row and we had the largest drop in 35 years last year, most people still don't believe it. It may be because a crime story still leads the evening news. It may be the accumulation of personal experiences;

MORE

nearly everybody has someone in their family who has been victimized. It may be an instinctive feeling that whether the crime rate has gone down or not, it's still too high and there are still too many of our children at risk.

But nonetheless, it has gone down. And a lot of you in this room have helped to make it so. And we tried to work with you and also to learn from you what actually works -- not what sounds good in a television ad, not what sounds good in a political campaign, but what actually works: putting more police on the street, taking gangs and guns off the streets, having proven, effective prevention programs that keep our children out of trouble and prevent crimes from occurring in the first place.

That's what we tried to do with the Crime Bill and the Brady Bill, with the assault weapons ban, with the Violence Against Women Act, and the other things that the Attorney General spoke about. It's what we've tried to do with our strongest effort ever to make our schools drug free and gun free, to have zero tolerance for guns in schools, to make it illegal for minors to possess handguns, and for adults to transfer handguns to minors. It's what General McCaffrey is working so hard on in his position as our nation's drug czar.

And thanks to all of you, the strategy is working. Even the juvenile crime rate showed some decline in 1995, and the juvenile crime arrest rate has begun to go down as a result of your unceasing efforts. But we know that juvenile violence is still a huge problem. We know violent youth gangs still terrorize our streets. We know innocent children are still being swept up in them and may soon be innocent no longer.

According to a report released by the Justice Department, unless we act and do more now, the number of juveniles arrested for violent crimes will more than double by the year 2010. We have got to show the same progress with young people, with juvenile crime, with violence, that we have seen in the overall crime rate with adults in the last five years. Keep in mind, this year when school started, we had the largest class of children starting school and the largest number of people in school in the history of America. This year is the first year that the number of school children exceeded the high-water mark of the baby boom; which means that demographically we have just a few years to deal with our young people and give them a future and something to say yes to, and to deal with this gang and drug and gun problem before the sheer change in population will begin to overwhelm our efforts.

So I think we know enough, and a lot of you have shown us enough to be just as optimistic about this as we now can be about the general problem of crime. But we also have seen enough and we know enough to know that we have to move and move now.

In February, I sent juvenile justice legislation that I felt was very smart and very tough to Congress to declare war on gangs and guns, but to do things that you say and that you have shown will work. It was largely modeled on Boston's famous Operation Ceasefire. It guarantees new anti-gang prosecutors that are desperately needed to pursue and prosecute violent juveniles. It gives prosecutors the right to seek tougher penalties. It supports initiatives like Operation Night Light in Boston, where police and probation officers actually make housecalls to young probationers and their families to make sure that they live up to the rules of their probation. And when I was in Boston, not very long ago -- we spent over a half a day there -- the people said that their compliance rate was around 70 percent, which I'm quite confident is the highest in the country. But these things will work.

Because about 40 percent of juvenile crime occurs after schools closes and before parents come home -- so much for the argument that parents don't make any difference -- the youth violence strategy we presented would help to launch 1,000 after-school initiatives all over the country, again, modeled on what is working today -- not rocket science, just following the leader to save lives.

We know now that children should be allowed to stay in school or involved in other activities rather than left on street corners until their parents come home from work. We know now that it would be better if our children had teachers or community leaders or team leaders as role models, not gang leaders. We know that our children should be supervised by caring adults, not young people who have entered a gang culture.

The bill that I presented dealt with all this. It also is just as tough on guns as on gangs. I don't care what anybody says -- guns are still at the heart of the gangs that strike at the hearts of our communities and families. Every year thousands of children and young people are killed by them, even more wounded and maimed. Listen to this: teenage homicides by firearms tripled in the 10 years between 1984 and 1994; and the number of juveniles actually killing with guns quadrupled during the same period.

When the National Center for Health Statistics tells us that teenage boys are more likely to die from gunshot wounds than from any other cause, we know that we have more than a duty -- we have a moral obligation to keep fighting against this terrible scourge of gun violence, to build on the path-breaking work done by Jim Brady and others, and to go beyond what we have done so far.

That's why the juvenile crime bill I presented to Congress extends the Brady Bill to prevent juvenile criminals from purchasing guns when they reach legal age. You shouldn't be able to commit a violent crime at 16 or 17, then buy a handgun for your 21st birthday. This bill would make that illegal, and I hope all of you will help us pass it. (Applause.)

The bill also requires that child safety locks be sold with guns to keep children from hurting themselves or each other. Unbelievably, a third of all privately owned hand guns in our country are left both unlocked and loaded. Every one of them has the power and the potential to make the life of one of our children lost by accident or design. Child safety locks are simple and inexpensive, but they do have the power to prevent tragedy.

I feel so strongly about them that in March I ordered federal agencies to give them to our agents. Today, every FBI and ATF agent has such a child safety device, and by the 15th of October every federal agent -- from the DEA to the U.S. Marshal to the Border Patrol to the Park Police -- will have one as well. If a child safety lock is good enough for law enforcement, it ought to be good enough for the general public. These commonsense measures will help to cut off young people's access to guns that can cut short their lives.

Today, we are taking comprehensive action to protect our children and our communities from juvenile crime and gun violence. In Boston, where many of these efforts are already in place, youth murders have dropped 80 percent in five years and not a single, solitary child has been killed with a handgun in a year and a half -- in a year and a half. We can do that. (Applause.) Again I say, this is not rocket science, this is replication.

You know, when I was in Houston a couple years ago and I saw the juvenile crime rate going down there when it was going up everywhere else, the Mayor said, it's not very complicated, I've got 3,000 kids in a soccer league and 2,500 in a golf league -- and most

of them didn't know anything about either sport before we started. This is not rocket science, it is replication. We know what works. There is no excuse for not doing what works. And there is no excuse for the Congress not giving you the tools to do what works.

Now, I believe the approach embodied in the legislation I presented gives us the best chance to prevent more of this violence and to actually break its back -- that's what I believe. I believe it because I have seen so many of you do it. Now, the bill that passed the House of Representatives I think falls far short of the goals of the bill that I presented, and far short of reflecting what you have proved works. A juvenile crime bill that doesn't crack down on guns and gangs, that doesn't guarantee more prosecutors, more probation officers and more prevention programs after school is a juvenile crime bill in name only.

I understand you can pass a bill and make it very popular if all it does is seem to penalize people. And I am not against tougher penalties -- we have toughened a lot of penalties since I have been President. But to pretend that you can do that and not guarantee the police, the prosecutors, the probation officers and the prevention programs and expect to have results is simply wrong. You work in this area and you know it. So let's go back to the Congress and get a bill that will give you the tools to give our children their futures back and our people their neighborhoods and their streets back. We can do it together. (Applause.)

Let me just say something about one specific problem. The illegal guns that youth gangs use do not just come out of thin air. They are bought and sold, traded and given in trade, just like any other guns. And all too often, it is adults who are making the transfer. So, today, I'm directing the Secretary of the Treasury, Bob Rubin, to require all federally licensed gun dealers to post signs in their stores and issue written warnings with each gun they sell to put adult gun purchasers on clear and unambiguous notice that selling or giving a handgun to a minor is dangerous, it is wrong. But it is also against the law. And it is a felony so serious that it can carry a penalty of up to 10 years in prison. I want every adult who buys a gun to see that sign and think about it before they give a child a gun that could wind up in gang violence. (Applause.)

In the last four years, we have proven that if we work together and learn from each other, we can begin to turn the tide and win the war, as Ray Kelly said. Now we have an opportunity that is real and genuine to build on that progress. Your presence here, your enthusiasm, and what I know about the work you have done back home give me great hope that we can give our children a safe and orderly environment where they can make the most of their lives.

We know that a lot of this will have to be done at the community level. When we did the Summit of Service that the Presidents sponsored in Philadelphia, one of the five things we said we wanted for our children was a safe environment for every child in America to grow up in. And we know that a lot of that has to be done by you. But we also know that we at the national level have our responsibility, too. And our responsibility now is to continue to implement the Crime Bill and put the community police officers out there, to be faithful in our enforcement of all the federal laws that we can, and to deal with the special problems of guns and to pass a smart, balanced juvenile justice crime bill that does more than talk tough.

I pledge to work with Congress of both parties to pass such a bill. I look forward to working with all of you to get the job done, but I say again: The most powerful argument for doing it is the experience you have already had, the successes you have already achieved, the lives you have already saved.

When you know what works and you do it, and you see children's lives reclaimed, it becomes unconscionable not to do more. I am determined that we will do more and that we will win this incredibly important struggle.

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

END

12:28 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 10, 1997

JUVENILE JUSTICE SPEECH

DATE: June 11, 1997
LOCATION: Georgetown University Conference Center
BRIEFING TIME: 11:00 am - 11:30 am
EVENT TIME: 11:50 am - 12:30 pm
FROM: Bruce Reed/Rahm Emanuel

I. PURPOSE

To highlight your ongoing commitment to combating juvenile crime, and announce a new initiative to keep guns out of the hands of juveniles.

II. BACKGROUND

You will be the keynote luncheon speaker at the Department of Justice Conference entitled, "Curbing Youth Violence and Drugs: Communities Working Together." This day-long conference is timed to coincide with the ongoing debate in Congress on the youth violence and anti-gang legislation. The conference consists of four panel discussions that are aimed at highlighting the essential components of the Administration's Anti-Gang and Youth Violence Initiative: (1) targeting guns and drugs; (2) targeting gang violence; (3) enforcement strategies that work; and (4) prevention and intervention strategies that work. You will speak after the first two panels. Secretary Cuomo will close the Conference after panels three and four.

In addition to calling on Congress to send you a tough juvenile crime bill, you will be announcing that you are directing the Treasury Department -- within its existing authority to regulate Federal Firearms licensees (FFLs) and enforce the Youth Handgun Safety Act -- to issue regulations requiring FFLs to post signs and issue written warnings with each handgun sold that:

- (1) Make clear that it is generally illegal for any adult to transfer a handgun to a minor, or for minors to possess a handgun;
- (2) State that violation of the prohibition on transferring a handgun to a juvenile is punishable, in some circumstances, by up to 10 years in prison;
- (3) Warn that handguns are a leading contributor to juvenile violence and fatalities; and
- (4) Suggest that safely storing and locking handguns can help ensure compliance

with this law.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Briefing Participants:

Erskine Bowles
Rahm Emanuel
Bruce Reed
John Hilley
Jose Cerda
Michael Waldman

Event Participants:

Attorney General Reno
Father O'Donovan, President of Georgetown University
Undersecretary of Treasury Ray Kelly

The audience will consist of approximately 200 local law enforcement, prevention specialists, juvenile justice advocates and youth workers. The 26 people participating in the panel discussions throughout the day and representatives from the national law enforcement organizations will be in the front row. *Jim Brady, who has endorsed your directive, will also be in the front row.*

IV. PRESS PLAN

Open Press.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- Father O'Donovan will make welcoming remarks and announce you, Attorney General Reno, and Undersecretary Kelly onto the stage.
- Undersecretary Kelly will make remarks.
- Attorney General will make remarks and introduce you.
- You will make remarks, work a ropeline, and then depart.

VI. REMARKS

Remarks Provided by Speechwriting.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DRAFT AS of
8pm 6/10

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

SUBJECT: Enforcing the Youth Handgun Safety Act

A major problem in our Nation today is the terrifying ease with which our young people gain illegal or unintended access to guns. Firearms are now responsible for 12 percent of fatalities among all American children and teenagers. Criminal use of firearms by young people is a national tragedy. Between 1984 and 1994, the number of juvenile offenders committing homicides by firearms nearly quadrupled. Moreover, firearms are the fourth leading cause of accidental deaths among children ages 5 to 14 and are now the primary method by which young people commit suicide. A recent study supported by the Department of Justice found that slightly more than half of all privately owned firearms were stored unlocked and approximately one-third of all handguns were stored both loaded and unlocked. We must do all we can to prevent both illegal and unintended access to guns by juveniles.

To address this issue, my Administration has consistently called for toughening our laws to help reduce youth gun violence. Specifically, we have fought for and gained passage of: (1) the Brady Bill, to allow local law enforcement to conduct background checks before handguns are sold; (2) the Assault Weapons ban, to keep deadly assault weapons off the streets; (3) the Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994, to establish a policy of "zero tolerance" for guns in our schools; and (4) the Youth Handgun Safety Act, to prohibit, in most circumstances, the transfer to or possession of a handgun by a juvenile.

More recently, we proposed comprehensive juvenile crime legislation that, among other things, would continue to crack down on youth gun violence by increasing penalties for transferring a firearm to a juvenile, prohibiting violent juveniles from owning firearms as adults, and requiring Federal firearms licensees (FFLs) to provide a child safety lock with every gun sold. I hope the Congress will enact these important measures as soon as possible.

Until the Congress acts, however, there is more we can do to keep guns out of the hands of our Nation's youth. Existing law already bans the transfer of handguns to minors and juvenile possession of handguns, except in specified circumstances, and grants the Department of the Treasury authority to prescribe rules and regulations to implement this provision. I direct you to take the authorized steps necessary to do everything in your power to enforce the provisions of the Youth Handgun Safety Act -- and specifically, to promptly publish in the Federal Register proposed regulations requiring that FFLs post signs on their premises and issue written notification with each handgun sold to non-licensees warning that:

- (1) Federal law prohibits, except in certain limited circumstances, anyone under the age of 18 from knowingly possessing a handgun, or any adult from transferring a handgun to such a minor;
- (2) violation of the prohibition of transferring a handgun to a minor is, under certain circumstances, punishable by up to 10 years in prison;
- (3) handguns are a leading contributor to juvenile violence and fatalities; and
- (4) safely storing and locking handguns away from children can help ensure compliance with Federal law.

I also direct you to provide me with a written status report within 60 days on how you will carry out this directive.

Your implementation of this directive will help inform gun purchasers about their responsibility under Federal law to keep handguns from our children. It will also insure that gun purchasers are warned about the frequency with which handguns kill or injure our kids.

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION SYMPOSIUM ON YOUTH VIOLENCE AND CRIME

June 11, 1997

Announcement

- Today, President Clinton announced he will act to further restrict youth access to guns by directing the Treasury Department to publish regulations requiring federal firearms licensees to post signs and issue written notifications warning handgun purchasers about transferring guns to minors.

Background

- Guns are at the heart of our nation's youth violence epidemic. Guns -- and handguns in particular -- have fueled the surge in juvenile murders. Since 1984, the number of juveniles killing with a gun has quadrupled. And teenage boys today are more likely to die of gunshot wounds than all natural causes combined.
- The Administration's juvenile crime legislation gets tough on guns by: increasing penalties for illegally transferring guns to juveniles; expanding the Brady Law to prohibit violent juveniles from owning guns as adults; and requiring federal gun dealers to provide child safety locks with every gun sold.
- The President believes there is more we must do to cut off the easy access to guns for our kids. For almost every gun that gets into a juvenile's hands, an adult had an opportunity to stop that transfer from taking place.
- The President's directive ensures that Treasury will do everything in its power to put adult gun purchasers on notice about their legal obligation to keep handguns away from our kids. The directive calls for Treasury to issue regulations requiring all FFLs to post signs and issue written warnings with each handgun sold that:
 - (1) Make clear that it is generally illegal for any adult to transfer a handgun to a minor, or for minors to possess a handgun;
 - (2) Make clear that violation of the prohibition on transferring a handgun to a juvenile may be punishable by up to 10 years in prison;
 - (3) Warn that handguns are a leading contributor to juvenile violence and fatalities; and
 - (4) State that safely storing and locking handguns will help ensure compliance with this law.

Clinton Administration's Anti-Gang and Youth Violence Strategy

- The President's strategy seeks to break the back of violent gangs, reduce youth violence, and provide kids with alternatives to steer them away from gangs, guns, and drugs. In addition to getting tough on guns, his strategy includes \$200 million for local prosecutors, probation officers, and anti-gang task forces and funds after school programs to keep kids off the streets and out of trouble.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: FIGHTING JUVENILE CRIME

"As I begin my second term as President, the next stage in our fight must center on keeping our children safe and attacking the scourge of juvenile crime and gangs. I want every police officer, prosecutor, and citizen in America working together to keep our young people safe and young criminals off the streets. This should be America's top priority in the fight for law and order over the next four years."

-President Clinton

Radio Address, January 11, 1997

Juvenile Crime Rates are Dropping for the First Time in Years

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- In 1995, the juvenile crime arrest rate decreased for the first time in 7 years. The rate decreased 2.9% in 1995.
- The juvenile murder arrest rates has declined sharply during the Clinton Administration. In 1995 the murder arrest rate for juveniles declined 15.2% -- the largest one-year drop in more than 10 years. Since 1993, the juvenile murder arrest rate has dropped 22.8%.

[Source: FBI, 1995 Uniform Crime Report, 10/96]

Fewer guns in the hands of our children. President Clinton signed into law a youth handgun ban in his 1994 Crime Bill. The ban makes it a federal offense, with some exceptions, for an adult to transfer a handgun to a juvenile, or for a juvenile under the age of 18 to knowingly possess a handgun or handgun ammunition. [Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, P.L. 103-322]

Zero tolerance for guns in schools. In October 1994, President Clinton signed into law the Gun-Free Schools Act, and issued a Presidential Directive later that month to enforce "zero tolerance" in our schools -- you bring a gun to school, you don't come back for a year. [Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994, enacted as part of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994, P.L. 103-382, signed on 10/20/94]

Strengthened efforts to clamp down on illicit gun markets, especially those that provide guns to children. The President directed the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to implement the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative in 17 pilot cities. Through this initiative, law enforcement traces all guns used in crime that are seized by Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers, using the trace information to identify and prosecute illegal gun traffickers. [Memorandum on the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative to the Secretary of the Treasury and the Attorney General, 7/8/96]

Strengthened and expanded the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act. President Clinton expanded the Drug-Free Schools Act into the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act of 1994, making violence prevention a key part of that program. The President's proposed FY 98 Budget contains a \$60 million increase for Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program, which reaches 97% of the nation's school districts. Schools use these funds to keep violence, drugs and alcohol away from students and out of schools. [ONDCP, The National Drug Control Strategy, 1997: Budget Summary, 1997]

Supporting curfews at the local level. The Clinton Administration has encouraged communities to adopt curfew policies because they can help fight juvenile crime and keep our children safe. The Justice

Department issued a report highlighting the successes of community-supported curfew programs. For example, New Orleans' curfew program, in combination with summer jobs and recreational programs, resulted in a 27% drop in juvenile crime during curfew hours in 1994, compared to the previous year. [Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Programs, 5/96]

Expanding truancy programs. Truancy prevention initiatives have been shown to keep more children in school and dramatically reduce daytime crime. For example, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, local police officers participating in their anti-truancy initiative pick up truant students and take them to a Boys and Girls Club for counseling. Since the anti-truancy initiative began, daytime burglary has dropped 33% and daytime aggravated battery has dropped 29%. The President has issued a guidebook to school districts nationwide which outlines the central characteristics of a comprehensive truancy prevention policy and highlights model initiatives in cities and towns across the country. [Department of Education, Manual to Combat Truancy, 7/96]

Encouraged schools to adopt school uniform policies to help reduce violence while promoting discipline and respect. [Public Papers of the Presidents, Memorandum on the School Uniforms Manual, 2/23/96]

Placing child safety locks in guns. The President is fighting for legislation to require child safety locks on every gun sold in America. He has already signed a directive to every federal agency, requiring child safety locks in every handgun issued. [Memorandum on Child Safety Lock Devices for Handguns, 5/5/97]

THE AGENDA AHEAD

The President recognizes that juvenile crime will be the largest threat to our communities in the future. That is why he has proposed a bill that will be a full scale assault on juvenile crime. The President's bill:

Targeting gangs and violent juveniles, with new prosecutors and anti-gang initiatives, including the authority to try violent juveniles as adults when they commit adult crimes. The President's Anti-Gang and Youth Violence Strategy provides grants to localities to fund scores of new prosecutors and anti-gang initiatives so that they may pursue, convict and sentence gang members for their crimes.

Keeping our kids gun- and drug-free, by requiring gun dealers to sell child safety locks with every handgun, expanding the Brady Law to prevent juveniles convicted of violent crimes from buying guns when they turn 18, and enacting tough new measures to crack down on drunk or drugged driving.

Keeping our kids on the right track through anti-truancy measures, curfews, and keeping schools open late and on weekends to keep children off the streets and out of trouble.

2465

U.S. Department of Justice
Symposium on Youth Violence and Crime

Curbing Youth Violence
Communities Working Together

June 11, 1997

AGENDA

8:30 am
South Gallery

Registration

9:00 am-9:15 am
Salon II

Opening Remarks

Janet Reno
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC

9:15 am-10:15 am

Panel One

Targeting Guns and Drugs

What works to break the links among kids, guns, and drugs?

Moderator

Laurie Robinson
Assistant Attorney General
Office of Justice Programs
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC

Panelist

Frederick W. Thiemann
United States Attorney
Western District of Pennsylvania
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Panelist

Patricia L. Williams
Co-President
GRIEF—Gun Responsibility in Every Family
Muncie, Indiana

Panelist

Mark Rosenberg, M.D., M.P.H.
Director
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Atlanta, Georgia

Panelist

Leon M. West
Director
National Anti-Drug/Violence and Hate Crime Program
The Congress of National Black Churches
Washington, DC

Panelist

Naya Arliow
Chair
Board of Directors
Amity Foundation
Miramonte, California

Panelist

Hun Khem
Former Gang Member
St. Paul, Minnesota

10:15 am-10:30 am
South Gallery

Break

10:30 am-11:30 am
Salon H

Panel Two

Targeting Gang Violence

What works to dismantle the appeal and the power of gangs?

Moderator

Reggin I. Robinson
Deputy Associate Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC

Panelist

Christopher F. Droney
United States Attorney
District of Connecticut
New Haven, Connecticut

Panelist

Joan Moore
Distinguished Professor Emerita
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Panelist

Ralph C. Martin, II
District Attorney
Suffolk County
Boston, Massachusetts

Panelist

Roland E. Johnson
Governor
Pueblo of Laguna
Laguna, New Mexico

Panelist

Elizabeth Glazer
Assistant United States Attorney
Southern District of New York
New York, New York

Panelist

Gilbert Salinas
Program Coordinator
Teens on Target
Los Angeles, California

11:50 am-1:15 pm

Salon H

Keynote Address

Lunch and Keynote Address

Bill Clinton
President
United States of America

1:15 pm-1:30 pm

Mid-Day Remarks

Kent Markus
Counselor to the Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC

1:30 pm-2:45 pm

Salon H

Panel Three

What Works: Enforcement

What are the best strategies for identifying, prosecuting, and punishing juvenile offenders?

Moderator

Shay Bilchik
Administrator
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Office of Justice Programs
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC

Panelist

Veronica F. Coleman
United States Attorney
Western District of Tennessee
Memphis, Tennessee

Panelist

William J. Stewart, III
Assistant Chief Probation Officer
Dorchester District Court
Juvenile Division
Dorchester, Massachusetts

Panelist

Gary French
Lieutenant Commander
Boston Police Department
Youth Violence Strike Force
Boston, Massachusetts

Panelist

J. Dean Lewis
Judge
Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
Spotsylvania, Virginia

Panelist

Sonia L. Burgos
Director
Office of Crime Prevention and Security
Office of Public and Indian Housing
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Washington, DC

Panelist

Eric Chavez
Former Gang Member
Seattle, Washington

2:45 pm-3:00 pm

Break

3:00 pm-4:15 pm

Panel Four

What Works: Prevention and Intervention

How can we stop juvenile crime before it starts?

Moderator

Jean Nelson
Director
President's Crime Prevention Council
Washington, DC

Panelist

Anthony Amato
Community Superintendent
Community School District 6
New York City Board of Education
New York, New York

Panelist

Jerald L. Scott
International Director
Special Program on Substance Abuse and Related Violence
United Methodist Church
Washington, DC

Panelist

Harry Shoretein
State Attorney
4th Judicial Circuit
Jacksonville, Florida

Panelist

Janice Eberly
Franchisee
Durger King Academy
Eugene, Oregon

Panelist

Robert J. Brennan
Lieutenant
Palo Alto Police Department
Palo Alto, California

Panelist

Sister Joanne Gribaud
Youth Advisor
Office of the Mayor
Boston, Massachusetts

4:15 pm-4:45 pm

Closing Remarks

Andrew Cuomo
Secretary
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Washington, DC

5:00 pm-6:00 pm
West Lobby
Salons A & B

Reception

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION SYMPOSIUM ON YOUTH VIOLENCE AND CRIME

June 11, 1997

Announcement

- Today, President Clinton announced he will act to further restrict youth access to guns by directing the Treasury Department to publish regulations requiring federal firearms licensees to post signs and issue written notifications warning handgun purchasers about transferring guns to minors.

Background

- Guns are at the heart of our nation's youth violence epidemic. Guns -- and handguns in particular -- have fueled the surge in juvenile murders. Since 1984, the number of juveniles killing with a gun has quadrupled. And teenage boys today are more likely to die of gunshot wounds than all natural causes combined.
- The Administration's juvenile crime legislation gets tough on guns by: increasing penalties for illegally transferring guns to juveniles; expanding the Brady Law to prohibit violent juveniles from owning guns as adults; and requiring federal gun dealers to provide child safety locks with every gun sold.
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Radio Address, January 11, 1997

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White House Press Release

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Message Creation Date was at 11-JUN-1997 15:09:00

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release June 11, 1997

June 11, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

SUBJECT: Enforcing the Youth Handgun Safety Act

A major problem in our Nation today is the terrifying ease with which our young people gain illegal or unattended access to guns. Firearms are now responsible for 12 percent of fatalities among all American children and teenagers. Criminal use of firearms by young people is a national tragedy. Between 1984 and 1994, the number of juvenile offenders committing homicides by firearms nearly quadrupled. Moreover, firearms are the fourth leading cause of accidental deaths among children ages 5 to 14 and are now the primary method by which young people commit suicide. A recent study supported by the Department of Justice found that slightly more than half of all privately owned firearms were stored unlocked and approximately one-third of all handguns were stored both loaded and unlocked. We must do all we can to prevent both illegal and unintended access to guns by juveniles.

To address this issue, my Administration has consistently called for toughening our laws to help reduce youth gun violence. Specifically, we have fought for and gained passage of: (1) the Brady Law, to allow local law enforcement to conduct background checks before handguns are sold; (2) the Assault Weapons ban, to keep deadly assault weapons off the streets; (3) the Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994, to establish a policy of "zero tolerance" for guns in our schools; and (4) the Youth Handgun Safety Act, Subtitle B of the 1994 Crime Bill, to prohibit, in most circumstances, the transfer to or possession of a handgun by a juvenile.

More recently, we proposed comprehensive juvenile crime legislation that, among other things, would continue to crack down on youth gun violence by increasing penalties for transferring a firearm to a juvenile, prohibiting violent juveniles from owning firearms as adults, and requiring Federal firearms licensees (FFLs) to provide a child safety lock with every gun sold. I hope the Congress will enact these important measures as soon as possible.

Until the Congress acts, however, there is more we can do to keep handguns out of the hands of our Nation's youth. Existing law already bans the transfer of handguns to minors and juvenile possession of handguns, except in specified

circumstances, and grants the Department of the Treasury authority to prescribe rules and regulations to implement this provision. I direct you to take the authorized steps necessary to enforce the provisions of the Youth Handgun Safety Act -- and specifically, consistent with your statutory authority, to promptly publish in the Federal Register proposed regulations requiring that signs be posted on the premises of FFLs and that written notification be issued with each handgun sold to non-licensees warning that:

more

(OVER)

2

(1) Federal law prohibits, except in certain limited circumstances, anyone under the age of 18 from knowingly possessing a handgun, or any adult from transferring a handgun to such a minor;

(2) violation of the prohibition of transferring a handgun to a minor is, under certain circumstances, punishable by up to 10 years in prison;

(3) handguns are a leading contributor to juvenile violence and fatalities; and

(4) safely storing and locking handguns away from children can help ensure compliance with Federal law.

I also direct you to provide me with a written status report within 60 days on how you will carry out this directive.

Your implementation of this directive will help inform gun purchasers about their responsibility under Federal law to keep handguns from our children. It will also ensure that gun purchasers are warned about the frequency with which handguns kill or injure our kids.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

#



To comment on this service: feedback@www.whitehouse.gov

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 10, 1997

JUVENILE JUSTICE SPEECH

DATE: June 11, 1997
LOCATION: Georgetown University Conference Center
BRIEFING TIME: 11:00 am - 11:30 am
EVENT TIME: 11:50 am - 12:30 pm
FROM: Bruce Reed/Rahm Emanuel

I. PURPOSE

To highlight your ongoing commitment to combating juvenile crime, and announce a new initiative to keep guns out of the hands of juveniles.

II. BACKGROUND

You will be the keynote luncheon speaker at the Department of Justice Conference entitled, "Curbing Youth Violence and Drugs: Communities Working Together." This day-long conference is timed to coincide with the ongoing debate in Congress on the youth violence and anti-gang legislation. The conference consists of four panel discussions that are aimed at highlighting the essential components of the Administration's Anti-Gang and Youth Violence Initiative: (1) targeting guns and drugs; (2) targeting gang violence; (3) enforcement strategies that work; and (4) prevention and intervention strategies that work. You will speak after the first two panels. Secretary Cuomo will close the Conference after panels three and four.

In addition to calling on Congress to send you a tough juvenile crime bill, you will be announcing that you are directing the Treasury Department -- within its existing authority to regulate Federal Firearms licensees (FFLs) and enforce the Youth Handgun Safety Act -- to issue regulations requiring FFLs to post signs and issue written warnings with each handgun sold that:

- (1) Make clear that it is generally illegal for any adult to transfer a handgun to a minor, or for minors to possess a handgun;
- (2) State that violation of the prohibition on transferring a handgun to a juvenile is punishable, in some circumstances, by up to 10 years in prison;
- (3) Warn that handguns are a leading contributor to juvenile violence and fatalities; and
- (4) Suggest that safely storing and locking handguns can help ensure compliance

with this law.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Briefing Participants:

Erskine Bowles
Rahm Emanuel
Bruce Reed
John Hilley
Jose Cerda
Michael Waldman

Event Participants:

Attorney General Reno
Father O'Donovan, President of Georgetown University
Undersecretary of Treasury Ray Kelly

The audience will consist of approximately 200 local law enforcement, prevention specialists, juvenile justice advocates and youth workers. The 26 people participating in the panel discussions throughout the day and representatives from the national law enforcement organizations will be in the front row. *Jim Brady, who has endorsed your directive, will also be in the front row.*

IV. PRESS PLAN

Open Press.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- Father O'Donovan will make welcoming remarks and announce you, Attorney General Reno, and Undersecretary Kelly onto the stage.
- Undersecretary Kelly will make remarks.
- Attorney General will make remarks and introduce you.
- You will make remarks, work a ropeline, and then depart.

VI. REMARKS

Remarks Provided by Speechwriting.

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION SYMPOSIUM ON YOUTH VIOLENCE AND CRIME

June 11, 1997

Announcement

- Today, President Clinton announced he will act to further restrict youth access to guns by directing the Treasury Department to publish regulations requiring federal firearms licensees to post signs and issue written notifications warning handgun purchasers about transferring guns to minors.

Background

- Guns are at the heart of our nation's youth violence epidemic. Guns -- and handguns in particular -- have fueled the surge in juvenile murders. Since 1984, the number of juveniles killing with a gun has quadrupled. And teenage boys today are more likely to die of gunshot wounds than all natural causes combined.
- The Administration's juvenile crime legislation gets tough on guns by: increasing penalties for illegally transferring guns to juveniles; expanding the Brady Law to prohibit violent juveniles from owning guns as adults; and requiring federal gun dealers to provide child safety locks with every gun sold.
- The President believes there is more we must do to cut off the easy access to guns for our kids. For almost every gun that gets into a juvenile's hands, an adult had an opportunity to stop that transfer from taking place.
- The President's directive ensures that Treasury will do everything in its power to put adult gun purchasers on notice about their legal obligation to keep handguns away from our kids. The directive calls for Treasury to issue regulations requiring all FFLs to post signs and issue written warnings with each handgun sold that:
 - (1) Make clear that it is generally illegal for any adult to transfer a handgun to a minor, or for minors to possess a handgun;
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 - (4) State that safely storing and locking handguns will help ensure compliance with this law.

Clinton Administration's Anti-Gang and Youth Violence Strategy

- The President's strategy seeks to break the back of violent gangs, reduce youth violence, and provide kids with alternatives to steer them away from gangs, guns, and drugs. In addition to getting tough on guns, his strategy includes \$200 million for local prosecutors, probation officers, and anti-gang task forces and funds after school programs to keep kids off the streets and out of trouble.

Draft 8pm

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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To address this issue, my Administration has consistently called for toughening our laws to help reduce youth gun violence. Specifically, we have fought for and gained passage of: (1) the Brady Bill, to allow local law enforcement to conduct background checks before handguns are sold; (2) the Assault Weapons ban, to keep deadly assault weapons off the streets; (3) the Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994, to establish a policy of "zero tolerance" for guns in our schools; and (4) the Youth Handgun Safety Act, to prohibit, in most circumstances, the transfer to or possession of a handgun by a juvenile.

More recently, we proposed comprehensive juvenile crime legislation that, among other things, would continue to crack down on youth gun violence by increasing penalties for transferring a firearm to a juvenile, prohibiting violent juveniles from owning firearms as adults, and requiring Federal firearms licensees (FFLs) to provide a child safety lock with every gun sold. I hope the Congress will enact these important measures as soon as possible.

Until the Congress acts, however, there is more we can do to keep guns out of the hands of our Nation's youth. Existing law already bans the transfer of handguns to minors and juvenile possession of handguns, except in specified circumstances, and grants the Department of the Treasury authority to prescribe rules and regulations to implement this provision. I direct you to take the authorized steps necessary to do everything in your power to enforce the provisions of the Youth Handgun Safety Act -- and specifically, to promptly publish in the Federal Register proposed regulations requiring that FFLs post signs on their premises and issue written notification with each handgun sold to non-licensees warning that:

- (1) Federal law prohibits, except in certain limited circumstances, anyone under the age of 18 from knowingly possessing a handgun, or any adult from transferring a handgun to such a minor;
- (2) violation of the prohibition of transferring a handgun to a minor is, under certain circumstances, punishable by up to 10 years in prison;
- (3) handguns are a leading contributor to juvenile violence and fatalities; and
- (4) safely storing and locking handguns away from children can help ensure compliance with Federal law.

I also direct you to provide me with a written status report within 60 days on how you will carry out this directive.

Your implementation of this directive will help inform gun purchasers about their responsibility under Federal law to keep handguns from our children. It will also insure that gun purchasers are warned about the frequency with which handguns kill or injure our kids.

JUVENILE HANDGUN DIRECTIVE

JUNE 11, 1997

Q: What is the directive that the President signed today?

A: Today, the President signed a directive to ensure that the Treasury Department do everything possible to enforce the Youth Handgun Safety Act -- including requiring that federal gun dealers post signs and issue written warnings that:

(1) Make clear that it is generally illegal for any adult to transfer a handgun to a minor (under 18), or for that minor to possess that handgun, period;

(2) Make clear that transferring a handgun to a minor may be punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment;

(3) Warn that handguns are a leading contributor to juvenile violence and fatalities; and

(4) State that safely storing and locking handguns will help ensure compliance with this law.

Q: What is the impact of this directive? How is it any different -- or how does it augment -- current law?

A: This directive will require, for the first time ever, that federal firearms dealers (FFLs) post signs and issue written warnings about the responsibility that gun purchasers have under current law to not transfer a handgun to juveniles -- as well as about the dangers that handguns pose to kids generally. That's an important change for two reasons.

First, for almost every gun that gets into a juvenile's hands, an adult had the opportunity -- in fact, the legal responsibility -- to stop that transfer from taking place. Today's directive puts adult gun purchasers on notice about this responsibility -- and warns them about the legal sanctions that may apply if this responsibility is ignored.

Second, the mix of kids and guns is at the heart of the nation's youth violence epidemic. Since the mid 1980s, the number of kids killing with a gun has quadrupled; the number of kids killed by guns has nearly tripled; and teenage boys today are more likely to die of gunshot wounds than all natural causes combined. Still, we do more to warn Americans about the

dangers of most household products than we do about the dangers that guns pose to our children. Today's directive represents an effort to correct this imbalance.

Q: Can you please clarify under what authority you're taking this action?

A: The authority for this directive is two-fold:

(1) 18 U.S.C. Sec. 926(a) generally provides that the Secretary of the Treasury may proscribe certain rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of the 1968 Gun Control Act as amended; and

(2) 18 U.S.C. Sec. 922(x)(1) -- or the Youth Handgun Safety Act, which was included by Senator Kohl as an amendment to the 1994 crime bill -- prohibits, in most circumstances, juveniles from possessing handguns, and adults from transferring handguns to juveniles.

Our directive finds that additional warnings are necessary to fully carry out the prohibitions of the Youth Handgun Safety Act, and calls for signs to be posted and written warnings issued to help ensure compliance with the law.

Q: What punishments are provided for in the Youth Handgun Safety Act?

A: Juveniles who violate the ban on handgun possession are subject to mandatory probation. Adults who violate the prohibition on transferring handguns to juveniles are punishable by a prison term of 1 to 10 years, depending on the circumstances. Additionally, the Administration has called for increasing both of these penalties in its juvenile crime legislation.

Q: Have you successfully prosecuted anyone under the Youth Handgun Safety Act? Do you know how many persons have been prosecuted overall?

A: No, I don't have a number on the total prosecutions. But I do have an example. I know that the U.S. Attorney's Office in Tennessee successfully prosecuted an illegal gun dealer who -- among other illegal firearms activities -- sold a pistol to a 13-year old. He's been sentenced to 33 months in prison.

Q: Do you think that this directive will really help keep handguns from juveniles? Shouldn't your directive do more than simply call for signs and warnings?

A: Of course, we believe that this directive is meaningful and will have impact. And it certainly makes as much sense to warn gun purchasers about their legal responsibilities and the dangers of handguns as it does for the many other products that are sold with similar warnings.

At the same time, there is only so much we can do under existing law to keep guns out of the hands of juveniles. That's why our juvenile crime bill includes 3 key gun provisions: it increases penalties for transferring guns to juveniles; it prohibits violent juveniles from ever owning guns; and it requires that federal gun dealers provide child safety locks with every gun sold. With these additional changes in law, we will be able to do even more to keep guns away from our kids.

Q: If you're going to issue warnings about guns, why don't you just regulate them like other products through the Consumer Products Safety Commission?

A: First of all, today's directive does more than simply warn gun purchasers about the dangers of handguns; It makes clear to gun purchasers that they have responsibilities -- and that transferring a handgun to a juvenile is a crime punishable by as much as 10 years imprisonment.

Second, the mandate of the Consumer Products Safety Commission does not include firearms. The Commission is expressly prohibited from getting into matters concerning the manufacture and sale of firearms and firearms ammunition. So we simply don't have this authority.

Q. What is the Administration's position on the various Republican proposals to combat juvenile crime?

A. First of all, we are opposed to H.R. 3, the bill that passed the House. It does not come close to representing a comprehensive attack on gangs and guns. It doesn't guarantee that Boston's successful juvenile crime initiative -- Operations Cease-fire and Nite Lite -- can be replicated. It doesn't include any provisions relating to kids and guns. And it does not specifically address the high number of crimes committed by juveniles when school goes out.

We're hopeful that the Senate will work with us to address these issues. The Senate Judiciary Committee is scheduled to consider legislation this Thursday, and we are communicating our concerns to them now. We will have to wait and see how the mark-up in that committee goes before we know whether or not we'll be able to support a Senate bill.

Q. What does the Administration's juvenile justice proposal do?

- A. The legislation proposed by the President in February is part of an overall Anti-Gang and Youth Violence Strategy that seeks to crack down on violent gangs, reduce youth violence, and provide our kids with positive alternatives to steer them away from gangs, guns, and drugs.

The strategy provides critical resources for state and local prosecutors to target, prosecute and convict violent youth gangs. It permits Federal prosecutors to prosecute juveniles in adult court when they commit violent crimes. It requires child safety locks for guns to prevent accidents and thefts, and extends the Brady Law so that violent juveniles can never own a gun. Finally, the Strategy also calls for at least 1,000 after school initiatives to keep kids off the streets and give them positive alternatives.

The Administration calls on Congress to pass juvenile crime legislation addressing these key issues.

JUVENILE HANDGUN DIRECTIVE

- * **THE PROBLEM: KIDS AND GUNS.** The mix of kids and guns is at the heart of our nation's youth violence epidemic. Guns -- and handguns in particular -- have fueled the surge in juvenile murders. Since 1984, the number of kids killing with a gun has quadrupled. And teenage boys today are more likely to die of gun shot wounds than all natural causes combined. Juvenile crime legislation passed by Congress must address this issue.
- * **ADMINISTRATION BILL IS TOUGH ON GUNS.** The Administration bill takes on the issue of kids and guns by: (1) increasing penalties for illegally transferring guns to juveniles; (2) expanding the Brady Law to prohibit violent juveniles from owning guns as adults; and (3) requiring federal gun dealers to provide child safety locks with every gun sold.
- * **WE CAN -- AND SHOULD -- DO MORE.** Although we need Congress to act, there's more we can -- and should -- do to cut off the easy access to guns for our kids. In most circumstances, existing law (Youth Handgun Safety Act) prohibits adults from transferring handguns to juveniles (punishable by up to 5 years imprisonment) -- and kids from possessing them, period (mandatory probation). For almost every gun that gets into a juvenile's hands, an adult had an opportunity -- in fact, the legal responsibility -- to stop that transfer from taking place. We can take action to ensure that gun purchasers know about their legal responsibility and keep guns away from kids.
- * **THE PRESIDENT'S DIRECTIVE: PUTTING ADULT GUN PURCHASERS ON NOTICE.** Today's directive on juvenile handguns ensures that the Administration and Federal Firearms Licensees (FFLs) that transferring handguns to kids is a felony -- and that every gun purchaser has a legal obligation to help keep handguns away from our kids. The directive calls for all FFLs to post signs and issue written warnings with each handgun sold that:
 - (1) Make clear that it is generally illegal for any adult to transfer a handgun to a minor (under 18), or for that minor to possess a handgun, period;
 - (2) Make clear that transferring a handgun to a minor is punishable by up to 5 years imprisonment;
 - (3) Warn that handguns are a leading contributor to juvenile violence and fatalities; and
 - (4) Suggest that safely storing and locking handguns can help ensure compliance with this law.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: FIGHTING JUVENILE CRIME

"As I begin my second term as President, the next stage in our fight must center on keeping our children safe and attacking the scourge of juvenile crime and gangs. I want every police officer, prosecutor, and citizen in America working together to keep our young people safe and young criminals off the streets. This should be America's top priority in the fight for law and order over the next four years."

-President Clinton

Radio Address, January 11, 1997

Juvenile Crime Rates are Dropping for the First Time in Years

- In the years before the Clinton Administration, the juvenile crime rate was increasing at alarming rates. Between 1987 and 1993, the juvenile violent crime arrest rate increased 62%.
- In 1995, the juvenile crime arrest rate decreased for the first time in 7 years. The rate decreased 2.9% in 1995.
- The juvenile murder arrest rates has declined sharply during the Clinton Administration. In 1995 the murder arrest rate for juveniles declined 15.2% -- the largest one-year drop in more than 10 years. Since 1993, the juvenile murder arrest rate has dropped 22.8%.

[Source: FBI, 1995 Uniform Crime Report, 10/96]

Fewer guns in the hands of our children. President Clinton signed into law a youth handgun ban in his 1994 Crime Bill. The ban makes it a federal offense, with some exceptions, for an adult to transfer a handgun to a juvenile, or for a juvenile under the age of 18 to knowingly possess a handgun or handgun ammunition. [Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, P.L. 103-322]

Zero tolerance for guns in schools. In October 1994, President Clinton signed into law the Gun-Free Schools Act, and issued a Presidential Directive later that month to enforce "zero tolerance" in our schools -- you bring a gun to school, you don't come back for a year. [Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994, enacted as part of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994, P.L. 103-382, signed on 10/20/94]

Strengthened efforts to clamp down on illicit gun markets, especially those that provide guns to children. The President directed the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to implement the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative in 17 pilot cities. Through this initiative, law enforcement traces all guns used in crime that are seized by Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers, using the trace information to identify and prosecute illegal gun traffickers. [Memorandum on the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative to the Secretary of the Treasury and the Attorney General, 7/8/96]

Strengthened and expanded the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act. President Clinton expanded the Drug-Free Schools Act into the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act of 1994, making violence prevention a key part of that program. The President's proposed FY 98 Budget contains a \$60 million increase for Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program, which reaches 97% of the nation's school districts. Schools use these funds to keep violence, drugs and alcohol away from students and out of schools. [ONDCP, The National Drug Control Strategy, 1997: Budget Summary, 1997]

Supporting curfews at the local level. The Clinton Administration has encouraged communities to adopt curfew policies because they can help fight juvenile crime and keep our children safe. The Justice

Department issued a report highlighting the successes of community-supported curfew programs. For example, New Orleans' curfew program, in combination with summer jobs and recreational programs, resulted in a 27% drop in juvenile crime during curfew hours in 1994, compared to the previous year. [Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Programs, 5/96]

Expanding truancy programs. Truancy prevention initiatives have been shown to keep more children in school and dramatically reduce daytime crime. For example, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, local police officers participating in their anti-truancy initiative pick up truant students and take them to a Boys and Girls Club for counseling. Since the anti-truancy initiative began, daytime burglary has dropped 33% and daytime aggravated battery has dropped 29%. The President has issued a guidebook to school districts nationwide which outlines the central characteristics of a comprehensive truancy prevention policy and highlights model initiatives in cities and towns across the country. [Department of Education, Manual to Combat Truancy, 7/96]

Encouraged schools to adopt school uniform policies to help reduce violence while promoting discipline and respect. [Public Papers of the Presidents, Memorandum on the School Uniforms Manual, 2/23/96]

Placing child safety locks in guns. The President is fighting for legislation to require child safety locks on every gun sold in America. He has already signed a directive to every federal agency, requiring child safety locks in every handgun issued. [Memorandum on Child Safety Lock Devices for Handguns, 5/5/97]

THE AGENDA AHEAD

The President recognizes that juvenile crime will be the largest threat to our communities in the future. That is why he has proposed a bill that will be a full scale assault on juvenile crime. The President's bill:

Targeting gangs and violent juveniles, with new prosecutors and anti-gang initiatives, including the authority to try violent juveniles as adults when they commit adult crimes. The President's Anti-Gang and Youth Violence Strategy provides grants to localities to fund scores of new prosecutors and anti-gang initiatives so that they may pursue, convict and sentence gang members for their crimes.

Keeping our kids gun- and drug-free, by requiring gun dealers to sell child safety locks with every handgun, expanding the Brady Law to prevent juveniles convicted of violent crimes from buying guns when they turn 18, and enacting tough new measures to crack down on drunk or drugged driving.

Keeping our kids on the right track through anti-truancy measures, curfews, and keeping schools open late and on weekends to keep children off the streets and out of trouble.

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U.S. Department of Justice
Symposium on Youth Violence and Crime

Curbing Youth Violence
Communities Working Together

June 11, 1997

AGENDA

8:30 am
South Gallery

Registration

9:00 am-9:15 am
Salon II

Opening Remarks

Jaret Reno
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC

9:15 am-10:15 am

Panel One

Targeting Guns and Drugs

What works to break the links among kids, guns, and drugs?

Moderator

Laurie Robinson
Assistant Attorney General
Office of Justice Programs
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC

Panelist

Frederick W. Thiemann
United States Attorney
Western District of Pennsylvania
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Panelist

Patricia L. Williams
Co-President
GRIEF—Gun Responsibility in Every Family
Muncie, Indiana

Panelist

Mark Rosenberg, M.D., M.P.H.
Director
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Atlanta, Georgia

Panelist

Leon M. West
Director
National Anti-Drug/Violence and Hate Crime Program
The Congress of National Black Churches
Washington, DC

Panelist

Naya Arbutnot
Chair
Board of Directors
Amity Foundation
Miramonte, California

Panelist

Hun Khem
Former Gang Member
St. Paul, Minnesota

10:15 am-10:30 am
South Gallery

Break

10:30 am-11:30 am
Salon H

Panel Two

Targeting Gang Violence

What works to dismantle the appeal and the power of gangs?

Moderator

Reggie L. Robinson
Deputy Associate Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC

Panelist

Christopher F. Droney
United States Attorney
District of Connecticut
New Haven, Connecticut

Panelist

Joan Moore
Distinguished Professor Emerita
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Panelist

Ralph C. Martin, II
District Attorney
Suffolk County
Boston, Massachusetts

Panelist

Roland E. Johnson
Governor
Pueblo of Laguna
Laguna, New Mexico

Panelist

Elizabeth Glazer
Assistant United States Attorney
Southern District of New York
New York, New York

Panelist

Gilbert Salinas
Program Coordinator
Teens on Target
Los Angeles, California

11:50 am-1:15 pm
Salon H
Keynote Address

Lunch and Keynote Address

Bill Clinton
President
United States of America

1:15 pm-1:30 pm

Mid-Day Remarks

Kent Markus
Counselor to the Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC

1:30 pm-2:45 pm
Salon H

Panel Three

What Works: Enforcement

What are the best strategies for identifying, prosecuting, and punishing juvenile offenders?

Moderator

Shay Bilchik
Administrator
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Office of Justice Programs
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC

Panelist

Veronica F. Coleman
United States Attorney
Western District of Tennessee
Memphis, Tennessee

Panelist

William J. Stewart, III
Assistant Chief Probation Officer
Dorchester District Court
Juvenile Division
Dorchester, Massachusetts

Panelist

Gary French
Lieutenant Commander
Boston Police Department
Youth Violence Strike Force
Boston, Massachusetts

Panelist

J. Dean Lewis
Judge
Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
Spotsylvania, Virginia

Panelist

Sonia L. Burgos
Director
Office of Crime Prevention and Security
Office of Public and Indian Housing
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Washington, DC

Panelist

Eric Chavez
Former Gung Member
Seattle, Washington

2:45 pm-3:00 pm

Break

3:00 pm-4:15 pm

Panel Four

What Works: Prevention and Intervention

How can we stop juvenile crime before it starts?

Moderator

Jean Nelson
Director
President's Crime Prevention Council
Washington, DC

Panelist

Anthony Amato
Community Superintendent
Community School District 6
New York City Board of Education
New York, New York

Panelist

Jerald L. Scott
International Director
Special Program on Substance Abuse and Related Violence
United Methodist Church
Washington, DC

Panelist

Harry Shorestein
State Attorney
4th Judicial Circuit
Jacksonville, Florida

Panelist

Janice Eberly
Franchisee
Durger King Academy
Eugene, Oregon

Panelist

Robert J. Brennan
Lieutenant
Palo Alto Police Department
Palo Alto, California

Panelist

Sister Jeannette Gribaudo
Youth Advisor
Office of the Mayor
Boston, Massachusetts

4:15 pm-4:45 pm

Closing Remarks

Andrew Cuomo
Secretary
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Washington, DC

5:00 pm-6:00 pm

West Lobby
Salons A & B

Reception

Date: 06/11/97 Time: 13:04

CClinton cracks down on guns going to juveniles

WASHINGTON (AP) Hoping to disarm teen gangs, President Clinton ordered new regulations today forcing licensed gun dealers to post signs and give buyers written warnings against passing off firearms to minors.

"I want every adult who buys a gun to see that sign and think about it before they give a child a gun that could wind up in gang violence," Clinton said in outlining the directive, which is to be carried out through formal Treasury Department rules.

"Guns are still at the heart of the gangs that strike at the hearts of our communities and families," the president added. He was speaking at Georgetown University to a youth violence conference of law enforcement officers, child advocates and gun-control activists.

While crime rates are generally on the decline, Clinton cited Justice Department projections that current trends, if left unchecked, will see the number of juveniles arrested for violent crimes more than double by 2010.

Clinton's directive comes as the Senate takes its turn at drafting juvenile crime legislation in the wake of a House-passed bill that rebuffed several Clinton initiatives opposed by the gun lobby.

"A juvenile crime bill that doesn't crack down on guns and gangs, that doesn't guarantee more prosecutors, more probation officers and more 'prevent programs' after school is a juvenile crime bill in name only," the president said.

On Tuesday, White House spokesman Mike McCurry stopped short of a veto threat in making clear that Clinton expected the Senate to approve his gun-control proposals and work them into final legislation before it reaches his desk.

"Any juvenile justice bill that does not include tough anti-gang provisions and tough provisions on gun violence is not going to cut it with him," McCurry said.

Clinton had asked for stiffer penalties against adults transferring guns to kids, an expansion of the Brady law to prevent violent juveniles from owning firearms as adults and a requirement that every gun sold be equipped with child safety locks.

In arguing for stiffer gun controls vis-a-vis young people, the administration cites 1995 statistics from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that found that two in 25 high school students reported having carried a gun in the previous 30 days.

Further, the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics says handguns are the leading cause of juvenile fatalities.

That is one message that federally licensed gun dealers, under the new rules, would have to post in their shops and provide in a written warning to all buyers. Other information that Clinton wants included in the new "warning labels:"

It is generally illegal for any adult to transfer a handgun to a minor, or for that minor to possess a handgun.

Violators will be vigorously prosecuted.

Safe storage and locking of handguns can help keep guns from children and teens.

Some 124,000 gun dealers nationwide are regulated by the Treasury Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

APNP-06-11-97 1320EDT

Date: 06/11/97 Time: 16:10

CWith warning labels, Clinton cracks down on guns going to

WASHINGTON (AP) Trying to keep guns from gangs, President Clinton ordered dealers to warn buyers that passing off firearms to minors is a felony and could land them in prison.

The new rules, which will be formally issued by the Treasury Department, require some 124,000 federally licensed gun dealers to post signs and give buyers written notice that it is illegal to transfer a handgun to anyone under age 18.

"I want every adult who buys a gun to see that sign and think about it before they give a child a gun that could wind up in gang violence," the president said Wednesday in outlining his directive to a Georgetown University conference of law enforcement officers, child advocates and gun-control activists.

While crime rates are generally declining, Clinton cited Justice Department projections that current trends, if left unchecked, will see the number of juveniles arrested for violent crimes more than double by 2010.

Clinton's directive comes as the Senate takes its turn at drafting juvenile crime legislation in the wake of a House-passed bill that rebuffed several Clinton initiatives opposed by the gun lobby.

Republican leaders on the Senate Judiciary Committee, which is scheduled to act on juvenile crime on Thursday, have written a bill that encourages drug testing of juvenile offenders; provides for comprehensive record keeping of juvenile crimes; allows judges to detain runaways; and triples the money spent on detention facilities, prosecutions, probation and rehabilitation.

"While the president is proposing hanging 'warnings' in gun stores, our legislation provides fundamental solutions to today's out-of-control juvenile crime problem," said Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., chairman of the Judiciary subcommittee on youth violence.

Without threatening a veto, Clinton made clear his distaste for the Senate bill. "A juvenile crime bill that doesn't crack down on guns and gangs, that doesn't guarantee more prosecutors, more probation officers and more prevention programs after school is a juvenile crime bill in name only," he said.

Clinton had asked Congress for stiffer penalties against adults transferring guns to kids, an expansion of the Brady law to prevent violent juveniles from owning firearms as adults and a requirement that every gun sold be equipped with child safety locks.

In arguing for stiffer gun controls vis-a-vis young people, the administration cites 1995 statistics from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that found that two in 25 high school students reported having carried a gun in the previous 30 days.

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June 11, 1997

**REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT TO THE JUVENILE JUSTICE
CONFERENCE**

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 11, 1997

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE JUVENILE JUSTICE CONFERENCE

Georgetown University

12:09 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Attorney General Reno, Ray Kelly, Father O'Donovan. Let me say to my good friend Father O'Donovan, I never know when I come to Georgetown whether being introduced as the University's most well-known alumnus will be a liability or an asset -- it just depends on what month I come, I think. When Ray Kelly said he considered the Jesuits the Marine Corps of the Catholic Church, I never really thought of that. And then he went through that litany, you know, "the few, the proud" and all that -- I was thinking about the ones who taught me in class. I was thinking, the few, the proud, the brutal. (Laughter.) But brilliantly brutal.

I love this place and I thank Father O'Donovan for having us here at the conference. I also want to thank the Attorney General and Ray Kelly for the truly unprecedented partnership that they have established with local law enforcement officials and others who are interested in the safety of our streets and our children throughout the United States. We have here representatives of the Fraternal Order of Police, of the Major Cities Chiefs Association, the law enforcement community -- a lot of other people who just work with young people and try to help give them something to say yes to.

I'm glad to see our friend Jim Brady here. The country owes a lot of thanks to Jim and to Sarah, for with courage and persistence and good humor, they have saved a lot of lives with the

Brady Bill, the Assault Weapons Ban and others. (Applause.)

We are here today to talk about what we can do together to build safer neighborhoods and stronger neighborhoods as part of the preparation of America for a new century. Today, I want to talk about violent youth gangs and the illegal guns they use -- the biggest problem, perhaps, we still face in that ongoing struggle.

But, as Ray Kelly said, this is a good time to be involved in law enforcement because the good guys are winning and the tide of crime is being rolled back. Four and a half years ago, I can honestly say, when I went around the country in 1992 seeking the Presidency and began to talk about the importance of more police and effective prevention programs along with tougher punishment -- and actually I said I was confident that we could bring the crime rate way down over a sustained period of time -- most people did not believe me.

You might be interested to know that every national survey I've seen says that most people still don't believe it -- (laughter). Even though those of you who are involved in this endeavor know that crime is now down for several years in a row and we had the largest drop in 35 years last year, most people still don't believe it. It may be because a crime story still leads the evening news. It may be the accumulation of personal experiences;

nearly everybody has someone in their family who has been victimized. It may be an instinctive feeling that whether the crime rate has gone down or not, it's still too high and there are still too many of our children at risk.

But nonetheless, it has gone down. And a lot of you in this room have helped to make it so. And we tried to work with you and also to learn from you what actually works -- not what sounds good in a television ad, not what sounds good in a political campaign, but what actually works: putting more police on the street, taking gangs and guns off the streets, having proven, effective prevention programs that keep our children out of trouble and prevent crimes from occurring in the first place.

That's what we tried to do with the Crime Bill and the Brady Bill, with the assault weapons ban, with the Violence Against Women Act, and the other things that the Attorney General spoke about. It's what we've tried to do with our strongest effort ever to make our schools drug free and gun free, to have zero tolerance for guns in schools, to make it illegal for minors to possess handguns, and for adults to transfer handguns to minors. It's what General McCaffrey is working so hard on in his position as our nation's drug czar.

And thanks to all of you, the strategy is working. Even the juvenile crime rate showed some decline in 1995, and the juvenile crime arrest rate has begun to go down as a result of your unceasing efforts. But we know that juvenile violence is still a huge problem. We know violent youth gangs still terrorize our streets. We know innocent children are still being swept up in them and may soon be innocent no longer.

According to a report released by the Justice Department, unless we act and do more now, the number of juveniles arrested for violent crimes will more than double by the year 2010. We have got to show the same progress with young people, with juvenile crime, with violence, that we have seen in the overall crime rate with adults in the last five years. Keep in mind, this year when school started, we had the largest class of children starting

school and the largest number of people in school in the history of America. This year is the first year that the number of school children exceeded the high-water mark of the baby boom; which means that demographically we have just a few years to deal with our young people and give them a future and something to say yes to, and to deal with this gang and drug and gun problem before the sheer change in population will begin to overwhelm our efforts.

So I think we know enough, and a lot of you have shown us enough to be just as optimistic about this as we now can be about the general problem of crime. But we also have seen enough and we know enough to know that we have to move and move now.

In February, I sent juvenile justice legislation that I felt was very smart and very tough to Congress to declare war on gangs and guns, but to do things that you say and that you have shown will work. It was largely modeled on Boston's famous Operation Ceasefire. It guarantees new anti-gang prosecutors that are desperately needed to pursue and prosecute violent juveniles. It gives prosecutors the right to seek tougher penalties. It supports initiatives like Operation Night Light in Boston, where police and probation officers actually make housecalls to young probationers and their families to make sure that they live up to the rules of their probation. And when I was in Boston, not very long ago -- we spent over a half a day there -- the people said that their compliance rate was around 70 percent, which I'm quite confident is the highest in the country. But these things will work.

Because about 40 percent of juvenile crime occurs after schools closes and before parents come home -- so much for the argument that parents don't make any difference -- the youth violence strategy we presented would help to launch 1,000 after-school initiatives all over the country, again, modeled on what is working today -- not rocket science, just following the leader to save lives.

We know now that children should be allowed to stay in school or involved in other activities rather than left on street corners until their parents come home from work. We know now that it would be better if our children had teachers or community leaders or team leaders as role models, not gang leaders. We know that our children should be supervised by caring adults, not young people who have entered a gang culture.

The bill that I presented dealt with all this. It also is just as tough on guns as on gangs. I don't care what anybody says -- guns are still at the heart of the gangs that strike at the hearts of our communities and families. Every year thousands of children and young people are killed by them, even more wounded and maimed. Listen to this: teenage homicides by firearms tripled in the 10 years between 1984 and 1994; and the number of juveniles actually killing with guns quadrupled during the same period.

When the National Center for Health Statistics tells us that teenage boys are more likely to die from gunshot wounds than from any other cause, we know that we have more than a duty -- we have a moral obligation to keep fighting against this terrible scourge of gun violence, to build on the path-breaking work done by Jim Brady and others, and to go beyond what we have done so far.

That's why the juvenile crime bill I presented to Congress extends the Brady Bill to prevent juvenile criminals from purchasing guns when they reach legal age. You shouldn't be able to commit a violent crime at 16 or 17, then buy a handgun for your 21st birthday. This bill would make that illegal, and I hope all of you will help us pass it. (Applause.)

The bill also requires that child safety locks be sold with guns to keep children from hurting themselves or each other. Unbelievably, a third of all privately owned hand guns in our country are left both unlocked and loaded. Every one of them has the power and the potential to make the life of one of our children lost by accident or design. Child safety locks are simple and inexpensive, but they do have the power to prevent tragedy.

I feel so strongly about them that in March I ordered federal agencies to give them to our agents. Today, every FBI and ATF agent has such a child safety device, and by the 15th of October every federal agent -- from the DEA to the U.S. Marshal to the Border Patrol to the Park Police -- will have one as well. If a child safety lock is good enough for law enforcement, it ought to be good enough for the general public. These commonsense measures will help to cut off young people's access to guns that can cut short their lives.

Today, we are taking comprehensive action to protect our children and our communities from juvenile crime and gun violence. In Boston, where many of these efforts are already in place, youth murders have dropped 80 percent in five years and not a single, solitary child has been killed with a handgun in a year and a half -- in a year and a half. We can do that. (Applause.) Again I say, this is not rocket science, this is replication.

You know, when I was in Houston a couple years ago and I saw the juvenile crime rate going down there when it was going up everywhere else, the Mayor said, it's not very complicated, I've got 3,000 kids in a soccer league and 2,500 in a golf league -- and most of them didn't know anything about either sport before we started. This is not rocket science, it is replication. We know what works. There is no excuse for not doing what works. And there is no excuse for the Congress not giving you the tools to do what works.

Now, I believe the approach embodied in the legislation I presented gives us the best chance to prevent more of this violence and to actually break its back -- that's what I believe. I believe it because I have seen so many of you do it. Now, the bill that passed the House of Representatives I think falls far short of the goals of the bill that I presented, and far short of reflecting what you have proved works. A juvenile crime bill that doesn't crack down on guns and gangs, that doesn't guarantee more prosecutors, more probation officers and more prevention programs after school is a juvenile crime bill in name only.

I understand you can pass a bill and make it very popular if all it does is seem to penalize people. And I am not against tougher penalties -- we have toughened a lot of penalties since I have been President. But to pretend that you can do that and not guarantee the police, the prosecutors, the probation officers and the prevention programs and expect to have results is simply wrong. You work in this area and you know it. So let's go back to the Congress and get a bill that will give you the tools to give our children their futures back and our people their neighborhoods and their streets back. We can do it together. (Applause.)

Let me just say something about one specific problem. The illegal guns that youth gangs use do not just come out of thin air. They are bought and sold, traded and given in trade, just like any other guns. And all too often, it is adults who are making the transfer. So, today, I'm directing the Secretary of the Treasury, Bob Rubin, to require all federally licensed gun dealers to post signs in their stores and issue written warnings with each gun they

sell to put adult gun purchasers on clear and unambiguous notice that selling or giving a handgun to a minor is dangerous, it is wrong. But it is also against the law. And it is a felony so serious that it can carry a penalty of up to 10 years in prison. I want every adult who buys a gun to see that sign and think about it before they give a child a gun that could wind up in gang violence. (Applause.)

In the last four years, we have proven that if we work together and learn from each other, we can begin to turn the tide and win the war, as Ray Kelly said. Now we have an opportunity that is real and genuine to build on that progress. Your presence here, your enthusiasm, and what I know about the work you have done back home give me great hope that we can give our children a safe and orderly environment where they can make the most of their lives.

We know that a lot of this will have to be done at the community level. When we did the Summit of Service that the Presidents sponsored in Philadelphia, one of the five things we said we wanted for our children was a safe environment for every child in America to grow up in. And we know that a lot of that has to be done by you. But we also know that we at the national level have our responsibility, too. And our responsibility now is to continue to implement the Crime Bill and put the community police officers out there, to be faithful in our enforcement of all the federal laws that we can, and to deal with the special problems of guns and to pass a smart, balanced juvenile justice crime bill that does more than talk tough.

I pledge to work with Congress of both parties to pass such a bill. I look forward to working with all of you to get the job done, but I say again: The most powerful argument for doing it is the experience you have already had, the successes you have already achieved, the lives you have already saved.

When you know what works and you do it, and you see children's lives reclaimed, it becomes unconscionable not to do more. I am determined that we will do more and that we will win this incredibly important struggle.

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

END

12:28 P.M. EDT



To comment on this service: feedback@www.whitehouse.gov

NRA-ILA FAX ALERT

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SPECIAL

10/22/97

SPECIAL ALERT: CALL YOUR CONGRESSMAN!

"WE ARE TAKING THE LAW AND BENDING IT AS FAR AS WE CAN
TO CAPTURE A WHOLE NEW CLASS OF GUNS"

According to Jose Cerda a "White House official who specializes in gun control policy." Mr. Cerda was quoted in a Los Angeles Times story today, in response to a proposed presidential memorandum that would prohibit the import of a host of semi-automatic firearms. The story noted an imminent presidential directive that would halt the issuance of new import licenses while it reviews the "sporting purposes" criteria for certain guns. Simply put, this latest Clinton-Gore Administration initiative bans guns that conform in every way to the legal requirements of the Administration's own 1994 gun ban.

Clearly, this represents the next link in the Clinton-Gore Administration's gun ban chain -- a preview if you will of the 1998 Clinton Gun Ban. You've heard the verbiage before. The terminology used to justify assaults on our rights. For example, recall not too long ago, the gun ban lobby in California was working to ban so-called "junk guns," using the "logic" that if these guns don't meet the requirements for importation, why should they be legally manufactured in the U.S.? Well, that mantra, and the Clinton propaganda machine, is again in full swing using that same logic.

This latest development is unfortunate, but not surprising. For years, the National Rifle Association of America has argued that bans on firearms are worthless measures that impact only law-abiding citizens. Moreover, we have said that cosmetic features -- or lack thereof -- do not impact the way firearms function. Accordingly, we have predicted that the Clinton Gun Ban of 1994 would merely lead to more bans encompassing more guns than ever before. With unmistakable clarity, the Clinton-Gore Administration has confirmed both our appraisals and our forecast.

A press release issued today by the rabidly anti-gun Violence Policy Center says it all, "A White House plan to stop allowing the import of slightly modified assault weapons is only a first step toward closing gaping loopholes in the federal ban on these weapons."

NRA-ILA is current working with our allies on Capitol Hill to get more details on this latest crusade by the Clinton-Gore Administration, and this issue will be covered in greater detail in your regular Friday FAX Alert.

In the meantime, please contact your U.S. Representative at 202/224-3121, and urge him to oppose the President's attempt to use his executive power to ban your semi-automatic firearms. Remind him that the "sporting purposes" test is not mentioned in the Second Amendment! Call today, and stay tuned!

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This information is provided as a service of the National Rifle Association Institute for Legislative Action, Fairfax, VA.