

Safe Schools,
etc.

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February 21, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR MACK MCLARTY

FROM: CHRISTINE VARNEY
JENNIFER O'CONNOR

SUBJECT: **Cabinet & White House Working Crime Luncheon**
Vice President's Ceremonial Office, Old Executive Office Building
12:00 - 1:00 pm, Tuesday, February 22, 1994

EVENT

- * You and Vice President Gore are hosting a luncheon with the Members of the Cabinet most involved in the Administration's crime initiative. The Members of the Cabinet attending are: Secretaries Bentsen, Ron Brown, Reich, Shalala, Cisneros, Peña, Riley, Attorney General Reno and Director Lee Brown. White House staff working on the crime bill will also attend. **Your talking points are attached.**

YOUR ROLE AND CONTRIBUTION

- * Your role at the luncheon is to give the Members of the Cabinet a set of concrete objectives to accomplish as part of our Crime Bill effort. You will also close the meeting.

LOGISTICS

- * At 11:30 am you will proceed to the Vice President's West Wing office for a briefing for the luncheon. Christine Varney, Rahm Emanuel, Jose Cerda and Jennifer O'Connor will brief you and Vice President Gore.
- * You will proceed to the Vice President's Ceremonial Office at noon, where you will join your luncheon guests.
- * Vice President Gore will open the luncheon with remarks. He will then introduce Attorney General Reno, Ron Klain and Pat Griffin who will discuss legislative substance, process and strategy for the Crime Bill.
- * Attorney General Reno, Ron Klain and Pat Griffin will make remarks. Their remarks will be informal, inviting discussion and questions.
- * Vice President Gore will introduce Stan Greenberg and Rahm Emanuel who will discuss the Administration's political and communications strategy.
- * Stan Greenberg and Rahm Emanuel will make remarks. Again, their remarks will be informal, encouraging discussion.
- * **Vice President Gore will then introduce you. You will discuss the projects and events we need the Members of the Cabinet to undertake in order to pass the Crime Bill.**

PROGRAM NOTES

- * Luncheon participants include:

Vice President Gore
Chief of Staff McLarty
Secretary Bentsen
Attorney General Reno
Secretary Ron Brown
Secretary Reich
Secretary Shalala
Secretary Cisneros
Secretary Peña
Secretary Riley (may be late due to President's speech)
Director Lee Brown

Phil Lader, Deputy Chief of Staff
Carol Rasco, Asst. to the President for Domestic Policy
Pat Griffin, Asst. to the President for Legislative Affairs
Alexis Herman, Asst. to the President for Public Liaison
Marcia Hale, Asst. to the President for Intergovernmental Affairs
Bernie Nussbaum, Counsel to the President
Rahm Emanuel, Asst. to the President and Dep. Director of Communications
Jack Quinn, Chief of Staff to the Vice President
Christine Varney, Deputy Asst. to the President and Secretary to the Cabinet
Ron Klain, Counselor to the Attorney General
Bruce Reed, Deputy Asst. to the President for Domestic Policy
Jose Cerda, Senior Analyst for Domestic Policy
Jennifer O'Connor, Special Asst. to the President for Cabinet Affairs
Stan Greenberg

- * A copy of the briefing book to be distributed at the luncheon is attached.

- * The goals of the luncheon are:

- * To engage these Members of the Cabinet in the Administration's crime initiative. Most of them, other than Attorney General Reno, have not been highly involved to date. We would like each of them to participate in media events, constituency outreach and departmental crime projects in the next month and a half.
- * To dispel the existing notion that the bill is a shoo-in for passage. We must communicate that to shape a bill that includes the Administration's goals will take a significant effort in the coming weeks.
- * To give them concrete objectives for the next month and a half.

ATTACHMENTS

- * Talking Points
- * Briefing Book

TALKING POINTS FOR MACK MCLARTY

- * Thank you once more for attending this working lunch. Passing a Crime Bill that includes the President's and the Administration's goals is among our top priorities in the next couple of months. We need your help, individually and as a team, in order to be successful.
- * As you have heard much about our strategies, it now falls to me to outline the concrete objectives that we need you to achieve to ensure our success.
 - 1) **Maintain the high profile of our crime efforts through strategic regional events.**
 - * We will be asking you to travel to congressional districts, targeted so as to best help our legislative efforts.
 - * Between now and the end of March, we request that you work with us to plan a **minimum of three events** which highlight our crime efforts.
 - 2) **Reach out to constituents of key Members of Congress through our Leadership Days.**
 - * Leadership Days are events in which we ask 10 or so Members of Congress from key districts to invite leaders from their districts to come to the White House for a briefing on our crime efforts.
 - * We have hosted two Leadership Days in the past two weeks, covering constituents from seven East Coast states and the District of Columbia. Vice President Gore, Attorney General Reno, Secretary Cisneros, Secretary Riley and Director Lee Brown participated in these Leadership days.
 - * These events, which we first began during our NAFTA initiative, prove to be very useful in getting constituents excited about our efforts. They return home, reach out to the press and to their communities and elected officials to talk about the work we're doing.
 - * We have scheduled one Leadership Day per week through the end of March. A calendar is included in your briefing books. We ask you to participate in these and we will call you to schedule you into them.

3) Highlight your Department's role in the Administration's crime efforts by developing an initiative or project that we can announce sometime in the next six weeks.

- * In your briefing book, there is a section called "Departmental Initiatives." These are suggested projects that your departments can engage in that highlight our crime efforts.
- * They are only suggestions -- developed in conversations between our staff and your staff. You may have other ideas or you may want to alter these ones. We would like your feedback and we would like you to work with us in accomplishing either these projects or others like them.
- * Secretary Cisneros has already gotten one project underway. I want to use it as an example for you. Vice President Gore, Secretary Bentsen, Attorney General Reno and Director Brown recently joined Secretary Cisneros in announcing Operation Safe Home -- a project to fight crime in public housing.

Operation Safe Home is a new initiative that combines some work that was already underway in the various departments, with some new projects, a new focus and a new working relationship between the departments involved. Since the announcement, Secretary Cisneros has been travelling, talking about this new initiative with different groups around the country. He has even, I believe, announced some successes in Boston and New York.

- * With Operation Safe Home as an example of a kind of project that invigorates work already underway in your departments and gives it a new focus and direction, I want to go through some of the ideas our staff has developed for combinations of other departments. I will only touch on them, and you can follow up with Carol or Rahm or Christine.
- * **SUGGESTED PROJECTS:**

1. Stop the importing of military surplus firearms and other inexpensive handguns.

Up until 1984, Congress banned the importation of military surplus firearms. In 1984, Congress passed an amendment which allowed the importation of such firearms that qualify as curios and relics. This amendment was not a serious problem until now.

With the break-up of the former Soviet Union, most former European Bloc countries as well as China are now allowed to export surplus military firearms to the US. The Bureau of Alcohol and Tobacco estimates that 95,000 such weapons were exported last year. And the potential problem is enormous.

You'll find in your briefing paper a few possible options for how the Treasury and State Departments might look at resolving this problem and eliminate the importation of both military surplus guns and other inexpensive guns currently coming into the country.

2. **An Anti Gang Initiative.**

Youth gangs are at the center of the public's concern with crime and violence. We can address this problem by coordinating a variety of existing agency efforts. Some ideas for how the Justice and Treasury Departments might join and strengthen their efforts are also in your briefing paper.

3. **Build on Secretary Riley's "State of American Education" Speech.**

Last week at his State of American Education Speech, Secretary Riley sent a strong message about the need for parents and communities to take responsibility for our children. Your departments can work together to encourage and assist parents and communities. A few ideas include:

- * Promoting family involvement by using local HUD and education facilities as homework rooms.
- * Using some small funds, federal facilities and technical assistance from the Departments of Education, Justice and the Drug Office to promote programs in which groups of role models reach out to at-risk youth.

Some other ideas along these lines are also included in your briefing paper.

4. **Police in Public Housing.**

Secretary Cisneros can build on Operation Safe Home by expanding HUD's efforts to create incentives for police officers to live in public housing and other high crime areas.

5. **Law Enforcement Technology Initiative.**

This idea may particularly interest Vice President Gore. The Administration is pursuing technology and defense conversion initiatives that could be used to support local law enforcement efforts. In addition, the Vice President's office has been examining ideas for how the Information Superhighway can assist law enforcement. We could combine these various efforts into a coordinated package that will help local and state law enforcement better do its job.

6. **Improve Boot Camps.**

Recent news reports have suggested that while boot camps are effective in some areas, they have not lived up to their expectations. The Justice Department has been thoroughly examining boot camps and will have a report ready sometime soon, I understand. I would like to have your departments, particularly Labor, Justice, HUD and HHS, work with Justice to have a specific package of improvements ready to announce when the Attorney General is ready to release her report. Some thoughts on potential improvements are included in your briefing paper.

7. **Implement a public transportation safety initiative.**

Some of our best work is done when we assist local law enforcement in better doing their jobs. One area ripe for such work is in the area of crime in public transportation. Attorney General Reno and Secretary Peña might work together to help a few areas with high-crime public transportation figure out how to crack down on crime.

- * Again -- these are options. Ideally, we would like you to be able to announce these initiatives sometime in the next six to eight weeks. And our staffs will work with yours to bring these ideas to fruition. [Note -- Carol Rasco, Rahm Emanuel and Christine Varney are the point people for these projects.]
- * Thank you. **[Close the meeting.]**