

PONS 2/28

Pple surprised millions (5m) long coverage in last 5 yrs
got msg of Amer. pple

- simpler, more flexible
- middle class

We're making prog & probs of ord. Americas
even.

power for pple to succeed

Crisis still a terrible problem -

how agreement from Sec/Hse

Must fight even

Moment to let us cont. to face the

challenges ahead -

health care ref

Reminded of our possibilities

- leading role of Amer. / Israel
- Russia / troops

- no men here

who need have Right

Arg. Amer. today worried

gov & wry direct

most pple losing income → are wry pple

→ UNITY

- Diversity

- Validation

July 29, 1994

TO: Leon Panetta
George Stephanopolous
Mark Gearan
Melanne Verveer
Greg Lawler
Laura Quinn
Christine Heenan
Jonathan Prince

FROM: Lissa Muscatine 6-2935
Don Baer

RE: POTUS Remarks for Unity '94

Enclosed is a draft of POTUS remarks for today's satellite feed feed to the minority journalists' convention in Atlanta. Needless to say, any suggested editions or changes must be made pronto (tell Lissa). The event is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. Apologies for the delay in getting this to you.

PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
REMARKS VIA SATELLITE TO UNITY '94 CONVENTION
ATLANTA, GEORGIA
JULY 29, 1994

DRAFT

Thank you Chief Mankiller. Hello to everyone in Atlanta at the "Unity '94" convention. And congratulations to the four journalists' associations, which are meeting together for the first time at this groundbreaking occasion.

We are living in an extraordinary time, when people in America and across the entire world are searching for common ground.

Wilma and I last shared the stage on the White House lawn, back in April, when the American Indian and Alaska Native tribal leaders came together for the first time ever. This week, on that same spot, the King of Jordan and the Prime Minister of Israel opened a new era of dialogue and cooperation between their peoples. At about the same time, halfway around the world, the President of Russia made an announcement that by the end of August, for the first time since the end of World War II, all Russian troops would be gone from Germany and Central and Eastern Europe.

What ~~we have learned~~ ^{we've learned} over and over, from experiences like these ~~is~~ that people can transcend great historical, political, and cultural obstacles in the name of progress.

And we have also learned that, here at home, the American people are our greatest asset as we try to meet the challenges of a very complicated world ~~in the~~ ^{on the} a new century.

All of us can take pride that we have helped Arabs and Israelis and other former enemies bridge their differences. But ^{their examples} we must also draw ~~on their examples~~ ^{from} to inspire us to strengthen our own American community and to celebrate the richness of our ^{Amer.} great culture.

The job of your associations is to see that more Americans of diverse backgrounds, races and ethnic heritage have an equal chance in journalism. It's also to make sure that the ^{entire} nation sees the faces and hears the voices of non-white Americans whose ideas and achievements too often are ignored. My job here in Washington is to ensure that every citizen has an equal chance at the American Dream.

I've said many times -- and I firmly believe -- that America does not have a single person to waste. Every person, no matter

his or her background, has an idea, a vision, an opinion to share that can enrich our nation.

That's why I've been fighting to create new opportunities for people who work hard, take responsibility and try to make something of their lives. I believe that every person has something to give. And we have to make it possible for them to give their best.

One of my proudest accomplishments as President is the people I have appointed to serve in my Administration. If you look at the top positions in the White House and Cabinet today, you'll see the most able, most talented group ever assembled. These appointees also happen to make up the up the most diverse administration in American history.

If you look at our nominations to the federal bench you will see that a higher percentage of them have been rated "well-qualified" by the American Bar Association than in any previous Administration since these rankings have been made. A majority of those appointees are people of color and women -- not a minority, but a majority, for the first time ever.

None of these people were chosen because they were African American, or Hispanic, or Asian-American, or American Indian, or because they were women. These people were selected because they were the best qualified for the job.

And they are proof that the American Dream is still alive and within reach for those who choose to pursue it.

Still, we must not ignore the burdens and barriers that prevent too many of our people from moving forward in their lives.

I sought the presidency because I was worried that our country was going in the wrong direction. The deficit was getting bigger. The economy was on the decline. And Washington was placing heavier and heavier burdens on the backs of middle class Americans.

In just 18 months, we've begun the work of renewing the American Dream. Our economic strategy will produce the smallest federal bureaucracy in 30 years and three years in a row of deficit reduction for the first time since Harry Truman was president. The economy has created 3.8 million new jobs and core inflation is the lowest in two decades.

Most important, we have reached out with greater energy and compassion to responsible, working families who too often have to struggle to make ends meet.

Already, in just a year and a half, we have offered real tax relief to 15 million working parents through an expanded Earned Income Tax Credit. We have made it easier for young people to get to college. We have established greater job training and school-to-work apprenticeships to help people find and keep good jobs.

We've sought tax incentives and grant money to stimulate the economies in needy areas, through things like our Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities; new Community Development Banks; reform of the Community Reinvestment Act; and by making the low income housing credit permanent.

Some of these achievements have come easier than others. But I didn't ask for this job because I thought progress would be easy. I asked for it so I could fight for the kind of change that Americans demanded.

And it's been worth it. Because all of our ^{one of the most exciting moments} work has brought us to a ~~watershed moment~~ ^{hard} in our history. This week alone has been a remarkable one for our nation. We are on the verge of an historic victory -- the toughest, largest, smartest federal attack on crime in the history of the United States.

Think for a minute about what this crime bill means for all of us as American citizens. For all of us as mothers and fathers and husbands and wives and children. Look at the cost of crime to the economy. Look at the cost of crime to our sense of community and to the idea that we are an American family. Look at the cost of crime to our efforts to empower every individual, including far too many young people who are growing up in terribly difficult circumstances.

Crime is holding too many Americans back from reaching the American Dream. It's splintering families. It's making people fear their neighbors. It's interfering with our children's educations. It's robbing too many of us of our freedoms.

Whatever other goals we seek for ourselves, ^{much} our families, our children -- and for our nation -- we ~~have to have confidence~~ ^{just to be able to} that we can live together with a shared respect for law, order, and each other.

The most important thing about the crime bill is that it creates a whole new way of thinking about how to deal with crime -- one that doesn't pit one group of Americans against another. It doesn't ask us to make a false choice between severe punishment and strong prevention. It calls for a sensible balance between the two. It doesn't ask us to make a false choice between going after criminals and going after guns. It recognizes that those sorts of debates divided us for too long while more and more children were dying on our streets.

What this legislation accomplishes is a sensible approach to

crime that calls for severe punishment for those who deserve it -
- and effective prevention programs that offer long term
solutions to help break the cycle of crime.

This legislation strengthens our police law enforcement capabilities -- and that's
It will put 100,000 more police on the streets -- ~~that's~~ a 20 percent increase in the number of police officers patrolling our neighborhoods today. More police, trained and deployed properly, means less crime. *by the officer seen described needs.*

It includes a ban on assault-style weapons, something few people ever dreamed could be accomplished. And it will send a strong message to criminals that their behavior will not be tolerated and that punishment will be tough and swift.

It will invest \$9 billion in crime prevention over the next six years. That includes giving young people more safe places to go, more positive role models, and more opportunities to fulfill themselves in healthy, constructive ways.

For six years this crime bill was debated over and over again. After intense argument and disagreement, we finally succeeded because all the different interests involved were able to find a common ground. We were able to put people over politics. And now I want Congress to put this bill on my desk within two weeks so that I can sign it before our children go back to school. *it*

If you think six years was long enough to wait for a crime bill, 60 years is far too long to wait before every American *fish* guaranteed health security that can never be taken away.

Many people across this country know what's like to dig and scrape all their lives to have the opportunities that you and I enjoy. And if you're like me, you know somebody without health insurance or somebody at risk of losing their insurance. You know somebody whose coverage is so meager they avoid the doctor because it costs too much. You know people who are eager to work but are trapped in the welfare system because it's the only way they can be assured of health care coverage for their families.

You and I know these people because there are millions and millions of them out there. People who struggle all their lives and play by the rules so that they can move forward, make progress, build some security for their families, only to be knocked off the ladder because of a pink slip, a catastrophic illness, or a simple change in jobs.

We're moving in the wrong direction with our health care system. We're moving in the wrong direction when millions of hard-working people are losing their health insurance each year.

Ever since I began pushing for reform, I've made it clear that I was open to suggestions about how to achieve it. I

listened to concerns about my approach. And in response I modified it to make it simpler, more flexible, more sensitive to the needs of small business.

What I have not modified -- and will not modify -- are the underlying values ~~that are fundamental to~~ reform. We must give every American health security that is guaranteed in law. We must have a system where everyone shares responsibility. And we must have a system that works. That is certainly what the vast majority of Americans want.

We know from experiences across the country what works and what doesn't work. We've seen in state after state that, if you have reform without universal coverage, your costs continue to go up and your options for care go down.

And we know from looking at Hawaii that a system of universal coverage in which employers and employees share responsibility ^{will} not only control costs but also lead to a healthier population.

We know it can be done.

And After 60 years of waiting, I think it's time to say to every American: if you change jobs, if you get sick, if you are laid-off, if your child has a serious illness, you will always be able to afford health care as a citizen of the richest nation on earth.

Tomorrow I will travel to Independence, Missouri -- to Harry Truman's home state -- to talk about health care. Harry Truman was a man of great decency and common sense who believed that America would be stronger if every American had health security. He was right.

Now it's up to us to fulfill his vision and renew the American Dream. It's time to build on our economic progress, build on the success of the crime bill, and take the next big step by passing real, substantive health care reform. That is the challenge our generation faces today. And that is our opportunity.

Thank you, and God bless all of you.

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That's why I've been fighting to create new opportunities for people who work hard, take responsibility and try to make something of their lives. And it's why I want to move America away from a pattern of exclusion to one of inclusion, away from a system of dependence to one of independence, and away from an ethic of paternalism to one of empowerment.

One of my proudest accomplishments as President is the people I have appointed to serve in my Administration. If you look at the top positions in the White House and Cabinet today, you'll see the most able, most talented group ever assembled. These appointees also happen to make up the most diverse administration in American history.)

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And they are proof that the American Dream is still alive and within reach for those who choose to go after it.

Still, we must not ignore the burdens and barriers that block too many of our people from moving forward in their lives. We have to keep fighting to expand opportunities for the working people of America. And I am committed to a broad agenda of change that will people the power to succeed. In 18 mos we've begun the work necessary to

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We have cut the deficit by 255 billion dollars. We've helped the deficit go down for three years in a row for the first time since Harry Truman was President. We've cut the federal

bureaucracy so that it is now at its lowest level since Kennedy was President. And, the best result of all: we've created 3.8 million new jobs in 18 months.

Some of these achievements have come easier than others.) But as Frederick Douglass once said -- and I'm sure King Hussein and Prime Minister Rabin would echo this thought: "If there is no struggle there is no progress." But that's why I worked for this job -- to fight for what our country needed.

Our struggles have brought us to a watershed moment in our history. And that's what makes this period so challenging -- and so exciting.

This week alone has been an historic one for our nation. We are on the verge of a remarkable victory -- the toughest, largest, smartest federal attack on crime in the history of the United States.

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All the other goals we seek for ourselves, our families, our children -- and for our nation -- depend on our ability to live together knowing that, although we are different by race, by religion, by politics, by tastes and attitudes, a few basic things hold us together: A fundamental respect for law, order, and our fellow human beings.

Can we really hope to rebuild the economy, or rebuild our sense of community, or empower individuals to take control of their lives if we are scared silly by crime?

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[this transition is pretty weak] But we can't stop here. Now we must continue our work so that ordinary, hard-working Americans are guaranteed the health security they deserve.

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We must guarantee health security must be guaranteed in law

We must do it w/one 5 that works
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system must work and must be fair. That's what I want and that's what the vast majority of the American people want. Poll after poll shows that 70 percent -- even 80 percent -- of our people believe the right thing to do is guarantee private insurance to every citizen.

Unfortunately there are many politicians who come before you and say they support universal coverage. But they forget to tell you how they're going to finance it. We know from experience around the country, in dozens of states, that there is only one way that works. It's the system most Americans already use. It's the most equitable, efficient system because it builds on shared responsibility between employers and employees.

And it can be done. We know from looking at Hawaii's success.

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Many of you know that barriers aren't broken overnight; great victories are never won without hard work. But every struggle we are in is worth it. We are making progress. We are challenging historical odds, just as King Hussein and Prime Minister Rabin showed us is possible earlier this week.

With your spirit of unity and cooperation guiding us, we can build an America that is more equitable, more inclusive, more productive, and more secure for each and every one of us.

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###

Tom. I'm going to Med. He
to talk about health care.
He believed in decency + common
sense / Amer ppl. It's time
to do what H.I.

Our exp shows what
works + what doesn't
work for the people
We've seen in states
that tried partial
solutions that costs
are not controlled...

In last 50 yrs ever seen
has taken up the challenge
the Amer Dream. Each has to
do it in diff. circumstances
H.I. took up ... of 5 ppl
off the right - Medicare
no -

And we know in
the state of HI for 20 yrs
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REVISED

7/28/94 12:00 pm

President William J. Clinton
Unity '94 convention of minority journalist associations
live satellite feed to Atlanta
July 29, 1994

Cable

Thank you Chief Mankiller. Hello to everyone in Atlanta at the "Unity '94" convention. And congratulations to the four journalist associations, which are meeting together for the first time at this ground breaking occasion.

We are living in an extraordinary time, when people in America and across the entire world are searching for common ground.

*not pure
politics
are people*

Wilma and I last shared the stage on the White House lawn, back in April, when the American Indian and Alaska Native tribal leaders came together for the first time ever. On that same spot this week, the King of Jordan and the Prime Minister of Israel opened a new era of dialogue and cooperation between their peoples.

More concrete [Hopes for new partnerships make it possible while the new global economy makes it necessary. Investment and ideas travel farther and faster than ever before. Amidst all of this movement, however, the greatest asset of America remains our people.

That's why I am working to bring the American community together, strengthen our economy and empower our people to live up to the best of their God-given potential.

The job of your associations is to see that more Americans of diverse backgrounds, races and ethnic heritage have an equal chance in journalism. My job here in Washington is to see that every citizen has an equal chance at the American Dream.

a pattern I want to create new opportunities for people who take responsibility for ~~changing~~ *re* their own lives, to move America away from exclusion to inclusion, from dependence to independence, and from paternalism to empowerment.

We do not have a single person to waste. And we need the head of From the beginning, this administration has sought to lead by example. From day one, we have had the most diverse cabinet, diverse White House staff and most inclusive administration in American history.

*attitudes
+ ideals
that have
... this
democracy*

Consider our nominations to the federal bench. A majority of them are people of color and women -- not a minority, but a majority, for the first time ever. And a higher percentage of our appointees have been rated "well-qualified" by the American Bar Association than those of any administration since these rankings have been made.

*that's why
I have
put together*

I'm proud of the inclusive record of this administration.

People of extraord. talent & ability who
under other circumstances would not be able to
participate & contribute to their fullest. That's also why... *...push*

But we all know that across our country, barriers still prevent many of our people from realizing the American Dream. There are too many Americans working harder, stretching budgets thinner and running faster just to stay in place.

In a year and a half, we've done a lot to change that. We expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit for 15 million working parents. We made it easier for young people to get to college. *Some* We've established greater job training and school-to-work apprenticeships to help people find and keep good jobs.

We've sought tax incentives and grant money to stimulate the economies in needy areas, through things like our Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities; new Community Development Banks; reform of the Community Reinvestment Act; and by making the low income housing credit permanent.

We cut the deficit by 255 billion dollars. We're making the deficit go down for three years in a row for the first time since Harry Truman was President. We've cut the federal bureaucracy is at its lowest level since Kennedy was President. And, the best result is 3.8 million new jobs.

Some of these initiatives have come more easily than others.

Now, we're on the verge of realizing two long-held goals that Americans have waited on for years: a national, comprehensive anti-crime bill, and health care reform.

[Crime Bill news insert]

Crime is holding too many Americans back from reaching the American Dream. It splinters families. It makes people fear their neighbors. It divides us more than anything. The Crime Bill in Congress is about giving our people the tools to make their communities safe. *Destroying the communities*

will It would put 100,000 more police on the streets. More police, trained and deployed properly, means less crime. *Power to take control of their communities + their lives*

This Crime Bill also makes a massive investment in America's young generation. It will invest nine billion dollars in crime prevention over the next six years. It will give young people more safe places to go to. More role models and positive influences. More job opportunities and hope. *most ever?* *activities...*

The Crime Bill is about giving more of our children clear pathways into adulthood. It's about improving the way America raises its young people. It's about replacing the illegal activity on our streets with economic activity in our neighborhoods.

I hope to sign a Crime Bill soon, and I will do everything I can to see that health care reform is not too far behind. We have let worries about crime and health care turn the American

7 yrs of struggle ...
Nat

It took 7 hard years of fight to see
the crime bill. But it was well worth it bc
we are almost there.

~~Dream into a nightmare for too many for too long.~~

Some people dig and scrape all their lives. They do all they can to move forward, make progress, build some security for their families, only to be knocked off the ladder because of a pink slip, a catastrophic illness, or a simple change in jobs.

If you're like me, you know somebody without insurance or somebody at risk of losing their insurance. You know somebody whose coverage is so meager they avoid the doctor because it costs too much. You know people who want to go to work and raise their families right, but their lack of health care traps them in the welfare system, because it's the one place where their coverage can never be taken away.

Do we want a plan

How are we must finish the job, put the final stroke in the cancer. H.C.
Comes down to a crisis of this country -
Do we want an American. That is

~~That's the system we have right now, and it's wrong.~~ We ought to say to every American: if you change jobs, if you get sick, if you are laid-off, if your child develops an illness -- whatever your situation -- you will always be able to afford health care as a citizen of the richest nation on earth.

For 18 months, I've been fighting for health care that gives everybody a fair chance. I want health care that covers everybody, because universal coverage is the only way to protect everybody and bring costs under control at the same time.

That's what the American people want.

Our people understand that. Poll after poll shows that 70 percent -- even 80 percent -- of our people want universal coverage. So, don't let a few noisy naysayers drown out the rest of us who know what's right.

Some in Congress are looking for the easy vote, the half-measure that lets them say they are for health care without really doing much to guarantee it. But across America, in state after state, the partial solutions have not worked. Only Hawaii, with universal coverage, has done the right thing and brought costs under control. It's time we made health care work for all Americans across the board.

Every American deserves a place at the table and a chance at the American Dream. That's why I want health care that covers everybody; more opportunity for people who take responsibility; a Crime Bill and economic incentives that encourage everyone in our communities to work together.

Many of you know that barriers aren't broken overnight; great victories are never won without a struggle. We are in a legislative struggle for the Crime Bill and health care. The work is hard; but we've seen movement, and there's more movement to come. If we keep working hard in the weeks ahead, I know we will finally get it done. Thank you.

PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
REMARKS VIA SATELLITE TO UNITY '94 CONVENTION
ATLANTA, GEORGIA
JULY 29, 1994

DRAFT *Lisse*

Thank you Chief Mankiller. Hello to everyone in Atlanta at the "Unity '94" convention. And congratulations to the four journalists' associations, which are meeting together for the first time at this ground breaking occasion.

We are living in an extraordinary time, when people in America and across the entire world are searching for common ground.

Wilma and I last shared the stage on the White House lawn, back in April, when the American Indian and Alaska Native tribal leaders came together for the first time ever. This week, on that same spot, the King of Jordan and the Prime Minister of Israel opened a new era of dialogue and cooperation between their peoples. At about the same time, halfway around the world, the President of Russia made an announcement that by the end of August, for the first time since the end of World War II, all Russian troops would be gone from Germany and Central and Eastern Europe.

What we have learned over and over from experiences like these is that people can transcend great historical and cultural obstacles in the name of progress.

And ~~what~~ we have also learned is that, here at home, *from our own experience* ~~our~~ *political* ~~the~~ *our* people are our greatest asset as we try to meet the challenges of a very complicated world.

As Americans, we should be proud of the role *we* have played in helping ~~once-hostile~~ peoples bridge their differences. But we should also be inspired to work harder to restore our own sense of community and to celebrate the richness of our *great* culture.

The job of your associations is to see that more Americans of diverse backgrounds, races and ethnic heritage have an equal chance in journalism -- and to make sure that the news media doesn't ignore a huge segment of our population. My job here in Washington is to see that every citizen has an equal chance at the American Dream.

I've said many times -- and I firmly believe -- that America does not have a single person to waste. Every person, no matter his or her background, has an idea, an ideal, a vision to share that can strengthen our nation.

That's why I've been fighting to create new opportunities for people who work hard, take responsibility and try to make something of their lives. And it's why I want to move America away from a pattern of exclusion to one of inclusion, from a system of dependence to one of independence, and from an ^{ethos} ~~ethos~~ of paternalism to one of empowerment. ^{ethic}

One of my proudest accomplishments as President is the people I have appointed to ~~important positions at the White House~~ ^{by} ~~and throughout my Administration. If you look at the top~~ ^{level} ~~positions in government today, you'll see the most able, most talented group ever assembled. These appointees also happen to make up the up the most diverse administration in American history.~~

If you look at our nominations to the federal bench you will see that a higher percentage of them have been rated "well-qualified" by the American Bar Association than in ~~any previous~~ ^{any} ~~Administration since these rankings have been made.~~ A majority of those appointees are women and people of color -- not a minority, but a majority, for the first time ever.

None of these people were chosen because they were African American, or Hispanic, or Asian-American, or American Indian, or because they were women. These people were selected because they were the best qualified for the job.

[transition] ^{And they are proof that the American Dream is alive & well for those who seek it.}

In a year and a half, we have expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit for 15 million working parents. We have made it easier for young people to get to college. We've established greater job training and school-to-work apprenticeships to help people find and keep good jobs.

We've sought tax incentives and grant money to stimulate the economies in needy areas, through things like our Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities; new Community Development Banks; reform of the Community Reinvestment Act; and by making the low income housing credit permanent.

We cut the deficit by 255 billion dollars. We're making the deficit go down for three years in a row for the first time since Harry Truman was President. We've cut the federal bureaucracy so that it is now at its lowest level since Kennedy was President. And, the best result of all: we've created 3.8 million new jobs in 18 months.

Some of these achievements have come easier than others. But as Frederick Douglass once said -- and I'm sure King Hussein and Prime Minister Rabin would echo this thought: "If there is no struggle there is no progress."

Our struggles have reaped enormous rewards and have brought us to a watershed moment in our history. And that's what makes this period so challenging -- and so exciting.

This week alone has been an historic one for our nation. We are on the verge of a remarkable victory -- the toughest, largest, smartest federal attack on crime in the history of the United States.

And we are also closer than ever before to achieving real, substantive health care reform.

Think for a minute about what this crime bill means for all of us as American citizens. For all of us as mothers and fathers and husbands and wives and children. Look at the cost of crime to the economy. Look at the cost of crime to our sense of community and to the idea that we are an American family. Look at the cost of crime to our efforts to empower every individual, including far too many young people who are growing up in terribly difficult circumstances.

Crime is holding too many Americans back from reaching the American Dream. It's splintering families. It's making people fear their neighbors. It's interfering with our children's educations. It's robbing too many of us of our freedoms.

Can we really hope to rebuild the economy, or rebuild our sense of community, or empower individuals to make more of their lives if we are scared silly by crime?

All the other goals we seek for ourselves, our families, our children -- and for our nation -- depend on our ability to live together knowing that, although we are different by race, by religion, by politics, by tastes and attitudes, a few basic things hold us together: A fundamental respect for law, order, and our fellow human beings.

For nearly six [?] years the crime bill was debated over and over again. Deliberation is a good thing, but then we get to a point when it's simply time to act. And now we have done it.

But The most important thing about the crime bill is that it creates a whole new way of thinking about how to deal with crime. It doesn't ask us to make a false choice between severe punishment and strong prevention. It calls for a sensible balance between the two. It doesn't ask us to make a false choice between going after criminals and going after guns. It recognizes that those sorts of debates divided us for too long while more and more children were dying on our streets.

What this legislation accomplishes is a sensible approach to crime that calls for swift and severe punishment for those who deserve it -- and effective prevention programs that offer long-

term solutions to help break the cycle of crime.

It will put 100,000 more police on the streets -- that's a 20 percent increase in the number of police officers patrolling our neighborhoods today. More police, trained and deployed properly, means less crime.

It will invest nine billion dollars in crime prevention over the next six years. It will send a strong message to criminals that their behavior will not be tolerated. It will give young people more safe places to go, more positive role models, and more opportunities to fulfill themselves in healthy, constructive ways.

For P. This victory was achieved because, after lots of arguing and disagreeing, we were able to put people over politics. We focused on what the country needed. And hopefully within a matter of weeks I will be able to sign this bill into law.

But we can't stop here. So Nat
Now we must continue the job of ~~empowering people to make~~ progress in their daily lives. We must take the next big step and pass health care reform. If we don't, ordinary Americans will continue to be deprived of the security they deserve.

If you're like me, you know somebody without insurance or somebody at risk of losing their insurance. You know somebody whose coverage is so meager they avoid the doctor because it costs too much. You know people who are eager to work but are trapped in the welfare system because it's the only way they can be assured of health care coverage for their families.

You and I know these people because there are millions and millions of them out there. People who dig and scrape all their lives so that they can move forward, make progress, build some security for their families, only to be knocked off the ladder because of a pink slip, a catastrophic illness, or a simple change in jobs.

We're moving in the wrong direction with our health care system. We're moving in the wrong direction when millions of hard-working people are losing their health insurance. And, by the way, most of those without insurance are working people.

My
It's time we ~~said~~ ^{said} to every American: if you change jobs, if you get sick, if you are laid-off, if your child has a serious illness, you will always be able to afford health care as a citizen of the richest nation on earth.

↻
When I first talked about health care reform, I talked about the right of every American to have health security that can never be taken away. I invited suggestions for how we might get there. And in response to some of the concerns I heard I modified my approach to make it simpler, more flexible, more sensitive to

the needs of small business.

What I have not modified is my belief that our health care system must work and must be fair. That's what I want and that's what the vast majority of the American people want. Poll after poll shows that 70 percent -- even 80 percent -- of our people want universal coverage. ~~So, don't let a few noisy naysayers~~ drown out the rest of us who know what's right.

Unfortunately there are many politicians who come before you and say they support universal coverage. But they forget to tell you how they're going to finance it. We know from experience around the country, in dozens of states, ~~that~~ there is only one way that works. It's the system most Americans already use.

Every American deserves a place at the table and a chance at the American Dream. That's why I want health care that covers everybody; more opportunity for people who take responsibility; a Crime Bill and economic incentives that encourage everyone in our communities to work together.

Many of you know that barriers aren't broken overnight; great victories are never won without a struggle. We are in a legislative struggle for the Crime Bill and health care. The work is hard; but we've seen movement, and there's more movement to come. If we keep working hard in the weeks ahead, I know we will finally get it done. Thank you.

July 28, 1994, 9AM

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
CRIME BILL RALLY
WASHINGTON, D.C.
JULY 28, 1994**

[Acknowledgements: Senator Biden (possible) and Chairman Brooks (possible); Attorney General Janet Reno; Secretary Bentsen; Director of National Drug Control Policy Lee Brown; Charles Moose, Chief of Police, Portland, Oregon: a man who has given nearly twenty years of service to his community, and is now helping to lead them and the nation towards community policing and other innovations that will make a difference; and, leaders of federal and state law enforcement groups representing every area of the country.]

We are on the verge of a major victory for America. For too long the people who work hard and play by the rules in this country have fought crime with one hand tied behind their backs. Well, we are about to even up the odds.

After six long years, we are very close to enacting the toughest, largest, smartest federal attack on crime in history. We are united, and we are going to keep pushing until this Crime Bill is the law of the land.

I say to Chairman Biden and Chairman Brooks and Members of Congress from both Parties -- in the name of every child whose playground has turned into a battleground, in the name of every senior citizen who is afraid to walk home alone, and in the name of every citizen paralyzed by fear -- thank you for your hard work, and for moving America forward into a safer future.

This victory for law-abiding Americans is a fundamental part of the vision at the very heart of my Administration: to put people first again.

Everything we have done, we have done so that our citizens can live the American Dream again. Every step we take is about making it possible -- at a time of rapid, often remarkable change here and around the world -- for our people to build good lives for themselves and to pass the chance of better lives onto their children.

In this great country, why has this been such a huge challenge? Because for more than a decade our leaders mismanaged our country, especially the economy. And the result was that our middle class worked harder for less, and as they did, our social fabric weakened. But the American people demanded better. And for 18 months, I have devoted myself to an aggressive strategy for economic and social renewal.

That strategy started where it had to: with putting our economic house in order by coming to grips with the soaring deficit. Barely a year ago, we enacted the biggest deficit cut in our history, including \$255 billion in specific spending cuts. Those tough decisions mean that our deficit is now going down for three years in a row for the first time since Harry Truman was President.

We had to cut. But we also had to invest so that every American could compete and win in the most competitive global economy ever. From the first day of preschool to the first day on the job to the last day before retirement and beyond, the American people should know this: whatever the world brings, they and their children will be prepared.

Fulfilling our strategy has meant change -- which isn't always popular in Washington. But we have fought very hard, and it's working. Our economy is coming back, with 3.8 million jobs produced since I took office. Unemployment has fallen by more than 1.5 percent, and inflation is the lowest in two decades. We will do more, but this is an extraordinary start on our journey of renewal.

I am very proud of all this, and the American people should be proud of themselves. And, yet, none of this is enough to restore the American Dream. Not if we don't defeat the crime and violence that is pulling our people apart when we should be coming together to face our common challenges as one.

This nation cannot work if Americans aren't safe in their homes, or if the schools are too violent for our children to learn. For six years we have debated crime endlessly and fought it fitfully. But today's progress changes that: it is not about debate and delay; it's about hope and progress. It is about putting 100,000 more police officers on our nation's streets, helping our communities to restore themselves. It will make Americans safer, and more productive. Surely there is no more important piece in our strategy for national renewal.

No one has believed in community policing more than Chief Moose, who moved with his wife into a high risk neighborhood that he helped make safer. Perhaps the most compelling argument for this law is that this is the crime bill that law enforcement demands -- and that's the way it should be.

But it hasn't been easy. No matter how tough and smart this bill is, everytime we turned around, someone said it couldn't or it shouldn't be done. So we had to stand up to all those skeptics and critics who were standing in the way of this bill.

We stood up to the NRA to win the historic ban on assault weapons. We have finally put the public interest ahead of the

special interest, and when this bill becomes law 19 kinds of assault weapons will be banned for the first time.

We stood up to the view that prevailed for too long in my own Party about tougher punishment. Now, we will have capital punishment for anyone convicted of killing an officer. And violent repeat offenders will be sent to jail for life. As I promised, "three-strikes-and-you're-out" is going to be the law of the land.

We stood up to the forces in Washington opposed to cutting government to pay for our fight on crime. There's not a penny of new taxes in this bill. Instead, there will be fewer bureaucrats and more police.

And we stood up to the people who said that crime prevention programs are nothing but pork barrel politics. To anyone who says that, I say: tell it to our nation's police officers. They are the ones who wanted more support for programs like the Boys and Girls Clubs. They are the ones who want safer schools -- as more than 100,000 kids carry guns to school each day. And they are the ones who say our kids need more mentors and the police need more resources to help families in crisis.

Now, we are going to fight to make sure this bill becomes law in just a few short days. But we have to remember that a law is only a tool, a piece of paper. For it to make a difference, every single American must make it work.

Every one of us must take responsibility for making this a stronger country. When we see a youth from a tough neighborhood who is desperate for that first job, we have to reach out with opportunity. When we know a police officer is trying to turn a gang member into a productive citizen, we have to do our part. And when we see a child in trouble, we have to take personal responsibility for getting that child back to school and into the programs that can turn their life around.

We have stood up to all the forces that counted us out so many times on this Crime Bill, and we are about to win. Let that be a lesson to all those who have already written us off on our campaign to guarantee health care for all Americans. If we are really serious about renewing the American Dream, we must do this. It's the only way we can open up new opportunities for all Americans to learn and work and realize their God-given potential.

How do I know we can reform health care? Because I've heard the naysayers before, and I know how far we have come to give America the Crime Bill it has needed for so long. And because I know that, having come this far, we will not turn back on our vision of restoring the American Dream.

We have faced plenty of tough fights before. And we'll have plenty more ahead of us. But they are all worth it if they bring us to a day like this one. We must face all our challenges with the same confidence and spirit of common purpose that has brought us here today. That is what has always built America. And that, I promise, is what will renew America for yet another generation.

THE PRESIDENT'S ANTI-CRIME LEGISLATION AN OVERVIEW

Crime and violence threaten America's future. Our economic prospects are on the upturn and we can now look to the day when all Americans will have health care coverage. Still, there can be no doubt that improvements in our economic and physical health will never be fully enjoyed if we must live every day in fear of crime and violence.

As the problem of crime continues to occupy our national attention, a consensus is emerging about how best to keep our neighborhoods, our homes and our families and friends safe from criminal activity. That consensus recognizes that old single-minded approaches aimed at suppressing crime won't work.

What we need now is an anti-crime strategy that strikes a balance between more law enforcement, certain and appropriately severe punishment, and strenuous efforts to keep young people from travelling down the criminal path.

The President's Comprehensive Anti-Crime Effort

- President Clinton's anti-crime legislation now before Congress offers America just such a strategy. Comprised of three key components -- police, punishment, and prevention -- the President's Crime Bill is a tough, effective, and sensible approach to reducing crime in America.
- Old approaches to fighting crime offered the American people a false choice between punishment and prevention. This Administration, however, takes a different view. While more police and swift and certain punishment are critical to our fight against violence and crime, we must also create sensible and effective prevention programs that offer the country long-term solutions which help break the criminal cycle.

Police: Protecting Our Communities

- The President's anti-crime legislation will put 100,000 new police officers on the streets, walking the beat, working with citizens to prevent and solve crimes. Through "community policing," we can proactively address neighborhood problems, combining increased police presence with the development of partnerships with communities to create safer neighborhoods.
- The plan to put 100,000 police officers onto America's streets represents a twenty percent increase in the current number local police officers nationwide. The nearly \$9 billion requested by the President for this program will enable the Administration to help every community in the country that needs and wants assistance to strengthen its police force to improve public safety.

- We can do more to train our current and future police officers, and to recruit more officers to work with their communities. A Police Corps would provide scholarship funds to individuals who are committed to joining police departments after graduation, and other programs would enhance the education of existing law enforcement personnel who seek to improve their skills and capabilities.
- We can not expect our law enforcement officers to risk their lives on a daily basis without doing everything we can to protect them. We can increase the safety of our police by making sure that they don't get outgunned by criminals -- a goal achieved by measures that include a ban on assault weapons, a ban on the sale of handguns to minors, and new efforts to tighten gun dealer licensing.

Punishment: Sending a Message To Criminals

- The Administration supports measures that swiftly punish violent criminals, particularly repeat violent offenders. To keep off the streets those who would prey upon our communities, the Crime Bill should include:
 - * The President's "Three Strikes and You're Out" life imprisonment provision, which is aimed at those career violent offenders who do the most harm to society; and
 - * Reinstatement of the Federal death penalty for the most heinous of crimes, such as killing a Federal law enforcement officer.
- The President is committed to helping states keep violent criminals behind bars by providing them with the resources they need to create additional prison space. This includes the Administration-backed prison grant program which will help states lock up violent offenders quickly and efficiently as well as encourage them to improve their criminal justice systems by adopting reasonable "truth in sentencing" provisions.
- The Administration supports smart incarceration programs and tough alternative approaches, such as:
 - * Boot camps that provide the discipline and training necessary to deter young people from embarking on a life of crime; and
 - * Discretionary authority to prosecute hardened young criminals, 13-years-old and above, as adults for serious violent offenses.

Prevention: "Something to Say 'Yes'" To

- Congress has a special opportunity -- and responsibility -- to pass a Crime Bill that will help steer young people away from crime and drugs and, as the President often says, "give them something to say 'yes'" to: Programs that increase youth employment, recreational and educational opportunities.
- We endorse a broad range of new and ongoing preventive policies, from initiatives closely associated with law enforcement, such as community policing, to efforts aimed more toward empowering communities and individuals, like job and job training opportunities. These include:
 - * The President's Youth Employment Skills program, "Y.E.S.," which will provide young people with job training and work opportunities in hard-hit, high-crime areas;
 - * The Ounce of Prevention Council and programs which can help effectively coordinate and integrate the delivery of the Federal Government's new youth development and youth oriented crime prevention initiatives;
 - * The Police Partnerships for Children program, which will encourage police officers to become involved with children and family services agencies to divert at risk children;
 - * Drug Court programs which will support intensive court supervision of drug dependent defendants to provide the carrot-and-stick approach that can help them beat their addiction; and
 - * The Gang Resistance Education and Training program ("G.R.E.A.T."), already a proven success, which will help kids fight the allure of gang membership.
- The Administration also supports a range of other prevention measures such as the Empowerment Zones/Enterprise Communities Initiative, the Job Corps, the National Service program, the Community Partnership Against Crime, the Family Preservation and Support Program, Head Start, and Weed and Seed.

Paying for the Fight Against Crime

- Paying for these initiatives won't be easy. But failing to enact them will be much, much more expensive. The cost to society of a failure to act -- a cost measured not just in dollars and cents, but also in murders, rapes and assaults which need not have occurred -- is a cost we can not bear.

- By reinventing government and focusing our priorities, we can make the necessary money available to achieve these goals. With the savings realized by the elimination of 250,000 Federal government jobs, we can set up a multi-billion dollar Violent Crime-Reduction Trust Fund. And by putting those savings in the Fund, we can make the money available for the police, punishment and prevention proposed in the President's anti-crime legislation.

POLICE: PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES

The Administration's commitment to putting more police on the streets is central to the President's anti-crime legislation. Providing communities with the resources to be able to hire more cops in the neighborhoods, the ability to select from a motivated group of law enforcement recruits, and the Federal laws which they need to provide them maximum backup and protection, together create a package of proposals designed to allow us to catch and punish criminals and to prevent crime.

100,000 New Officers Engaged in Community Policing

- Putting 100,000 police officers onto America's streets, engaged in community policing, is at the heart of the President's overall anti-crime strategy. It demonstrates that crime fighting is about punishment and prevention.
- Community policing will put more officers on our streets who know their neighborhoods and know how to work with residents to reduce and control crime -- patrolling neighborhoods, building partnerships based on trust with communities, and keeping our streets safer for law-abiding citizens.
- The plan will have an enormous impact, representing a twenty percent increase in the current number local police officers nationwide. The nearly \$9 billion requested by the President for this program will enable the Administration to help every community in the country that needs and wants assistance to strengthen its police force to improve public safety.
- Currently, there are 504,000 sworn local police officers nationally. Adding 100,000 new cops is a nearly 20% increase. Of the 504,000, up to 380,000 work at the street-level. 100,000 new community police officers increases the number of street-level cops by more than 25%.
- The plan protects small states by guaranteeing each state a significant minimum-level of community policing funding. It also benefits rural areas and cities of all sizes. For example, a 20% increase would mean for:
 - * Cities like Provo, Utah; Paducah, Kentucky; Florence, South Carolina; and Bay City, Michigan, which now each have about 70 police officers, an additional 15 or more officers each;
 - * Medium to large cities, like St. Louis, Missouri; Atlanta, Georgia; Columbus, Ohio; and Las Vegas, Nevada, which now each have about 1,500 police officers, an increase of approximately 300 police officers each; and

- * Our nation's largest cities, more than 1,000 new police officers. Philadelphia might gain an additional 1,200 officers; Los Angeles, 1,600; and Chicago, more than 2,400.
- There's no question that demand for more police officers is high and continues to rise all across the country. Thousands of Mayors and Police Chiefs have already applied for community policing grants under the Administration's Policing Hiring Supplement Program, and 250 communities received grants for 2023 new police officers. But the demand is so great that the Justice Department could not accommodate 9 out of 10 applications due to the Supplemental Program's limited funds of \$150 million. Passing the Crime Bill can change that, because with nearly \$9 billion for 100,000 new officers, every community that needs police can receive help.
- Under the President's plan, jurisdictions will be able to request the amount of support for whatever number of additional police officers they actually need to effectively control crime -- some may need a 20% increase, some more, some less, depending upon their individual circumstances. The President's plan, therefore, is a flexible approach aimed at meeting the different crime control needs of individual jurisdictions.
- The plan's flexibility provides the Attorney General with sufficient authority to waive or modify requirements which might otherwise preclude participation by cities which have been hit hard by both crime and economic dislocation and are struggling financially.
- The key to the President's plan is flexibility: the 100,000 police program aims to deploy officers in a way that meets the specific needs of local communities.

Law Enforcement Scholarships

- The President has indicated time and again that he wants crime legislation which is both tough and smart. Proposals designed to make sure that we are smart about the way we fight crime include the development of a Police Corps and the funding of Law Enforcement Scholarships.
- We expect our police officers to not only shoot straight, but to think straight, too. We must do all that we can to have our law enforcement officials not only equipped with the weaponry and technology they need, but also with the education and skills which will maximize their ability to fight crime.
- By providing college scholarship funds for individuals committed to joining police departments after graduation, we can develop well-educated police officers who have focused for years on training for that job.

- The Police Corps will develop a new group of well-educated police officers annually available for recruitment to police departments across the country.
- In addition, we should fund the Law Enforcement Scholarships proposal to provide educational opportunities for in-service officers seeking to improve their skills and abilities.

Firearms

- Just as the "choice" between prevention and punishment is a false one, the argument about whether to regulate guns or punish those who misuse them is an oversimplification of an enormous problem. Gun violence is growing 2 1/2 times as fast as violent crime not involving guns. Unfortunately, our young people are those most likely to be victims of gun crimes. Over the last five years, 415 law enforcement officers were feloniously killed, 91% of them with a gun -- 73% of which were handguns. We must crack down on gun violence.
- The Brady Bill is now law, with all 50 states conducting background checks. Now, we strongly support the funding of grants for the improvement of state criminal history records, so that the national instant check system can become a reality. And, we support the expansion of the categories of persons prohibited from obtaining a firearm to those convicted of domestic abuse and those under restraining orders stemming from domestic abuse situations.
- Legislation to ban semiautomatic assault weapons is not about controlling guns; it's about controlling crime.
 - * Semiautomatic assault weapons are the weapons of choice for drug dealers, gangs, and terrorists. While they represent only one percent of privately-owned firearms in this country, assault weapons account for eight percent of the firearms traced to crime -- a disproportionately high number which has been rising in recent years.
 - * And every year, these weapons kill police officers -- men and women who put their lives on the line everyday to keep our communities safe. They are the ones who are out-gunned by the firepower that street criminals now wield with assault weapons.
 - * Law enforcement officials have been unified in their support of taking these weapons off of the streets and out of criminal hands. We cannot ask them to risk their lives in the fight against crime -- and then deny them the help they need.

- * The Administration-supported legislative ban prohibits weapons designed for military combat, but specifically safeguards hunters' rights by explicitly exempting over 650 hunting and recreational guns. Moreover, not all semiautomatic firearms are covered by the ban; only semiautomatic assault weapons -- weapons designed for the battlefields of war -- are prohibited.
- With gun violence most severe among our young people, new steps must be taken to keep guns out of the hands of children. We must pass the Youth Handgun Safety Act so that those under 18 do not have access to guns except in limited, carefully defined circumstances, involving parental authority and legitimate usage.
- We must continue the Treasury Department's effort to adopt certain common sense procedures for the licensing of Federal firearms dealers.
 - * Requiring them to submit a photograph and fingerprints at the time of license application, requiring them to comply with state and local law, giving the Treasury Secretary adequate time to check their backgrounds, requiring the quick reporting of stolen or lost guns, and requiring readier access to their records are simple, reasonable steps.
 - * We should also raise the dealer license fee to cover the costs of conducting dealer background checks. These reforms will help limit Federal firearms licensees to those who are serious about operating as a responsible business, and will therefore improve oversight and regulation by the BATF.
- We should close the existing legal loophole which permits the rearming of felons. Those states which chose to automatically restore a convict's civil rights are making it too easy for felons to buy guns legally.

PUNISHMENT: SENDING A MESSAGE TO CRIMINALS

All the good work done by the law enforcement community is lost if we don't punish those who devastate our neighborhoods. With strict sentences for violent criminals and prisons to put them in, all Americans will be safer.

Criminal Sentencing

- Americans are fed up with the fact that even when violent criminals are caught, they are all too often returned to the streets to victimize again. Tougher and smarter sentencing procedures are needed to make sure that those who deserve to be in prison, don't get out before they should -- and that sentences are appropriate for the crime committed.
- A small number of violent, repeat offenders, commit a great deal of the crime in this country. We must end the revolving door and lock up those offenders for good. The Administration's "Three Strikes and You're Out" proposal sends a strong message that those who repeatedly commit serious violent crimes against others will be punished severely.
 - * Our proposal imposes life imprisonment on a person who commits a serious violent felony under Federal law, after having been previously convicted of two or more serious violent felonies (under either Federal or State law). The proposal is aimed at those offenders who fail to get the message and change their conduct even after repeated convictions for violent offenses. Individuals with such criminal histories should be put away for good.
 - * The proposal is both tough and smart: It targets those truly dangerous offenders in our society without sweeping so broadly as to include persons convicted of crimes that, although serious enough to warrant significant sentences, should not result in mandatory life imprisonment; our proposal limits its coverage to "serious violent felonies," such as murder, rape, sexual abuse, kidnapping, and using a gun in drug crimes.
- We support mandatory minimum sentences for violent and gun offenders, as they provide the certainty of punishment which society rightfully expects for those who commit serious crimes.
 - * This important tool should be used in a targeted, judicious manner to make sure that these sentences apply only to those who deserve such stiff sentences.

- * It is also important that there be a "safety valve" which permits very limited sentencing flexibility in the case of non-violent, low-level, first time offenders. Such individuals must be punished, but the taxpayers should not be asked to house them for the long, mandatory minimum sentences reserved for the most serious threats to society.
- We support certain "truth in sentencing" proposals whereby the Federal Government would encourage states to make criminals serve the time to which they are sentenced. And clearly, states which get tough with violent predators and make them serve their real sentences are going to need to build more prisons. We want to support states with laws which honestly reflect the prison terms those committing violent crimes in their states will serve by favoring them when it comes time to give out Federal grant money for incarcerating violent offenders.
- Those who ruthlessly kill others must be treated as severely as they have treated their victims.
- * We support the expansion of the death penalty to certain appropriate crimes not currently covered by the Federal death penalty, like the killing of a state or local law enforcement official assisting in a Federal investigation.
- * We also favor the adoption of procedures which will enable Federal prosecutors to seek the death penalty for a wide range of crimes that have lacked death penalty eligibility because of missing procedural requirements -- and will insure that this penalty is used fairly, justly, and in appropriate cases only.

Prisons

- We must work to lock up the largest number of violent offenders and criminal aliens, as quickly as possible, at the lowest possible cost.
- The Administration is committed to helping states that are struggling to keep violent criminals and criminal aliens from being released prematurely because of overcrowding. While the Federal Government builds enough prisons and detention facilities to insure that Federal inmates are not released early for lack of space, many states are forced to release criminals routinely due to space limitations.
- States must also contend with severely shrinking resources. There are currently over 15,000 state prison beds which cannot be filled because states lack the necessary operating capital. The safety of our citizens depends upon states being able to keep violent criminals behind bars to do their time.

- The best way to lock up violent offenders quickly and efficiently, and to make our streets safer, is by providing assistance to state correctional and detention systems at a level of approximately \$6.5 billion. Such funding, when made available to the states on a discretionary basis, will allow states to build and operate appropriate facilities for housing serious drug and violent offenders -- including boot camps, prisons, jails, and community detention facilities.

Punishment for Young Offenders

- All too often, young offenders learn that the consequence for committing a crime is to be put on probation. That's it. In other circumstances, young non-violent offenders are thrown in with our most hardened criminals where they learn the "right way" to commit crimes.
- By providing alternative sanctions to probation or hard-core, long-term incarceration, we can teach young offenders that there is a certainty of punishment at the initial stages of a criminal career. That lesson learned might nip a new criminal career in the bud. Some alternative sanctions include: shock incarceration, electronic monitoring, weekend incarceration, home incarceration, restitution programs, vocational programs, community service, intensive supervised probation and other innovative and non-traditional options which ensure swift and certain punishment.
- "Boot Camps" are one such alternative which provide penal authorities with a viable sentencing solution for young offenders. Frequently called "shock incarceration" programs, boot camps place young offenders in a program similar to a military basic training program that instills discipline, routine, and respect for authority. They also provide exposure to relevant educational and vocational training, drug treatment, and general counseling services to develop more positive and law-abiding values and become better prepared to secure legitimate future employment.
- Typically, boot camps target offenders who otherwise would have been sentenced to prison for at least one year. To date, 28 state prison systems are operating 43 boot camp programs with more states planning to follow. While they have their critics, the early data suggests that boot camps are better than prison in terms of recidivism and cost.
- We support lowering the age at which violent offenders can be tried as adults in Federal court, so that young people who don't act like children, won't necessarily be treated like children.

PREVENTION: "SOMETHING TO SAY 'YES' TO"

Just as certainly as we must punish those who break our laws and wreak havoc in our cities, we must also take whatever steps we can to stop crime before it happens. Those who have no hope, no job, no other answer, who know no other way are often drawn to crime and violence. All Americans deserve hope and opportunity; need to know that there is a better answer than crime, and must have the opportunity to go another way.

If we are going to steer young people away from crime and gangs we must provide them with "something to say yes to": after school programs, summer youth activities, and employment, sports and recreation opportunities that can take the place of gangs. We can bring community groups, law enforcement officials, and struggling young Americans together in an effort to keep kids off the path to crime.

Key Prevention Programs in the Administration's Crime Bill

- The President's Youth Employment Skills program "Y.E.S.," contained in the House Crime Bill, will provide young people with job training and opportunities in hard-hit, high-crime areas. We believe that neighborhood youths and young adults will say "YES" to jobs and no to crime. And we must work with existing businesses in these areas to encourage them to stay, expand, and hire young people from the community.
- The Ounce of Prevention Council and programs can provide the vehicle for effectively coordinating and integrating the delivery of the Federal government's new youth development and youth oriented crime prevention initiatives.
- The Police Partnerships for Children program encourages police officers to make a difference in young lives by becoming involved with children and family services agencies that deal with at-risk children.
- The Gang Resistance Education and Training program ("G.R.E.A.T."), is already a proven success, helping kids fight the allure of gang membership through education.
- The Community Schools Initiative of the Ounce of Prevention Program will provide grants to communities across the country to develop and implement afterschool programs for youth, drawing together parents, clergy, social workers, teachers, youth groups, community and business leaders and local officials.
- The Model Intensive Grant Program is a competitive program which will award up to 15 highly targeted grants to support comprehensive crime prevention programs in chronic, high-intensity crime areas.

- The Midnight Sports Program will provide grants to programs designed to prevent youth violence by teaching sportsmanship, teamwork and conflict resolution.
- Programs to place Boys and Girls Clubs in public housing projects -- which are all too often located in high-crime areas -- can provide young people with a meaningful alternative to gangs, drugs, crime and violence.

Enhancing Law Enforcement's Ability to Fight Crime.

- The Clinton Administration's Crime Bill is a blueprint for the effective reduction of crime in both the short- and long-term. Part and parcel to the bill are specific authorization requests that will give law enforcement the resources it needs to successfully implement the President's comprehensive anti-crime plan. Crime Bill authorizations supported by the Administration include:
 - * Funds to hire more prosecutors for gang prosecutions, as well as the support staff and resources new prosecutors require;
 - * Additional funding to hire more Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents to curb drug trafficking on our streets;
 - * Additional funds for law enforcement components and functions of the Treasury Department to help meet increased law enforcement responsibilities;
 - * \$250 million targeted for rural law enforcement grants to reduce drug trafficking in rural areas;
 - * A comprehensive grant program with increased funding for criminal justice and law enforcement assistance in sexual and domestic violence cases;
 - * \$300 million in increased judiciary funding for effective Crime Bill implementation;
 - * Grants administered to local prosecutors who are trying to deal with the serious and growing problem of gang and juvenile violence;
 - * Authority necessary to increase the number of Border Patrol agents by 6,000 over the next five years; and
 - * Grants for computerized automation and other technological improvements in law enforcement, as well as for an expansion of Federal training programs for state and local law enforcement officers.

Drug Courts

- We will never control crime until we control substance abuse. We must get the hard core drug users -- the 20% of cocaine users who consume over 2/3 of available cocaine -- off the streets and into treatment. Effective, innovative programs, like drug courts use the power of the criminal justice systems to force addicts to kick their drug habits.
 - * Adequately funded and administered drug treatment and coerced abstinence programs are critical to breaking the drug and violent crime cycle that has so heavily burdened our criminal justice system.
 - * We support a basic program which includes an intensive supervision of the participants by the court, drug testing and treatment, and the prompt application of a series of graduated sanctions for failure to comply with the conditions of the program.
 - * The program can be administered on a pre-trial diversion basis, as a post-conviction probation program, or in combination.

Violence Against Women

- Action must be taken to stop and/or more severely penalize those criminals who prey, intentionally, upon women. New Federal laws and programs can help prevent some attacks and improve after the fact restitution for the victims of others.
 - * The proposed Violence Against Women Federal cause of action for gender-motivated violence is both fair and smart. It's fair because it addresses those situations in which victims are without redress due to inadequate state remedies, and allows victims improved access to Federal courts. It's smart because it does not clog Federal dockets by automatically labelling whole categories of offenses as gender-motivated.
 - * We should also be focusing on the interstate incidents of criminal abuse and violence against women, recognizing the Federal criminal justice system's role in such matters. We should create appropriate new Federal offenses in this area, such as fleeing across state lines in violation of a "stay away" or protective order.
 - * Finally, we should increase funding to reduce and prevent violence against women. By putting money into enforcement, training, and other prevention approaches, we can effectively respond to crime and prevent many crimes.

PAYING FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME

- The Administration anti-crime program is, appropriately, an ambitious one. It will cost money, but it will cost us even more to let things continue in the direction they're going.
- We propose to make a swap -- taking away money for the salaries of Federal employees and spending it instead in the fight against crime.
- By reducing the Federal bureaucracy by over 250,000 employees over the next five years, we will have the money we need to fight crime.
- As the Federal Government is cut, the savings will be put in a Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund, to be used only for crime fighting programs.
- Over the course of six years, the fund will hold over \$28 billion dollars, with \$2.4 billion dollars available right away, this year, for anti-crime efforts.
- The more money we save from cutting the Federal bureaucracy, the more money we will have to spend on anti-crime programs.
- By making crime the budget priority it should be, we can fund the programs we should -- we can focus on both punishment and prevention as we need to if we're going to take on the crime problem in this country.

Independence

End of WWI → Red Scare

Progers

A KKK

If you cut ppl ~~down~~ from ~~main~~ —
more insecure/anxiety

Weinman's

- conservative ppl → become radical right when forced to absorb more & then can absorb
- human analogies —
 - keep fighting & fighting despite ppl beating down
 - H. Juan got a lot done - not easily -
- A disorienting time for them bc didn't want to take up 1st Bundes / modern world

No comparison of BC w/ H. Trueman

Soldiers in the same army

we have deferred his dream for 10 yrs — now

we can achieve it

Amer. ppl rise above it

Truman

- get ppl to do things they do it was
- get ppl to do things w/o them knowing it

Spirit of Truman

Ppl want to  —

Time 6 As -
Single engine

Our job is to build a bridge for the future

PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
REMARKS VIA SATELLITE TO UNITY '94 CONVENTION IN ATLANTA
THE WHITE HOUSE
JULY 29, 1994

Thank you, Connie. Hello to everyone in Atlanta at the "Unity '94" convention. And congratulations to the four minority journalists' associations, which are meeting together for the first time at this groundbreaking occasion.

We are living in an extraordinary time, when people in America and across the entire world are searching for common ground.

This week, the King of Jordan and the Prime Minister of Israel shared a stage on the White House lawn and opened a new era of dialogue and cooperation between their peoples. At about the same time, halfway around the world, the President of Russia made an announcement that by the end of August, for the first time since the end of World War II, all Russian troops would be gone from Germany and Central and Eastern Europe.

Over and over, we have learned from experiences like these that people can transcend great historical, political, and cultural obstacles in the name of progress.

And we have also learned that, here at home, the American people are our greatest asset as we try to meet the challenges of a new century.

All of us can take pride that we have helped Arabs and Israelis and other former enemies bridge their differences. But their examples must also inspire us to strengthen our own sense of community and celebrate the rich diversity of American culture.

The job of your associations is to see that more Americans of diverse backgrounds, races and ethnic heritage have an equal chance in journalism. It's also to make sure that the nation sees the faces and hears the voices of non-white Americans whose ideas and achievements too often are ignored. My job here in Washington is to ensure that every citizen has an equal chance at the American Dream.

I've said many times -- and I firmly believe -- that America does not have a single person to waste. Every person, no matter his or her background, has an idea, a vision, an opinion to share that can enrich our nation.

That's why I've been fighting to create new opportunities for people who work hard, take responsibility and try to make something of their lives. I believe that every person has something to give. And we have to make it possible for them to

give their best.

One of my proudest accomplishments as President is the people I have appointed to serve in my Administration. If you look at the top positions in the White House and Cabinet today, you'll see the most able, most talented group ever assembled. These appointees also happen to make up the most diverse administration in American history.

If you look at our nominations to the federal bench you will see that a higher percentage of them have been rated "well-qualified" by the American Bar Association than in any previous Administration since these rankings have been made. A majority of those appointees are people of color and women -- not a minority, but a majority, for the first time ever.

None of these people were chosen because they were African American, or Hispanic, or Asian-American, or American Indian, or because they were women. They were selected because they were the best qualified for the job.

And they are proof that the American Dream is still alive and within reach for those who choose to pursue it.

Still, we must not ignore the burdens and barriers that prevent too many of our people from moving forward in their lives. *MA 1610*

I sought the presidency because I was worried that our country was going in the wrong direction. The deficit was getting bigger. The economy was on the decline. And Washington was placing heavier and heavier burdens on the backs of middle class Americans.

In just 18 months, we have begun to renew the American Dream. Our economic strategy will produce the smallest federal bureaucracy in 30 years and three years in a row of deficit reduction for the first time since Harry Truman was president. The economy has created 3.8 million new jobs and core inflation is the lowest in two decades.

Today we have seen more evidence that America is bearing the fruit of economic change. Today's growth report demonstrates that while the deficit and the federal bureaucracy are shrinking, the private sector continues to grow stronger and stronger. *rept that GDP grew at 3.7% inflation remained low*

Most important, we are reaching out with greater energy and compassion to responsible, working families who too often have to struggle to make ends meet.

Already, in just a year and a half, we have offered real tax relief to 15 million working parents through an expanded Earned Income Tax Credit. We have made it easier for young people to get

by making available loans w/ lower rates & better repayment for millions
to college. We have established greater job training and school-to-work apprenticeships to help people find and keep good jobs.

We've sought tax incentives and grant money to stimulate the economies in needy areas, through things like our Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities; new Community Development Banks; reform of the Community Reinvestment Act; and by making the low income housing credit permanent.

Some of these achievements have come easier than others. But I didn't ask for this job because I thought progress would be easy. I asked for it so I could fight for the kind of change that Americans demanded.

And it's been worth it. Because all of our hard work has brought us to a pivotal, exciting moment in our history. This week alone has been a remarkable one for our nation. We are on the verge of an historic victory -- the toughest, largest, smartest federal attack on crime in the history of the United States.

Think for a minute about what this crime bill means for all of us as American citizens. For all of us as mothers and fathers and husbands and wives and children. Look at the cost of crime to the economy. Look at the cost of crime to our sense of community and to the idea that we are an American family. Look at the cost of crime to our efforts to empower every individual, including far too many young people who are growing up in terribly difficult circumstances.

Crime is holding too many Americans back from reaching the American Dream. It's splintering families. It's making people fear their neighbors. It's interfering with our children's educations. It's robbing too many of us of our freedoms.

Whatever other goals we seek for ourselves, our families, our children -- and for our nation -- we have to be able to live together with a shared respect for law, order, and civility.

The most important thing about the crime bill is that it creates a whole new way of thinking about how to deal with crime -- one that doesn't pit one group of Americans against another. It doesn't ask us to make a false choice between severe punishment and strong prevention. It calls for a sensible balance between the two. It doesn't ask us to make a false choice between going after criminals and going after guns. It recognizes that those sorts of debates divided us for too long while more and more children were dying on our streets.

This Crime Bill strengthens our police, our system of punishment, and our means of prevention.

It will put 100,000 more police on the streets -- a 20

percent increase in the number of police officers patrolling our neighborhoods today. More police, trained and deployed properly, means less crime.

It includes a ban on assault-style weapons, something few people ever dreamed could be accomplished. ^{hand in} ^{under} ^{minors} ^{safe} ^{schools} And it will send a strong message to criminals that their behavior will not be tolerated and that punishment will be tough and swift.

It will invest \$9 billion in crime prevention over the next six years -- something that law enforcement officers in every state and every city asked us to do. That money will help give young people more safe places to go, more positive role models, and more opportunities to fulfill themselves in healthy, constructive ways.

For six years this crime bill was debated over and over again. Why is it about to succeed? Because after intense argument and disagreement, all the different interests involved were able to find a common ground. They were able to put people over politics. And now I want Congress to put this bill on my desk within two weeks so that I can sign it before our children go back to school.

If you think six years was long enough to wait for a crime bill, 60 years is far too long to wait before every American is guaranteed health security that can never be taken away. And health security is another crucial piece of the American Dream.

Many people across this country know what it's like to dig and scrape all their lives to have the opportunities that you have been given and have earned. If you're like me, you know somebody without health insurance or somebody at risk of losing their insurance. You know somebody whose coverage is so meager they avoid the doctor because it costs too much. You know people who are eager to work but are trapped in the welfare system because it's the only way they can be assured of health care coverage for their families.

We know these people because there are millions and millions of them out there. People who struggle all their lives and play by the rules so that they can move forward, make progress, build some security for their families, only to be knocked off the ladder because of a pink slip, a catastrophic illness, or a simple change in jobs.

We're moving in the wrong direction with our health care system. We're moving in the wrong direction when five million hard-working people -- people with jobs -- lost their insurance in the last five years.

Ever since I began pushing for reform, I've made it clear that I was open to suggestions about how to achieve it. I

listened to concerns about our approach. And in response we modified that approach to make it simpler, more flexible, more sensitive to the needs of small business.

goals
goals
~~What I have not modified -- and will not modify -- are the underlying values of reform. We must give every American health security that is guaranteed in law. We must have a system where everyone shares responsibility. And we must have a system that works. That is certainly what the vast majority of Americans want.~~

We know from experiences across the country what works and what doesn't work. We've seen in state after state that, if you have reform without universal coverage, your costs continue to go up and your options for care go down.

only seek to reform the rules - not coverage, while that may seem to be a
And we know from looking at Hawaii that a system of universal coverage in which employers and employees share responsibility for paying for premiums will not only control costs but will also lead to a healthier population. *compass to do, the liberal results*

We know it can be done.

I'm heartened to be able to tell you that House Speaker Foley and Majority Leader Gephardt said today they would put forward a bill that achieves universal coverage and controls costs. Their bill also recognizes that shared responsibility is the best way to meet those goals. *the rate of premium will go up & that will*

And after 60 years of waiting, it's time to say to every American: if you change jobs, if you get sick, if you are laid-off, if your child has a serious illness, you will always be able to afford health care as a citizen of the richest nation on earth. *will*

Tomorrow I will travel to Independence, Missouri -- to Harry Truman's hometown -- to talk about health care. Harry Truman was a man of great decency and common sense who believed that America would be stronger if every American had health security. He was right. And that's why President after President has fought for that goal. *for the other hand, we know frankly at Hawaii that a*

Now it's up to us to fulfill their vision and renew the American Dream. It's time to build on our economic progress, build on the success of the crime bill, and take the next critical step by passing real, substantive health care reform. That is the challenge our generation faces today. And that is our opportunity. *that's right share esp gives you greater*

Thank you.

See, more cov, lower costs to small biz,

President William J. Clinton
Unity '94 convention of minority journalist associations
live satellite feed to Atlanta
July 29, 1994

Thank you Chief Mankiller. Hello to everyone in Atlanta at the "Unity '94" convention. And congratulations to the four journalist associations, which are meeting together for the first time at this ground breaking occasion.

We are living in an extraordinary time, when people in America and across the entire world are searching for common ground.

Wilma and I last shared the stage on the White House lawn, back in April, when the American Indian and Alaska Native tribal leaders came together for the first time ever. On that same spot this week, the King of Jordan and the Prime Minister of Israel opened a new era of dialogue and cooperation between their peoples.

Hopes for new partnerships make it possible while the new global economy makes it necessary. Investment and ideas travel farther and faster than ever before. Amidst all of this movement, however, the greatest asset of America remains our people.

That's why I am working to bring the American community together, strengthen our economy and empower our people to live up to the best of their God-given potential.

The job of your associations is to see that more Americans of diverse backgrounds, races and ethnic heritage have an equal chance in journalism. My job here in Washington is to see that every citizen has an equal chance at the American Dream.

This administration is creating new opportunities to reward people who take responsibility for changing their own lives, to move America away from exclusion to inclusion, from dependence to independence, and from paternalism to empowerment.

From the beginning, this administration has sought to lead by example. From day one, we have had the most diverse cabinet, diverse White House staff and most inclusive administration in American history.

Consider our nominations to the federal bench. A majority of them are people of color and women -- not a minority, but a majority, for the first time ever. A higher percentage of our appointees have been rated "well-qualified" by the American Bar Association than those of any administration since these rankings have been made.

I'm proud of the inclusive record of this administration. But we all know that across our country, barriers still prevent

many of our people from realizing the American Dream. There are too many Americans working harder, stretching budgets thinner and running faster just to stay in place.

In a year and a half, we've removed stubborn barriers that kept people from climbing up the ladder of achievement. We expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit for 15 million working parents. These are full time workers who shouldn't have to raise their children in poverty.

We made it easier for young people to get to college. We're helping our people to become productive members of America's workforce, through job training, school-to-work apprenticeships and other innovative efforts.

We've pursued tax incentives and grant money to encourage investment in needy communities: through Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities; new Community Development Banks; reform of the Community Reinvestment Act; and by making the low income housing credit permanent.

We've worked on all of this after cutting the deficit by 255 billion dollars. We are watching the deficit go down for three years in a row for the first time since Harry Truman was President. The federal bureaucracy is at its lowest level since Kennedy was President. The best result is 3.8 million new jobs.

And now, at this very moment, we are on the verge of seeing action on two important fronts for the first time in years. I'm talking about a national, comprehensive anti-crime bill, and health care reform.

[Crime Bill news insert]

Crime is holding too many Americans back from reaching the American Dream. It splinters families. It makes people fear their neighbors. It divides us more than anything. The Crime Bill in Congress is about giving our people the tools to join together to make their communities safe.

It would put 100,000 more police on the streets. More police, trained and deployed properly, means less crime.

This Crime Bill also makes a massive investment in the next generation of Americans. It will invest nine billion dollars in crime prevention over the next six years. It will give young people more safe places to go to. More role models and positive influences. More job opportunities and hope.

The Crime Bill is about giving more of our children clear pathways into adulthood. It's about improving the way America raises its young people. It's about replacing the illegal activity on our streets with economic activity in our

neighborhoods.

Another obstacle on the road to advancement is health care. Some people dig and scrape all their lives. They do all they can to move forward, make progress, build some security for their families, only to be knocked off the ladder because of a pink slip, a catastrophic illness, or a simple change in jobs.

If you're like me, you know somebody without insurance or somebody at risk of losing their insurance. You know somebody whose coverage is so meager they avoid the doctor because it costs too much. You know people who want to go to work and raise their families right, but their lack of health care traps them in the welfare system, because it's the one place where their coverage can never be taken away.

That's the system we have right now, and it's wrong. For 18 months, I've been fighting for health care that gives everybody a fair chance. I want health care that covers everybody, because universal coverage is the only way to protect everybody and bring costs under control at the same time.

Our people understand that. Poll after poll shows that 70 percent -- even 80 percent -- of our people want universal coverage. So, don't let a few noisy naysayers drown out the rest of us who know what's right.

Some in Congress are looking for the easy vote, the half-measure that lets them say they are for health care without really doing much to guarantee it. But across America, in state after state, the partial solutions have not worked. Only Hawaii, with universal coverage, has done the right thing and brought costs under control. It's time we made health care work for all Americans across the board.

We ought to say to every American: if you change jobs, if you get sick, if you are laid-off, if your child develops an illness -- whatever your situation -- you will always be able to afford health care as a citizen of the richest nation on earth.

Every American deserves a place at the table and a chance at the American Dream. That's why I want health care that covers everybody; more opportunity for people who take responsibility; a Crime Bill and economic incentives that encourage everyone in our communities to work together.

Many of you know that barriers aren't broken overnight; great victories are never won without a struggle.

At this very moment, we are in a struggle for the Crime Bill and health care. The work is hard; but we've seen movement, and there's more movement to come. And, if we keep working hard in the weeks ahead, I know we will finally get it done. Thank you.

PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
REMARKS VIA SATELLITE TO UNITY '94 CONVENTION IN ATLANTA
THE WHITE HOUSE
JULY 29, 1994

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Over and over, we have learned from experiences like these that people can transcend great historical, political, and cultural obstacles in the name of progress.

And we have also learned that, here at home, the American people are our greatest asset as we try to meet the challenges of a new century.

All of us can take pride that we have helped Arabs and Israelis and other former enemies bridge their differences. But their examples must also inspire us to strengthen our own sense of community and celebrate the rich diversity of American culture.

The job of your associations is to see that more Americans of different backgrounds, races and ethnic heritage have an equal chance in journalism. It's also to make sure that the nation sees the faces and hears the voices of non-white Americans whose ideas and achievements too often are ignored. My job here in Washington is to ensure that every citizen has an equal chance at the American Dream.

I've said many times -- and I firmly believe -- that America does not have a single person to waste. Every person, no matter his or her background, has an idea, a vision, an opinion to share

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that can enrich our nation.

That's why I've been fighting to create new opportunities for people who work hard, take responsibility and try to make something of their lives. I believe that every person has something to give. And we have to make it possible for them to give their best.

One of my proudest accomplishments as President is the people I have appointed to serve in my Administration. If you look at the top positions in the White House and Cabinet today, you'll see the most able, most talented group ever assembled. These appointees also happen to make up the up the most diverse administration in American history.

If you look at our nominations to the federal bench you will see that a higher percentage of them have been rated "well-qualified" by the American Bar Association than in any previous Administration since these rankings have been made. A majority of those appointees are people of color and women -- not a minority, but a majority, for the first time ever.

None of these people were chosen because they were African American, or Hispanic, or Asian-American, or American Indian, or because they were women. They were selected because they were the best qualified for the job.

And they are proof that the American Dream is still alive and within reach for those who choose to pursue it.

Still, we must not ignore the burdens and barriers that prevent too many of our people from moving forward in their lives.

I sought the presidency because I was worried that our country was going in the wrong direction. The deficit was getting bigger. The economy was on the decline. And Washington was placing heavier and heavier burdens on the backs of middle class Americans.

In just 18 months, we ^{have} ~~begin~~ ^{to renew} ~~the work of renewing~~ the American Dream. Our economic strategy will produce the smallest federal bureaucracy in 30 years and three years in a row of deficit reduction for the first time since Harry Truman was president. The economy has created 3.8 million new jobs and core inflation is the lowest in two decades.

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Most important, we have reached out with greater energy and compassion to responsible, working families who too often have to struggle to make ends meet.

Already, in just a year and a half, we have offered real tax relief to 15 million working parents through an expanded Earned

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We've sought tax incentives and grant money to stimulate the economies in needy areas, through things like our Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities; new Community Development Banks; reform of the Community Reinvestment Act; and by making the low income housing credit permanent.

Some of these achievements have come easier than others. But I didn't ask for this job because I thought progress would be easy. I asked for it so I could fight for the kind of change that Americans demanded.

And it's been worth it. Because all of our hard work has brought us to a pivotal, exciting moment in our history. This week alone has been a remarkable one for our nation. We are on the verge of an historic victory -- the toughest, largest, smartest federal attack on crime in the history of the United States. Check

Think for a minute about what this crime bill means for all of us as American citizens. For all of us as mothers and fathers and husbands and wives and children. Look at the cost of crime to the economy. Look at the cost of crime to our sense of community and to the idea that we are an American family. Look at the cost of crime to our efforts to empower every individual, including far too many young people who are growing up in terribly difficult circumstances.

Crime is holding too many Americans back from reaching the American Dream. It's splintering families. It's making people fear their neighbors. It's interfering with our children's educations. It's robbing too many of us of our freedoms.

Whatever other goals we seek for ourselves, our families, our children -- and for our nation -- we have to be able to live together with a shared respect for law, order, and civility.

The most important thing about the crime bill is that it creates a whole new way of thinking about how to deal with crime -- one that doesn't pit one group of Americans against another. It doesn't ask us to make a false choice between severe punishment and strong prevention. It calls for a sensible balance between the two. It doesn't ask us to make a false choice between going after criminals and going after guns. It recognizes that those sorts of debates divided us for too long while more and more children were dying on our streets.

This Crime Bill strengthens our police, our system of punishment, and our means of prevention. It accomplishes what our law enforcement officers, who risk their lives every day fighting

crime, asked us to do.

It will put 100,000 more police on the streets -- a 20 percent increase in the number of police officers patrolling our neighborhoods today. More police, trained and deployed properly, means less crime.

It includes a ban on assault-style weapons, something few people ever dreamed could be accomplished. And it will send a strong message to criminals that their behavior will not be tolerated and that punishment will be tough and swift.

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For six years this crime bill was debated over and over again. Why did it finally succeed? Because after intense argument and disagreement, all the different interests involved were able to find a common ground. They were able to put people over politics. And now I want Congress to put this bill on my desk within two weeks so that I can sign it before our children go back to school.

If you think six years was long enough to wait for a crime bill, 60 years is far too long to wait before every American is guaranteed health security that can never be taken away. And health security is ~~another~~ *crucial* piece of the American Dream.

Many people across this country know what *it is* like to dig and scrape all their lives to have the opportunities that you and I enjoy. *And if* you're like me, you know somebody without health insurance or somebody at risk of losing their insurance. You know somebody whose coverage is so meager they avoid the doctor because it costs too much. You know people who are eager to work but are trapped in the welfare system because it's the only way they can be assured of health care coverage for their families. *have been given and have learned.*

we
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We're moving in the wrong direction with our health care system. We're moving in the wrong direction when five million hard-working people -- people with jobs -- lost their insurance in the last year.

Ever since I began pushing for reform, I've made it clear that I was open to suggestions about how to achieve it. I

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listened to concerns about my approach. And in response ~~I~~ ^{we} modified it to make it simpler, more flexible, more sensitive to the needs of small business.

What I have not modified -- and will not modify -- are the underlying values of reform. We must give every American health security that is guaranteed in law. We must have a system where everyone shares responsibility. And we must have a system that works. That is certainly what the vast majority of Americans want.

We know from experiences across the country what works and what doesn't work. We've seen in state after state that, if you have reform without universal coverage, your costs continue to go up and your options for care go down.

And we know from looking at Hawaii that a system of universal coverage in which employers and employees share responsibility for paying for premiums will not only control costs but will also lead to a healthier population.

We know it can be done.

And after 60 years of waiting, it's time to say to every American: if you change jobs, if you get sick, if you are laid-off, if your child has a serious illness, you will always be able to afford health care as a citizen of the richest nation on earth.

Tomorrow I will travel to Independence, Missouri -- to Harry Truman's home state -- to talk about health care. Harry Truman was a man of great decency and common sense who believed that America would be stronger if every American had health security. He was right.

Now it's up to us to fulfill his vision and renew the American Dream. It's time to build on our economic progress, build on the success of the crime bill, and take the next critical step by passing real, substantive health care reform. That is the challenge our generation faces today. And that is our opportunity.

Thank you, and God bless all of you.

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And I'm pleased to be able to tell you that House Speaker Foley and Majority Leader Gephardt said today they would put forward a bill that achieves universal coverage and controls costs. Their bill also recognizes that shared responsibility is the best way to meet those goals.

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