

*Crime  
Speeches*

Our job was to stop the blame game Washington has become famous for, and to move forward. We moved forward by cutting 270,000 bureaucrats to fund 100,000 cops and build 100,000 new prison cells. We moved forward by making 3 strikes the law of the land. We moved forward by granting the death penalty for cop killing and prosecuting juveniles as adults when their crime warrants such punishment.

These are the right and necessary steps in the fight against crime and violence. But alone they will not win. And with all your efforts and new resources at hand you alone will not win the fight against crime and violence.

The real fight, the real battle in the war on crime starts at home. Unless parents begin to turn off the t.v., demand that their children do their homework, and teach them the difference between right and wrong our efforts will be in vain.

When one ten year old child can throw a five year old out of a window to his death with no sense of remorse, we know this is one battle we have already lost. We have a national tragedy on our hands, when at the ages of ten and eleven, two Chicago youths threaten a five-year-old boy's life for not agreeing to steal for them and then throw him to his death for knowing the difference between right and wrong. These two boys at ten and eleven, both had criminal records and both had fathers in jail. I'm not just talking about a bully in the playground, I'm talking about a long criminal record. With a ten and eleven year old already on a steady course of violence, it is clear that parents must turn their efforts to the youngest generation and teach them the difference between right and wrong.

You and I have formed a partnership to do everything we can to target scarce resources towards a long neglected problem. I now ask parents to form a new partnership with their children to teach them right from wrong. The most important tool in the fight against crime -- the most essential resource we have -- is the moral education of our children. And that is the responsibility of parents, not of our government, our courts, or our police. It doesn't cost money and it doesn't require a new bureaucracy, it requires parental attention.

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Speeches*

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary  
(Albuquerque, New Mexico)

For Immediate Release

October 17, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
TO THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
CHIEFS OF POLICE

Albuquerque Convention Center  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

11:38 A.M. MDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Chief Daughtry, Chief Whetsel, ladies and gentlemen of the IACP, I am honored to be here. I love the jacket -- (laughter) -- and I love what it stands for. I thank you more than I can say for your help and support in passing the Brady Bill and the Crime Bill.

I'd like to acknowledge in this audience today the presence of some very important people here in the State of New Mexico and throughout our nation. First of all, behind me, the Governor of the state of New Mexico, Governor Bruce King. (Applause.) Bruce and I are the only -- two of the only three people serving in America who were governors in the '70s, the '80s and the '90s. I don't know what that means anymore. (Laughter.) I can barely remember them.

I'm delighted to be here with the two senators from the state of New Mexico, Senator Domenici and Senator Bingaman who are out there. (Applause.) Congressman Steve Schiff, congressman from this district, is here. Thank you, sir. (Applause.) My good friend, Congressman Bill Richardson, who was very active in passing the Crime Bill. Where's Congressman Richardson -- he's here somewhere. Thank you. (Applause.) And, of course, the mayor, Mayor Marty Chavez, who is one of my jogging partners, is here. (Laughter and applause.)

I want to also say that, you know, I think I have more administration members who have been active in this outfit than previous presidents. (Laughter.) Your ex-president, Lee Brown, is now our Drug Czar. Your ex-vice president, Tom Constantine, is now our DEA Administrator. (Applause.) The head of the U.S. Marshal Service, Eduardo Gonzalez, was Tampa Bay Chief and once active in this organization. So I feel at home

here.

I think our FBI Director is here -- I want to tell a story on him. Is Louis Freeh here somewhere? Tomorrow -- he's coming tomorrow? It's the first time I've been ahead of him in a long time. (Laughter.)

I want to tell you a story about the -- since this is an international organization, one of the things that I have really tried to do as President is to build international cooperation in law enforcement. It's important in dealing with drugs, it's important in dealing with terrorism, it's important in dealing with organized crime.

Lee Brown and Tom Constantine, both of them, as you know, have major responsibilities that go beyond our nation's borders, as you would expect, in dealing with the drug problems. But the FBI Director, Mr. Freeh, also took a very popular trip to Europe and to Russia not very long ago, and slightly after that when I was following him, instead of the other way around, I went to Riga, Latvia to celebrate the withdrawal of Russian forces from Eastern Europe for the first time since World War II, and from the Baltic States. And we had this meeting with the heads of the government of Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia; and, so help me, the first thing the President of Latvia said is, can we have an FBI office in Riga? (Laughter.)

Now, it's funny and it's flattering, but it's also serious. Why? Because as these countries convert from totalitarian societies to free societies, as they become much more open, they become much more vulnerable to organized crime, because they haven't developed their banking system and their trading rules and their business rules. And that relates to whether they, themselves, then become more vulnerable to drug-trafficking and to terrorism, and to trafficking in weapons of mass destruction or stolen nuclear materials, or any of that sort of thing.

So I say to you -- I'll make you a prediction: For the next 10 years when you meet, more and more and more, your concentration will have to be on the international aspects of the crime problem which affects what you do on the streets in your cities and towns throughout the United States.

I'd like to talk a little today about the Crime Bill and what it means against the background of the crime problem in America. And the state of play, as you know, is very troubling, because the good news is that in many of our cities, the crime rate is actually going down. The Mayor of Odessa, Texas was in town the other day when we handed out the first wave of grants, police grants, under the new Crime Bill only two weeks after the bill was signed, and she said they'd had a drop in the crime rate in excess of 15 percent for three years running because of community policing, because of what law enforcement officers have

done. The Mayor of Houston was reelected with 91 percent of the vote after they had over a 20-percent drop in crime in only one year there.

This is happening in many cities and towns throughout the country. On the other hand, we know that a lot of small towns and suburban areas having rising crime because as cities clamp down on crime, a lot of times the criminals just move their base of operation, and they're not as well equipped to deal with it.

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

The point I want to make about all this is that this is a manifestation of trends that have been developing in our country for quite a long while now. We have had, really, 30 years -- a whole generation and more -- of these trends that have been developing in a lot of the high-crime areas in America -- the breakdown of families and community organizations and neighborhood organizations; the loss of economic opportunity, creating huge social vacuums into which have moved gangs and guns and drugs and crime and violence.

I wanted this Crime Bill to pass very badly because I believed that the national government had a responsibility to help you deal with it. But we have to look at what we can do together within the Crime Bill and then what we have to do beyond the Crime Bill, because we're going to have to change this country from the grass roots up. We're going to have to change the culture that a lot of these kids live in. And you can do it; I can do it; parents can do it; but we're all going to have to do it. And there is clearly something for everybody to do.

The first job I ever had as an elected official was as Attorney General of my state. And I began to work with law enforcement on a regular basis. Then I was governor for a dozen years -- the years when crime was exploding in America. I built prison cells. I devised work programs. I put in education programs and drug education programs and boot camps for first offenders. I enforced the capital punishment laws and tried to find ways to rehabilitate people who were getting out. I went to funerals of police officers who were friends and family members of friends of mine who died in the line of duty.

Dealing with all this has made an indelible impression on me. And when I became President, I guess I had in that sense more personal experience with the human cost and the human side of crime and law enforcement than a lot of people who have had this job. I was determined to bring an end to six years of political debate in Washington and to pass the Brady Bill, which had been there for seven years, to pass a crime bill, which

had been debated for six years -- because I knew that we had some things that we had to do. I am doing my best where I live and where I work to get this country together and to move our country forward again.

I think my mission as President is to keep the American Dream alive and to help make sure Americans can compete and win as we move into this exciting 21st century by making government work for ordinary people and by bringing this economy back, by making us more secure and more prosperous in our relations with the rest of the world.

After 21 months, I can tell you I think that we've made a good start. America's in better shape than it was two years ago. We've got more jobs, low inflation, a much lower deficit. Over 70 percent of the new jobs coming into our economy this year, according to a report just published today, are higher wage jobs; we're moving away from the time when all of our new jobs were low-wage jobs.

We've got a smaller federal government by more than 70,000 already that's doing more for ordinary citizens. The Congress just passed, and I signed a procurement bill which changes the way we spend your money when we buy things, and it'll put an end to the \$500 hammers and the \$50 ash trays. The Vice President kind of has mixed feelings about that; he'll never get to go on David Letterman again now because of that, but it was the right thing to do. (Laughter.)

Russian missiles are no longer pointed at the United States. We've got big increases in trade that are fueling these high-wage jobs, and now America is leading the way to peace and security and democracy, as you've seen in the last few days in the Middle East and Northern Ireland and Eastern Europe and, of course, in Haiti.

But all of us know, I think, that no matter how much economic progress we made, no matter how much progress we make in dealing with trouble spots around the world, there will be a gnawing feeling that all is not right in America until our children feel safe in their schools and on their streets, and Americans feel secure in their homes and at their work.

We have to do things that will go beyond talking, that will actually reduce the rates of crime and violence in the United States, that will actually make sure that more of our children do say "no" to drugs and gangs and guns, and "yes" to books and to Boys and Girls Clubs and to games. That's what the Brady Bill was all about; that's what the Crime Bill was all about. It was the national government's contribution to a national effort to really change the way Americans are living, to change the way they feel inside. And it is terribly important.

I was in Detroit the other day doing an editorial

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

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

These are the voices of the children of America across racial and income and regional lines, telling us that we have to do better. That is what this is about. Well, we are doing better, but there's more to be done. The Brady Bill has made a difference -- all of you know it. There are thousands of people who have already been denied weapons who were not entitled to them, who had a criminal background, who would have gotten them if it hadn't been for the Brady Bill. (Applause.)

And the Crime Bill will make a difference. We have evidence of that. Before the Crime Bill passed last year, I asked Congress to make a down payment on our commitment to put 100,000 more police officers on the street. And the Congress funded another 2,000 police officers. Last week when we gave out the first police grants under the Crime Bill, Chief David Massey from Ocean City, Maryland came with the police officers he'd hired under the first grant. One of them was an ex-linebacker at the University of Maryland -- the sort of person that you just see and you want to ask permission. (Laughter.)

This young man was in a community policing program riding a bicycle in Ocean City. And very soon after he went to work, he caught a serial rapist -- he did, as a community police officer. Now, all the victims that will never be preyed upon by that rapist will never know what they owe to that one young man who is a community police officer. And now we're going to be able to multiply that by 100,000 in every state in this country. (Applause.)

Something else I think that really needs to be pounded home over and over again is that this Crime Bill was fashioned largely by law enforcement officers -- from the punishment programs, to the policing programs, to the prevention programs, it was the law enforcement officers who shaped what was in it. You said we ought to have three strikes and you're out because there were some violent criminals who kept getting

paroled because they were lucky enough not to have severe consequences to the victims of their crimes. But what they tried to do was terrible. That's what the purpose of three strikes and you're out was.

You said that too many people were getting out too quick because there wasn't enough prison space, so there's provision for 100,000 more prison cells in this bill. Never been done before. The federal government had never before helped to build prison space for states. You said that we ought to have capital punishment if someone kills a police officer and it's in the bill. (Applause.)

You said it ought to be against the law for a minor to carry a handgun except when supervised by an adult. It's in the bill. You said we should do more for victims of crime. You said we should make a serious assault on the problems faced by women and children -- the problems of domestic violence and neighborhood violence. You said we should do more to make schools safer. You said we should do more to give our kids some prevention programs, some things they could say "yes" to -- places to go, things to do, good things to do. Maybe most important, good people to look up to when they can't find that at home.

When the NRA tried to take the assault weapons ban out of the Crime Bill, you stood firmly in favor of leaving it in -- not because you were against the rights of hunters and sportsmen, but because you knew that there were 650 weapons in the bill specifically protected from any government interference. And to those of you who come from small town and rural areas, you can go home and tell your sportsmen that we are not going to allow the federal government to interfere with the legitimate interest of hunters and sportsmen, but we do not support leaving weapons in the hands of kids, its only purpose is to kill as many people as quickly as they can. (Applause.)

And you said that we ought to have 100,000 more police. Indeed, we probably ought to have more, but that's all we could figure out how to pay for.

For the American now, that's a number that doesn't mean a lot. That's why last week was so important when we had 400 communities coming up and little towns getting one police officer and bigger places getting 25 or 30, because people began to visualize what that means. There are 550,000 police officers in this country. If you add 100,000 and they all go into beat work, if they actually go into working to prevent crime and to catch criminals, it'll be about a 20-percent increase in the presence of police on the street. It will work. It will work. We've had only a 10 percent increase in police officers in the last 30 years, while we've had a 300 percent increase in violent crime. This was a critical component of the Crime Bill.

And today I want to announce two important steps to

get those officers on the streets as quickly as possible. And you will have the release from the Justice Department here today supporting that.

First of all, we're going to make it possible for cities with at least 50,000 people to begin hiring officers immediately, by setting aside some money even before the grants are awarded so that you can know what you're going to get and you can start hiring and training now. And the grants will be there when you put the people on the payroll full-time. (Applause.)

Secondly, for cities and towns of fewer than 50,000 people who don't have a lot of people in clerical departments to help you deal with the federal government, we're going to do for you what we did for small businesspeople applying for SBA loans. We're going to give you a one-page application with about eight questions on it, and you can start filling out them out right now, so that nothing will come between America and the new police officers. (Applause.)

I'd like to end today by asking you to reflect on three things. One is a tribute to how the Congress funded this bill. This is a big bill. It was funded not by raising taxes, not by increasing the deficit, but by reducing the size of the federal government by 270,000 over six years, and giving all the money back to local communities to fight crime. That's how it was funded. (Applause.)

I consider that to be a solemn trust with America that we must not breach. And you will have to work every year for the next six years to make sure that we keep that trust.

The second point I want to make is that for most of its life, this Crime Bill enjoyed broad bipartisan support which dissipated at the end of the debate, as all of you know. It became a political football -- first, because there were some who were honestly willing to sacrifice everything in the Crime Bill to beat the assault weapons ban: to give up the police, to give up the prison cells, to give up the capital punishment provisions, to give up the prevention programs, to give up the violence against women section, to give up the victims against crime section -- to give it all up.

Second, there were some who just thought it was important to kill the bill for political reasons. That's all in the past now; it passed. What I want to say to you is, we have got to make this Crime Bill work -- every provision of it --work. We have got to demonstrate to our people that the money is being well-spent. And we have to find a way to reach out at the grass-roots level across political lines. We have to stop this.

We can't tell the American people they've got to change their behavior to change this country if crime is a partisan political issue. The victims of crime are Republicans,

Democrats and Independents. The people who put on uniforms every day are Democrats, Republicans and Independents. This is about America and our future. We must never again permit crime to be divisive in a partisan political way, and you can stop it and I want you to do it. (Applause.)

And I have to tell you -- the only thing that I really worry about now in that regard is that in this election season, there are many who are campaigning on a contract with America which cost \$1 trillion -- to balance the budget, to increase defense, to revitalize Star Wars, to give huge tax cuts. And there is no clear notion of how this is going to be paid for. But the only option to pay for it is the way it was paid for before: higher deficits and cuts in everything else -- from Medicare to veterans' benefits, to this Crime Bill.

So I ask you: Start today. Say we've fought too hard for this bill, we won it fair and square, let's not take it away indirectly by adopting a commitment to a budgetary process that will make it utterly impossible to fund the Crime Bill. The lives and the future of the American people, and especially our children, are too important. This must not become a political football. The bill is long, the trust is there, we must fund this Crime Bill. We cannot back away, and you must see that it is done. (Applause.)

The third thing I want to say -- and probably one of the most important things -- is that we have now done a major thing with this Crime Bill, and you will do major things with it. But the people of this country have a job to do here, too. We're not here giving things out to the American people, we're here challenging the American people to take their streets and their schools and their neighborhoods and, indeed, their homes back.

And if all of us go out here and say the right things and do the right things, and we get no help from the rest of America, we'll be back here next year and the year after, and the year after that, bemoaning the same problems. And you know that as well as I do.

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

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

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

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

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

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

I am telling you: this country is coming back economically. This country has resources and character and richness and diversity that will open unparalleled opportunities to us in the 21st century. This is a good country. (Applause.)

When the delegation came back from Haiti yesterday, they said that all the Haitian people had these little signs in Creole, painted, and the most popular one said simply, "Thank you, America." They looked at those young men and women we sent down there in uniform and, just by walking around, these young people -- our kids -- they make a statement about what's right and what's wrong; what's good and what's bad; what kind of a person it's worth being -- just by being there and being who they are. And it is thrilling to other people to see the best of this country.

And we need not be worried about that if we just roll up our sleeves and face our challenges and go on. But what

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

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

Thank you, and God bless you all.

END12:10 P.M. MDT

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary  
(Belmont, California)

For Immediate Release

October 22, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
TO THE STUDENTS OF CARLMONT HIGH SCHOOL  
AND IN SIGNING THE PRESIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM:  
"ZERO TOLERANCE FOR GUNS IN SCHOOLS"

Carlmont High School  
Belmont, California

12:11 P.M. PDT

THE PRESIDENT: It's nice to be back in California. It's nice to be here in Belmont. It's nice to be here at Carlmont High School. (Applause.) I'm honored to be the first President to come here. And it's only fair that I came here to see your principal, since he didn't get to come and see me. (Applause.)

Now, that should not be interpreted as a sign of dissatisfaction with the lady who got to be the principal of the year; but he would have made an awful good one. (Laughter.) And he sounds to me like the principal of the year here. (Applause.)

I want to say how very honored I am to be here with all of you. I thank Mayor Riande for her welcome; Mayor Davids for what he said. I thank them for their leadership and their devotion to public service at the grass roots level, where so many of our problems and challenges have to be met.

I thank Congressman Lantos and Congresswoman Eshoo for not only being my friends but for their extraordinary service in Washington. I can tell you that there is this popular feeling, I think, that nearly everybody who goes off to Washington has something bad happen to them and forgets about the folks back home -- they do not. And they represent you well, and you should be very proud of them. (Applause.)

I'm also very pleased to be joined today by your State Treasurer Kathleen Brown. (Applause.) And your State Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi. (Applause.) Thank you, John. (Applause.)

I'd like to introduce one other person, too, who is my partner in these education endeavors, a former colleague of mine and former Governor of Vermont and now the Deputy Secretary of Education, come all the way from Washington with me today, Governor Madeleine Kunin. (Applause.) Please make her feel welcome. (Applause.)

I want to say a little more about Senator Feinstein in a moment, in connection with this work, but I appreciate what she said today.

But let me begin by saying that, as all of you know, I had the opportunity to spend a great deal of time in this magnificent state of yours a couple of years ago. And since I have been President I think I've been back here a dozen times. I've worked on the emergencies for California, like the earthquake and the fires; I've worked on trying to get the economy of this state going again -- to sell computers overseas, to sell the farmers' rice to Japan for the first time; to start the ship building industry in the southern part of the state; to help the defense conversion momentum really get going here so we could build a lot of jobs out of this defense downsizing and not just lose them.

MORE

I've tried to do things that would help you deal with the crime and the immigration problems -- real, concrete steps, not just talk about it. Ten thousand more police officers will come to California under the Crime Bill. We have doubled the number of immigration officers along the southern border of the state. We've begun to have a real impact in dealing with the problem of illegal immigration.

But what I want to say to you is that over the long run, if we are going to have a bright future for the people of the United States, and if California is going to work -- and it can work, you look around at the students here, look at all the different ways they found to say welcome to me up there -- (Applause.) If this country is going to work, and this state is going to work, then schools like this school have to work all across America. We have to prove that there is strength, not weakness, in our diversity.

We have to prove that all children can learn. And we have to prove that with all the changes that we're going through in America today, we can still give our kids an old-fashioned, safe upbringing and a good education, because that is the key to the future of the global economy. (Applause.)

One of the least known stories, perhaps, of the recent concluded session of Congress is that it was the best session for education in at least three decades. (Applause.) That's worth clapping for. I appreciate that. (Applause.) This Congress expanded the Head Start program, making more children eligible and making younger children eligible. This Congress passed the Goals 2000 bill, writing into national law our national education goals, world class standards; and saying that we would help to develop means of measuring whether we're meeting those standards, but emphasizing that education reform has to come from the grass roots, school by school.

Just a couple of days ago I signed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, which dramatically reduces the federal regulations telling schools how to spend the money we give them to help kids who need extra help in schools, and encourages schools to do things that will actually prove that children can learn without regard to their racial or economic background. (Applause.)

The bill also, as Senator Feinstein said, helps to support the safe schools initiative and promotes the concept of character education when basic civic values to be taught in the schools are developed at the community level.

We also passed a bill for young people who don't go to college but do want to get good education; an apprenticeship bill to help every state in the country develop a system to guarantee that even those who don't go to college will have a chance to get some further education and training and get a good job with a prospect of a growing income. (Applause.)

Finally and perhaps most important, we dramatically reorganized the system by which the national government makes colleges loans available; not only to low-income but also to middle class young people. (Applause.)

One of the things that's always bothered me in the last couple of years is seeing the cost of a college education go up faster than any other essential part of a family's budget, even more rapidly than health care costs. In my own state I saw young people start college and then drop out because they either couldn't get loans or they were convinced they would never be able to repay them.

Then I saw young people get out of college with big debt and take jobs that paid higher wages, not because they

wanted them but because they were afraid they couldn't afford to do something they really wanted to do, like work with people in the community to help kids get a better start, or be school teachers or police officers or do other things, because they were afraid they could never repay their college loans.

Under this system, you won't have to worry about that anymore when you become of age and you get out of high school. You'll be able to choose to borrow money and pay it back over a longer period of time at a lower interest rate as a percentage of your income so that if you choose to serve the public and you choose not to get rich, you at least won't be driven into the poor house by the cost of your college education. (Applause.)

The last thing the Congress did was to pass a program that's already being felt here in California, the national service program, AmeriCorps, to give young people the chance to serve their communities and earn money for their college education. This year, 20,000 young Americans are doing it; year after next 100,000 young Americans are doing it. If the Congress will continue to support it, I am convinced we can have as many as a half a million young Americans paying their way to college by solving the problems of this country one on one, person by person at the grass roots level all across America. And I thank the Congress for that record of education reform. (Applause.)

Now, having said that, let me come to the point. Education still does not occur in Washington. Education occurs school by school, class by class, student by student. The magic of education is in what happens between the teachers and the students, what the role of the principal is, whether the parents are supportive at home, what is going on inside the student. None of that can happen in an atmosphere of fear.

We all know stories, horrible stories of children being shot or cut or terrorized. When I was in California last year, I did a town meeting and a young man from Northern California told me that he and his brother changed schools because they thought the school they were in was so dangerous. And then when they lined up to register in the new school they thought was safer, somebody just came in the school door and shot his brother, standing right there in line to register. He just happened to be in the wrong place.

You would not believe the letters I get from children of all ages begging me to do something about the violence that terrorizes their lives. You may have seen me read a letter that I got from a young man from New Orleans, when the Crime Bill was being debated, who said, "I know you can do something about crime, and I am frightened." That young man was shot a couple of weeks after he wrote a letter to me.

I got a letter after the Crime Bill was signed from the son of a friend of mine in my administration who said, "I have a nice family. We have a high income. We live in a good neighborhood. I go to a good school. My friends and I are still scared every time I go downtown to the movies. I feel better now that the Crime Bill has been signed."

We cannot operate in a country where children are afraid and cannot feel, much less think. You cannot learn in that kind of atmosphere. That is why, as the principal said, we're trying to be tough and firm and strong in some of these critical areas. That's why we had to pass the Brady Bill. That's why we had to pass the Crime Bill. That's why we adopted Senator Feinstein's amendment to ban assault weapons on the streets of our cities. (Applause.)

And that's why we come here today to sign this executive order. I know here in this high school you already

have a zero tolerance policy for guns, and I applaud you for it. I applaud your principal, and I applaud the students who support it. Now, students all over the country, their parents, their teachers, their principals, will be required to meet the challenge that you have met, to follow your example. Students have to take the lead, to take responsibility for this. We can do better, and we must.

"Zero Tolerance" is a common sense policy. Why does anybody need to have a gun in school. That's why this order directs the Secretary of Education to withhold funding the states that don't comply with the law. Young people simply should not have to live in fear of young criminals who carry guns to schools.

And again I will say, just like the assault weapons, this bill is in the federal law because Senator Feinstein sponsored it and demanded it, and we got it thanks to her efforts and those of Senator Dorgan, and I thank them both. (Applause.)

Now, as I sign this order, just before I do, I want you to think about it, all of you students here. What are you going to do? What are you personally going to do about what's going on? That's really what counts. We can have this rule and fewer people will bring guns to schools; we also need fewer guns on our streets. One of the things in the crime bill is the banning of juvenile possession of handguns unless the juvenile is under the supervision of an adult. We are doing all we can to pass laws. But in the end your future will be decided by what is inside you, what you decide to do.

I think all Americans have been very moved -- I know I certainly have -- by the signs of the Haitian people getting their freedom back and President Aristide going back, to bring democracy back to Haiti. (Applause.)

You know, one of his biggest challenges after all the violence that those people have suffered is to make sure that his own supporters now do not resort to violence to retaliate. Why is violence going up so much among young people in our country? Violence begets violence, begets violence, begets violence. It has to end somewhere.

And if you watched President Aristide back in Haiti, perhaps the most gripping thing was when he stood there having had many of his friends killed, having had children that he tried to help terrorized, standing there saying to the masses of his people: No to violence; no to retribution; yes to peace; yes to reconciliation.

And if they are saying that inside their heart that will do more than any law. So I say to you, as your principal said, we've done some tough things to try to give you a bright future. And we're not ashamed of them; we're proud of them. If we can think of other things to do, we will do them as well.

But in the end what you say inside is even more important. You must say no to guns. No to gangs. No to drugs. Yes to education. Yes to hope. Yes to your own future.

The 21st century can be the best time this country and this state ever knew because of all of you; because of our diversity; because in a global society we will be the great global nation, because everybody can be an American. You don't have to be of a certain race or ethnic background or religious conviction. You just have to come here and share our land and share our values and make the most of your own life. That is what you have to do.

But in the end you will have to do it. So I say to you, I'm proud to sign this order to give you the chance to say yes to your future. And I hope and pray you will do it.

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

(The Memorandum is signed.)

END

12:35 P.M. PDT



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Policy Development

Crime -  
Speeches

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Washington, D.C. 20530

October 8, 1993

MEMORANDUM

TO: DISTRIBUTION

FROM: MARK FABLANI

SUBJECT: FIRST DRAFT OF CRIME SPEECH

Attached please find a rough first draft of the crime speech, along with a brief outline of the speech.

You will see that we are still missing key elements from Department components. The missing parts include:

- DOJ programs targeting violent offenders (other than Operation Triggerlock).
- DOJ programs targeting repeat offenders.
- DOJ anti-street gang programs.
- DOJ programs aimed at high-level drug traffickers.
- Bureau of Prisons building program.

Please let me know what you think.

MDF

Outline: Crime Speech  
First Draft/MDF

## OUTLINE OF CRIME SPEECH

### ▶ INTRODUCTION

### ▶ SUMMARY

- Protect America's neighborhoods by putting violent and repeat criminals behind bars for the remainder of their crime-committing years.
- Protect and support America's police officers by putting tens of thousands of new cops on the beat, removing death-dealing assault weapons from the street, and spreading community policing to every city and town.
- Protect America's children by helping every one of them off to a strong start in life and by intervening early and, if we must, often, to stamp out drugs and crime before they take hold of young lives.
- Resist the culture of violence.

### ▶ THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION'S STRATEGY; THE CRIME BILL, ITS COMPANION LEGISLATION AND CURRENT DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

#### I. PROTECTING AMERICA'S NEIGHBORHOODS

##### ◆ Crime Bill Provisions

- Swift, certain, lengthy incarceration for violent, repeat offenders.
- \$300 million to help states that are releasing repeat, violent offenders because of prison overcrowding.

Outline: Crime Speech  
First Draft/MDF

- ◆ Federal Bureau of Prison Programs
  - Prison building program
- ◆ Department of Justice Programs
  - Violent and Repeat Offenders
    - ◆ Operation Triggerlock
  - Street Gang Members
  - High-Level Drug Traffickers

II. PROTECTING AND SUPPORTING AMERICA'S POLICE OFFICERS

- ◆ Introduction: Increasing violence against police officers.
- ◆ New Police Officers
  - Crime Bill: 50,000 new police over five years.
  - Jobs Bill: \$150 million; 2,000 new police.
  - Crime Bill: Police Corps
  - Department of Labor: \$10 million to train discharged military personnel as police; 1,500 new police.
  - National Service Plan: One-quarter of slots for public safety-related functions.
  - Housing and Urban Development: \$700 million over five years; 5,000 new police for housing projects.
  - Department of Education: \$475 million over five years; 4,000 public safety officers for schools.
  - Department of Justice Community Policing Programs

Outline: Crime Speech  
First Draft/MDF

- ◆ Assault Weapons and Brady Bill
  - Assault weapons ban
  - Brady Bill enactment
  - Legislation making it illegal for anyone under the age of 17 to possess a handgun outside the presence of an adult.

**III. PROTECTING AMERICA'S CHILDREN**

- Introduction: Prevention and early intervention
- ◆ Crime Bill Provisions
  - Boot camps
  - \$100 million for gang and drug prevention programs
  - Drug treatment in prisons
- ◆ Department of Justice Programs
  - Encourage alternative sentencing for first-time, non-violent drug offenders: Miami Drug Court.
  - Justice Department study of incarceration of non-violent, first time drug offenders: Results will inform our efforts to make sentencing more effective at protecting Americans from crime.
  - Sandtown
  - Department of Justice youth and anti-violence programs: Brief preview

**IV. RESISTING THE CULTURE OF VIOLENCE**

**V. CONCLUSION**

**ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO**  
Remarks: Crime Bill  
First Draft/MDF

### INTRODUCTION

I was the District Attorney in Miami for fifteen years.

I spent evenings in my constituents' neighborhoods -- the still nights cracked by gunshots -- good people pinned helplessly in their homes.

I held young children trembling in the face of terrible atrocities -- not able to imagine even for a moment how such violence had scarred their young souls.

I passed days filled with fear and apprehension, as women and men and children warily went about their business, one eye always peeled for the danger of the streets.

I stood with weary police officers, men and women who bravely leave their families each morning to protect us -- even though they understand that around the next corner could be the barrel of an assault rifle.

My friends, we have lost our security to crime's ceaseless surge.

We have lost our freedom.

**ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO**

Remarks: Crime Bill

First Draft/MDF

We have lost our shared sense of community.

My friends, America has lost her way.

We now wander amid the dark tangle of fear and despair borne of relentless crime, drugs and gangs.

The time has come for us to find the road back:

To peace for our children,

to protection for our neighborhoods,

to security for every American.

I stood on the front lines for fifteen years. I understand

that more rhetoric from Washington won't do the job,

that tough talk won't take our parks back from the pushers,

**ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO**

Remarks: Crime Bill

First Draft/MDF

that promises won't free us from the prisons of our living rooms.

America needs action. She needs it now. Not action clouded by politics and partisanship. We need action guided by straight talk and a single purpose: Guaranteeing safety and security for every American.

**SUMMARY**

I am here today to call America to action:

America, rise up against crime.

Launch a crusade against gangs and drugs.

Americans, demand that you and your neighbors -- each in your own way -- join the struggle to banish violence from our homes and streets.

I am in Washington now, part of an Administration that stands ready to do its part in this vital cause. I am here today to explain where President Bill Clinton's

**ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO**  
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Administration stands in the fight against crime. And I am here to tell you what the American people must do if we are to prevail.

Our Administration's plan for this great struggle rests on four pillars:

▶ First, we will protect America's neighborhoods by putting violent and repeat criminals behind bars for all of their crime-committing years.

▶ Second, we will protect and support America's police officers

by putting tens of thousands of new cops on the beat,

by removing death-dealing assault weapons from the street, and

by spreading community policing to every city and town.

▶ Third, we will protect America's children

by helping every one of them off to a strong start in life and

**ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO**

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by intervening early and, if we must, often, to stamp out drugs and crime before they take hold of young lives.

► Fourth, we will resist with all of our spirit the culture of violence that has already consumed far too much of America.

The pillars of this Clinton Administration's battle plan sit on one foundation: The President's Crime Bill and its companion legislation, all now pending before Congress. Our national battle against crime and drugs must begin with Congressional approval of this legislation. The federal government must demonstrate its commitment to the fight by enacting the Crime Bill. Only then will we have the right to ask the American people to join us on this great crusade.

**THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION'S STRATEGY:**

**THE CRIME BILL, ITS COMPANION LEGISLATION AND**

**CURRENT DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS**

I would like to take this opportunity to discuss in detail the Administration's strategy.

**ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO**

Remarks: Crime Bill

First Draft/MDF

**I. PROTECTING AMERICA'S NEIGHBORHOODS**

First, we must protect America's neighborhoods.

I intend to accomplish this by targeting law enforcement resources directly at violent and repeat criminals.

When we catch these incorrigible offenders, I intend to ensure that we have enough prison space to incarcerate them for the rest of their crime-producing years.

▶ **Crime Bill Provisions**

The Crime Bill will help put violent and repeat offenders behind bars -- and keep them there. Too many states are releasing violent offenders because their prisons are full. The Crime Bill provides three hundred million dollars to build more prisons, allowing the states to hold repeat offenders right where they belong.

▶ **Federal Bureau of Prison Programs**

**ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO**  
Remarks: Crime Bill  
First Draft/MDF

Under the President's leadership, the Federal Bureau of Prisons <sup>WILL</sup> ~~is working to~~  
guarantee that we have enough <sup>CELLS</sup> ~~space~~ for the worst criminals. ✓

[INSERT INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS] → INSERT #1 ✓

Let me be clear about this: Never again do I want to read about a violent criminal who was released too soon because of prison overcrowding, only to prey again upon our communities. Society has a fundamental obligation to keep these repeat offenders away from decent, law-abiding Americans. I am determined to get this job done.

▶ **Department of Justice Programs**

The streets of Miami taught me a hard lesson: If you want to make the greatest impact on crime, take everything you've got and go after those criminals who hurt the community the most. I am insisting that the Department of Justice focus like a laser on the violent repeat offenders. And we are going to help state and local governments do the same.

**ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO**

Remarks: Crime Bill

First Draft/MDF

The overwhelming majority of Americans respect and abide by the law. Just a small element of our society is responsible for most of the fear and the crime. Study after study confirms that career criminals commit a high percentage of all crimes.

The Justice Department can help local law enforcement escalate the attack on repeat and violent offenders.

- Operation Triggerlock uses tough federal firearms laws against repeat offenders and dangerous criminals who have not been deterred by state prosecutions. Working arm-in-arm with local authorities, the Justice Department has doubled the number of federal firearm prosecutions and won long prison sentences for repeat and violent offenders.

[INSERT INFORMATION FROM CRIMINAL DIVISION RE:

- VIOLENT OFFENDERS;
- REPEAT OFFENDERS;

**ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO**

Remarks: Crime Bill

First Draft/MDF

- STREET GANG MEMBERS; AND
  
- HIGH-LEVEL DRUG TRAFFICKERS]

**II. PROTECTING AND SUPPORTING AMERICA'S POLICE OFFICERS**

We count on America's police for so much; yet, when it counts most, we don't back our officers up.

Thirty years ago, there were three American cops for every one violent crime. Now, there are three violent crimes for every cop.

Not so long ago, even the worst criminals rarely attacked a police officer. Now, in many American cities, the criminals have declared war on the police. In Los Angeles -- this year alone -- one hundred and eighty-four officers have been shot at; seven have been wounded. Three of LAPD's best were ambushed just in the last three weeks.

America's police are the world's finest. Now, because we have failed to support them, our officers are now out-gunned and out-manned.

**ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO**

Remarks: Crime Bill

First Draft/MDF

I will not tolerate open season on our police. We must provide our courageous officers the tools they need to do the job. And we must take away from the criminals the vicious assault weapons and guns that are being used to mow down some of our best Americans.

► **New Police Officers**

The Clinton Administration is committed to putting tens of thousands of new police officers on the beat.

- The Crime Bill sets aside three-point-four billion dollars (\$3.4 billion) to hire fifty thousand (50,000) new police officers over the next five years. America's neighborhoods desperately need these new cops. America desperately needs the President's Crime Bill.
- The President's successful Jobs Bill included one hundred and fifty million dollars (\$150 million) for more cops. I have instructed that the Justice Department distribute this money to cities and towns in the next two months. As a result, over two thousand (2,000) new cops will be on patrol in our neighborhoods.

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- The Administration has instructed the Department of Labor to find ten million dollars (\$10 million) to retrain discharged American soldiers as police officers. We will see as many as fifteen hundred (1,500) new police deployed to protect our communities.
  
- The Crime Bill establishes the Police Corps. We'll pay for the college education of young Americans if they agree to return to their neighborhoods and work as police officers for at least four years. The Police Corps will reach up to five thousand (5,000) students over the next four years.
  
- The President's National Service Plan has set aside one-fourth of its slots for young Americans to work for the public's safety. The program could put as many as twenty-five thousand (25,000) youngsters to work for local police departments, crime prevention groups, and other public safety programs.
  
- The Administration will devote seven hundred million dollars (\$700 million) over the next five years to deploy as many as five thousand (5,000) public safety workers in American housing projects.

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Remarks: Crime Bill

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- We want to spent four hundred and seventy-five million in the next five years to help local school officials hire police officers and public safety personnel. The Administration's efforts could deploy to four thousand (4,000) public safety officers in American schoolyards.
- I have instructed the Department of Justice to do everything possible to encourage community policing across this country. Community policing programs have reduced crime and tensions in cities and towns everywhere: From Los Angeles to Saint Louis to Boston to New York. The community's help can effectively multiply law enforcement resources and provide essential neighborhood support for cops on the beat. The Justice Department is providing financial and technical support to help begin community policing programs in every jurisdiction.

Backing up our police officers is not cheap. But President Clinton and I simply will not let it be said that -- during our officers' greatest hours of need -- America's will and resources were lacking. We are determined to provide our cops with the support they deserve.

**ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO**

Remarks: Crime Bill

First Draft/MDF

**▶ Assault Weapons and the Brady Bill**

The Clinton Administration will also provide our police with the protection they need. For too long the gun lobby has blocked every reasonable gun reform bill. Meanwhile our police officers have been ambushed and gunned down by assault weapons. These weapons have no place in a civilized society. We must act:

- First, we must ban assault weapons, and we must do it now. Legislation is pending. It's time for Congress to move.
- Second, we must enact the Brady Bill. America is the only civilized country on this earth where you can buy or sell a gun easier than you can get a driver's license. The Brady Bill's five-day waiting period and background checks are reasonable measures. They deserve speedy approval by Congress.
- Third, we must keep guns out of the hands of irresponsible kids. It should be illegal for anyone under seventeen years of age to possess a handgun without adult supervision.

**ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO**

Remarks: Crime Bill

First Draft/MDF

These are reasonable proposals. They will save lives. They are supported by the men and women of our police departments. I simply refuse to permit history to record that America ignored the urgent pleas of her police officers. Americans must demand more police on the beat. Americans must insist that Congress pass the Crime Bill and reasonable gun reform now. No civilized society would settle for less.

**III. PROTECTING AMERICA'S CHILDREN**

I have been in public life a great while. I have seen the streets of Miami and the great halls of the Justice Department -- and so much in between.

Through it all, I have come to hold very close certain fundamental beliefs. They are at the core of what I believe.

First, all of America's problems have root causes.

NO

We, as a people, must address these root causes head on. If we fail, the plagues of crime and drug addiction will remain intractable. They will afflict America always.

**ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO**

Remarks: Crime Bill

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I believe in a second fundamental principle: The best strategies for attacking root causes are prevention and early intervention.

My goal as Attorney General is to make prevention and early intervention the twin pillars of everything we do at the Department of Justice.

▶ **Crime Bill Provisions**

The President's Crime Bill will help us intervene early and -- if necessary, often -- to save young lives at risk.

- The Crime Bill contains funding for boot camps. These camps will give non-violent kids who are at risk of drug and gang involvement the treatment, discipline and motivation they need to grab another chance for an honest life. I am working to help convert closed military bases into boot camps for our children who deserve a second chance.
- The Crime Bill appropriates one hundred million dollars for anti-gang and drug prevention programs aimed at our most vulnerable kids.

**ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO**

Remarks: Crime Bill

First Draft/MDF

- For those teenage addicts who must be locked away because they are violent and repeat offenders, the Crime Bill provides drug treatment in prison. There is no reason in this world why America should be releasing drug addicts from prison; the Crime Bill moves us in the right direction.

▶ **Department of Justice Programs**

I want the Department of Justice to lead the development of prevention and early intervention programs.

- We must encourage local and state governments to find other ways to deal with first-time, non-violent drug offenders. There is no reason why these non-dangerous people should clog our jails, taking up cells that should hold repeat, violent offenders for the remainder of their criminal lives.
- There are better alternatives. In the Miami Drug Court, we took first-time offenders and offered them a carrot: No imprisonment if you successfully complete drug treatment programs. But we also

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Remarks: Crime Bill

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brandished the stick: If you fail, you will be imprisoned, and your sentence will be stiff. These alternatives work, and the Department of Justice must see that they spread throughout the country.

- I have begun a Justice Department study of the incarceration of first-time, non-violent offenders in this country. I intend to use the results of this study to inform my efforts to make the sentencing system more just -- and more effective at protecting us from crime.

I am also leading the Department of Justice into new and innovative partnerships with American cities and towns.

- In the poor Baltimore neighborhood of Sandtown, the community is working from the ground up, with its own hands, to make life better. ✓  
Public and private dollars are leveraged to provide new housing, pre- and post-natal care, literacy and recreation programs, and family support services. We can repeat the Sandtown experience, and we can do it around the country.

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Remarks: Crime Bill

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When a community such as Sandtown takes responsibility for its future, it has the right to expect government's help. I want the Department of Justice to stand ready with all other federal agencies to coordinate all of the resources at our disposal. If we are fortunate -- and if we do our jobs -- Sandtown will represent the future of urban rebirth in America.

- I started a Justice Department effort to help organize comprehensive campaigns against youth violence and crime in American cities. In the coming weeks you will hear more about how this program of prevention and early intervention will work.

For me, this is the bottom line: Prevent where we can. Intervene early where we must. And, at all costs, protect our children, our neighborhoods and police officers by targeting all our law enforcement and prison resources at violent, repeat criminals.

**ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO**

Remarks: Crime Bill

First Draft/MDF

**IV. RESISTING THE CULTURE OF VIOLENCE**

I have spoken about how President Clinton and I intend to fight the onslaught of crime and fear that now grips this country. I simply cannot close, though, without talking to you about America's culture of violence and what we must do to resist it.

The culture of violence has crept over America like a storm cloud -- slowly -- insidiously. Now it is everywhere, darkening our Land from east coast to west.

Each day the violence washes down in deadly torrents on our neighborhoods.

Too many Americans are now numb to the nightly body count on the television news.

Too many Americans have simply given up the fight.

Too many American parents think they can rear their children irresponsibly -- without paying a price.

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Too many of our leaders believed that the richest country in history could leave nearly a quarter of its children poor -- without paying a price.

Too many Americans thought that we could starve our strapped police forces and let guns rule the streets -- without paying the price.

Well, there is a price -- the price America is now paying with ruined lives -- with innocent victims of crimes -- with spreading fear and diminishing freedom.

I ask you today:

How many more babies must be shot before America takes a stand?

How many more young lives must be cut down before we draw a line in the sand?

The time to take a stand is now. The place to draw the line is here.

Congress must pass the Crime Bill.

**ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO**

Remarks: Crime Bill

First Draft/MDF

Congress must approve the assault weapon ban and the Brady Bill.

Americans must rise up, as never before, in a crusade against crime.

John Kennedy said that the central task of leadership is "to set before the . . . people the unfinished business of our society." President Kennedy's words, filled with confidence in the face of challenge, call to us today. They summon us not to retreat -- but to roll up our sleeves and redouble our effort.

So let this be our pledge:

More police.

Fewer guns.

No assault weapons.

Swift, certain and lengthy incarceration for violent and repeat offenders.

**ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO**

Remarks: Crime Bill

First Draft/MDF

Prevention and early intervention with our kids to head off gangs and drugs.

So let this be our commitment:

Not only will we banish crime and violence from our streets, but we will create new opportunities and give new life to the hopes that are at the heart of America's history.

We know victory will not be won overnight. We are engaged in a long struggle against waves of drugs and violence rushing at us from all directions. But we are determined to turn the tide. We will wage the battle neighborhood by neighborhood, street by street, park by park -- in the classroom and in the courtroom -- until every American is safe and secure.

Thank you, and good afternoon.

# KATHLEEN BROWN

C O M M I T T E E

Crime speeches  
cc: Jose

## BREAKING THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE: MAKING CALIFORNIA SAFE

California Organization of Police and Sheriffs  
Burbank, California  
December 13, 1993

To the law enforcement officers in this room, I extend my respect. In a world of legal, social, and political complexities, you are the individuals who day in and day out confront on our hazardous streets the malevolence and rancor resulting from government's failure to address crime.

That you continue your work with such vigor and valor is a testament to your dedication and self-discipline ... and the imperative of our continuing support.

My father was a prosecuting attorney. My grandfather was a San Francisco police captain. Honor and support for the men in blue were instinctive to the dinner conversations in our home.

And to the families here who have felt the vicious lash of crime, I say to you what comes instinctively to any mother or grandmother. My heart goes out to you in your grief and sorrow. You symbolize in a way nothing else can the imperative for this society rising in outrage to neutralize those who prey on us.

We will not be able to educate our children. To create new jobs. To relish the joy of family and community unless those who abuse us are stopped, corrected, or permanently put away.

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*"Between 1970 and 1992, the violent crime rate in California rose 134 percent."*

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I share your indignation that crime has blatantly marched toward our very doorsteps while the leadership of our state and nation have dithered and procrastinated.

This is too tragic an area to engage in political symbolism. When a 14 year old boy is blown away by a .357 Magnum, that is not a statistic anymore. That child will never get to see his fifteenth birthday. He will never go to his high-school prom or grow to raise a family of his own.

Between 1970 and 1992, the violent crime rate in California rose 134 percent.

In fact, so many people are murdered each year in Los Angeles County that the coroner's office no longer stores the dead in body bags. At \$35 or more per bag, it would cost too much. So instead, victims of gunshots and other violence are wrapped in sheets of translucent plastic, each pre-cut by County Jail inmates on work furlough. Because one roll of plastic can accommodate as many as 60 corpses at a cost of \$60, the staff calls the program "Buck-a-body." It's testimony to how numb we've become.

But nothing has been more disturbing and more shocking than the increase in crimes committed by young people: between 1986 and 1991, the number of juveniles arrested for homicide in California more than doubled, robbery arrests increased 62 percent, and felony assault arrests increased 78 percent.

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*"If we are ever going to feel safe again, if we are ever going to live our lives without fear, we must break this cycle of violence."*

---

We have fallen into a never-ending cycle of violence, where one crime begets another and another, each more serious than the last. One gang shooting provokes another. A heroin addict commits a burglary to get money for his next fix. A child who is afraid of being attacked on the way to school carries a gun and accidentally kills a classmate.

If we are ever going to feel safe again, if we are ever going to live our lives without fear, we must break this cycle of violence.

"Prevention" has become a loaded word in the debate over crime. There are those who portray prevention as an alternative to -- even the opposite of -- "punishment." They deride those who promote prevention as "soft on crime."

But I say that punishment -- if administered properly -- is a form of prevention, and that the only way to break the cycle of violence is through prevention.

In no area is this more true than juvenile crime.

Our juvenile justice system teaches kids they will not be held accountable for their actions.

Consider this: according to the Rand Corporation, the average age of arrest in California is 17, but the average age of first commitment to prison is 26. In other words, young offenders are allowed an average of 9 years of criminal activity before they are really punished for the first time. By the time the system begins to hold them accountable for their actions, they're well past the point of no return in their careers.

We must prevent future crimes by telling them that they will be held accountable, right from the start.

I see six key elements to a comprehensive strategy for attacking crime and breaking the cycle of violence.

First, we must prevent people -- especially juveniles -- from committing their first crime, using education, treatment, and by offering them better alternatives.

Second, we must prevent first-time or non-violent offenders -- especially juveniles -- from turning to more serious crimes by punishing criminals the first time they break the law, and making them understand that their behavior will have immediate consequences.

Third, we must prevent many violent crimes by fundamentally overhauling our gun laws.

Fourth, we must prevent criminal activity by increasing the number of police on the streets. Tougher laws will not accomplish anything if there are not enough cops to enforce them.

Fifth, we must prevent crime by doing a better job of using the correctional system to break the cycle of violence.

And finally, we must prevent violent offenders from committing more crimes by keeping them in prison. If they use every opportunity they have to commit another crime, common sense says, stop giving them those opportunities.

### ***PREVENT THE FIRST CRIME***

My plan starts with the determination to prevent people -- especially kids -- from committing their first crime, because other, more serious, more violent crimes are sure to follow.

Very often, these first crimes are drug, alcohol, or graffiti-related. And very often, these crimes are the opening act in the cycle of ever-increasing violence.

Drugs are the main reason our crime rate is increasing, our streets are unsafe, and our jails are overcrowded.

Roughly 90 percent of all property crimes in the state are drug-related. Glenn Levant, the director of DARE-America, estimates that California's 200,000 heroin addicts each commit an average of three crimes every day to support their habits.

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*"My plan starts with the determination to prevent people -- especially kids -- from committing their first crime, because other, more serious, more violent crimes are sure to follow."*

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Breaking the cycle of violence starts with an effective, meaningful war on drugs and alcohol.

In many cases, drug use can be prevented, and when we do so, we will also be preventing other crimes.

Anti-drug education programs like DARE and SANE work, but there aren't enough of them to go around. Anti-drug education should be taught in every public school in the state, and students should participate in them as often as possible. We cannot expect that an anti-drug class taught in 6th grade will still be effective three years later.

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*"In many cases, drug use can be prevented, and when we do so, we will also be preventing other crimes."*

Most anti-drug education programs are now funded either by the federal government, the counties or by private benefactors. The state used to provide about \$30 million a year, but that funding was eliminated in 1992. I propose we restore the funding, and boost it to \$50 million.

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The schools should also provide the first line of defense against gangs. There are many reasons kids join gangs. But one of the most important ones is that they have nothing better to do.

Twenty years ago, every neighborhood had after-school programs. Most of those have been eliminated through funding cuts -- cuts that cost us far more than they saved. So I propose that we provide \$75 million in state funding for after-school programs run by the schools. Both the anti-drug education and the after-school programs would be financed through the 13 percent cut in school administrative spending that I outlined a few weeks ago as part of my school reform plan.

And finally, I want to return to the old-fashioned idea that kids shouldn't be out at all hours of the night. On two recent night patrols with the LAPD, I saw dozens of youngsters wandering through the streets, drinking alcohol, looking for trouble.

Kids have no business being out on the streets that late. We should impose and enforce real curfews on children 17 and under. This is clearly a local decision, but I propose that cities look to Norwalk as a model. In that city, kids out on the streets after 10 p.m. are picked up and given citations with a fine of \$50 to \$675, which can be paid or worked off with community service.

Since they began enforcing the program in January, gang-related crime is down 35 percent, and drive by shootings are down 75 percent. And, only about 5 percent of the kids picked up by the program are repeat offenders. Clearly, they get the message: you will be held accountable.

## ***PUNISH THE FIRST OFFENSE***

But prevention and education have their limits. And so now I turn to the second part of my plan. We must break the cycle of violence by creating a criminal justice system that punishes offenders the first time they violate the law, instead of waiting until their second, third, or fourth offense.

In no area is this more true than drugs and graffiti. The law now gives drugs and graffiti offenders at least one "free pass" the first time they are caught. The reasons have some merit -- our prisons are already overcrowded, and people shouldn't be ruined for making one mistake. But this policy helps perpetuate the cycle of violence, and so it's time to change the law.

So, I propose we create a statewide system of boot camps for non-violent juvenile and adult offenders. Next year, the legislature will act on two correctional facility bond bills providing about \$900 million for prison construction. I will propose that some of that money be used to build boot camps. These boot camps, like a successful one now operating in Lake Hughes, will do more than incarcerate. They will teach discipline, they will punish, and they will continue to monitor the offenders for a period of time after they are released. Most important, they will hold people accountable for their actions.

Anyone sentenced to one year or less for specified non-violent offenses like drug possession, graffiti vandalism, or theft will be sent to these facilities or when appropriate, to the Ensley-Rice disciplinary academies I proposed as part of my school reform plan.

Once we have built these boot camps and disciplinary schools, we will implement a new sentencing policy which guarantees that all drug offenders serve time, even for the first offense. The minimum sentence will be 90 days. In no cases will the sentences be lower than they are now. The message will be clear: every time you violate the law, there will be consequences.

Now I know that some people will wonder about the cost of this program. But consider this: many, if not most, drug offenders now come through the system two, three, or four times in a year. Many also turn to more serious crime to support their habits and end up in jail.

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*"We must break the cycle of violence by creating a criminal justice system that punishes offenders the first time they violate the law, instead of waiting until their second, third, or fourth offense."*

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Both in the short term and the long term, it is cheaper to deal with these drug offenders the first time they're caught -- with a real sentence, and with drug treatment -- than it is to arrest, prosecute, and incarcerate them when they repeat their crimes a few days or weeks later. And this calculation does not even take into account the cost to society of all the crimes they commit in the process.

Graffiti must be treated the same way. Graffiti is often the first step on the road to gang violence. When we do not punish the offenders -- as is now the case -- we miss a critical opportunity to break the cycle of violence.

So, I propose we punish taggers starting with the first time they're caught. Kids caught tagging would have an option -- either they can go through the criminal justice system, and if they're found guilty, they would face certain time in a boot camp, or they can opt to participate in an alternative punishment program.

Modeled after Orange County's very successful "Shortstop" program, which has a 90 percent success rate, this proposal would require taggers to acknowledge guilt, perform community service, involve parents, and learn about the realities of prison and gang life. Because it would bypass the court process, which costs an average of \$20,000 per case, the program would save money.

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*"In order to reinforce the message that graffiti vandalism is a serious offense and that everyone will be held accountable for their actions, I propose that in addition to serving time, convicted taggers should have their driver's licenses suspended for up to one year."*

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In order to reinforce the message that graffiti vandalism is a serious offense and that everyone will be held accountable for their actions, I propose that in addition to serving time, convicted taggers should have their driver's licenses suspended for up to one year.

Finally, we should recognize that gang graffiti causes violence. Graffiti is a way for gang members to mark turf, and it is often a death warrant for rival gang members claiming the same territory. So I propose that graffiti generated by criminal street gang members be an automatic felony. Breaking the cycle of violence will require this kind of action.

### **STOP GUN VIOLENCE**

After preventing early criminal behavior with education, and responding aggressively to even first offenses, the third step in a comprehensive crime plan is recognizing that guns dramatically increase the level of violence in this society.

I see eight fundamental changes that should be made in our state's gun laws.

First, and foremost, we must totally ban the possession, manufacture, and sale of all assault weapons, as well as high-volume magazines, clips, and belt-feeding devices.

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*"We must totally ban the possession, manufacture, and sale of all assault weapons, as well as high-volume magazines, clips and belt-feeding devices."*

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The 1989 Assault Weapon law left an enormous loophole -- it only banned a select list of weapons. It also allowed people who purchased their guns before the law went into effect to keep them.

I know there are some citizens who own these weapons and use them legally, who will object to this proposal. To them I say, we must choose between your desire to hunt with assault weapons and society's need to prohibit the mass distribution of weapons whose main purpose is to massacre human beings.

The choice is easy. We must ban them.

Second, we must increase the penalties for illegal possession of a loaded firearm. Under current law, it is a felony to illegally possess a sock full of sand -- otherwise known as a sap -- or a stick with tape at the end of it -- otherwise known as a billy. It is also a felony to possess brass knuckles and knives of a certain length. But, it is only a misdemeanor to illegally possess a loaded firearm. This just doesn't make sense. We must make it a felony for anyone to illegally possess a loaded firearm.

Third, we must recognize that in the hands of a gang member, a gun is a particularly dangerous threat. I propose we establish a minimum sentence of three years with no possibility of probation for members of criminal street gangs who carry firearms.

Fourth, we must make it a felony to knowingly furnish, sell, or possess a stolen firearm. People who traffic in stolen guns are almost certain to use them for criminal purposes. And yet, possession of a stolen gun is treated the same as possession of any other stolen property. Making the penalty more severe will help break the cycle of violence by allowing us to severely punish the offender before the gun is used.

Fifth, when people knowingly furnish or sell stolen firearms, we should hold them criminally liable when crimes are committed with those guns. They are accessories to those crimes, and must be treated as such.

Sixth, we must ban the possession, sale, and manufacture of ammunition like the Black Talon, which are designed to maximize bodily injury. While the Black Talon has been withdrawn from the market, other, virtually identical ammunition has not been.

Seventh, I propose that California impose a 15 percent excise tax on all gun and ammunition sales, and allocate all the revenues for anti-gun and anti-gang programs. According to the Board of Equalization, this would generate \$30 million a year.

Finally, the current federal system for licensing firearms dealers is a joke. For a \$30 license fee, virtually anyone without a criminal record can get the right to buy and sell unlimited numbers of guns with little fear of scrutiny. Only about 20 percent of licensed dealers have actual stores. The rest do business at home, in their cars, or at gun shows, virtually unrestricted.

So I propose that the federal government radically reform its licensing system by increasing fees and by granting licenses only to those dealers who have a legitimate retail place of business.

### *MORE POLICE ON OUR STREETS*

The fourth part of my plan to break the cycle of violence is to increase the number of police on the streets. If we are to put a real dent in crime, we must have a larger, community-based presence on the streets of California. Police presence matters. It deters crime and it increases the likelihood that those who break the law will be caught.

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*"Police presence matters. It deters crime and it increases the likelihood that those who break the law will be caught."*

There are a number of important things we can do to have a real impact in this area. First, I will work with President Clinton to ensure that Congress enacts his proposal to fund 100,000 new police officers, and I will fight to see that California receives its fair share of the new funding. That program would pay for over 10,000 badly needed officers in the state.

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Second, I will work with local communities to ensure that Proposition 172 funds are used for police and not lost in budgetary shell games.

Third, I propose prompt action on legislation extending and reforming the state's asset seizure law. The current law, which is a valuable tool for law enforcement in its fight against drug criminals, is set to expire on January 1st. This law provides over \$30 million a year to law enforcement agencies, and should be quickly renewed.

But putting more police officers on our streets isn't the whole picture. Unless we build deeper ties between the police on the streets and the communities they serve, these officers will never be as effective as they could be.

Community policing is an idea whose time has come again. I say "again" because this was the only type of policing my grandfather knew when he served as an officer in the San Francisco police force. Community policing builds mutual respect between the police and the people they serve, and will help make our communities safe again.

### COMMON SENSE CORRECTIONS

The fifth part of my plan recognizes that we have to do a better job of using our prisons and jails as critical instruments to help break the cycle of violence.

We know that drug addiction and alcoholism are precursors of criminal activity. As many as 85 percent of state prisoners have a substance abuse problem. To break the link between substance abuse and crime, I propose that we require treatment for all prisoners who are convicted of drug or alcohol-related crimes. I would model this program after ones created in Texas and New York.

Though it is in its infancy, early reports suggest the Texas program has cut the recidivism rate sharply. In other words, the program pays for itself.

We also know that illiteracy is a precursor to criminal activity. The average state prisoner reads at a 6th grade level. So I propose that we start a pilot program requiring illiterate convicts to learn to read while they are in prison. The issue here is very simple: if we release somebody who does not have the most important skill needed to hold a job, we'd better expect that they'll return to crime. We should test this program with non-violent offenders -- let's stop them before they turn to violence.

There are two other things we should do to toughen our corrections system -- both are just common sense.

First, I propose that we end conjugal visits for all prisoners. Only seven other states allow unsupervised overnight visits. According to correctional officers, these visits are the main route for illicit drugs coming into the prison system. Eliminating them would close off this route and save the taxpayers at least \$3 million, money that could be used to finance the reading programs.

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*"We should start requiring criminals who are able to do so to pay the \$22,000 annual cost of their own incarceration ... Taxpayers paying to incarcerate criminals like Charles Keating and Joe Hunt of the Billionaire Boy's Club just doesn't make sense and it should stop."*

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There is another reason to end conjugal visits: a number of prisoners are fathering children who end up on welfare. I was outraged to learn that Tex Watson -- follower of Charles Manson, and the convicted murderer of actress Sharon Tate -- has fathered three children while in prison, all of whom have been reported to be on welfare. We must stop this abuse of the taxpayers and the correctional system.

Finally, we should start requiring criminals who are able to do so to pay the \$22,000 annual cost of their own incarceration. If they can afford it, and it won't throw their families on welfare, they should pay. Taxpayers paying to incarcerate criminals like Charles Keating and Joe Hunt of the Billionaire Boy's Club just doesn't make sense, and it should stop.

### ***PREVENT VIOLENT CRIMES***

The sixth and final part of my plan addresses our response to the most violent among us.

First, I support a "Three Strikes and You're Out" law requiring people who have committed three violent felonies to be locked up for life. With these repeat offenders, the only way to break the cycle of violence is to remove them from society -- and take away their opportunity to commit more crimes.

I also support "Truth in Sentencing" proposals requiring violent felons to serve at least 85 percent of the time to which they've been sentenced, instead of allowing them to cut their time in half through good behavior and work programs.

The incredible plague of violence committed by juveniles also demands that we reexamine the way we prosecute violent young offenders. Despite our best efforts, some minors will continue to commit crimes. We must treat them the same way we treat adults who won't learn the lesson -- by locking them up. Sixteen year olds who commit murder aren't children.

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*"I support a "Three Strikes and You're Out" law requiring people who have committed three violent felonies to be locked up for life."*

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To do that, we must make it easier to try as adults those minors accused of violent crimes. Under current practice, juveniles aged 16 and 17 must go through fitness hearings before they can be tried as adults, and younger offenders cannot be tried as adults. I propose that we give district attorneys the discretion to prosecute as adults minors aged 16 and 17 accused of violent crimes. I also propose that we allow 14 and 15 year old offenders accused of violent crimes to be tried as adults after they have undergone fitness hearings.

Finally, it is time to treat child abuse as the violent crime it really is, deserving of the same penalties as other comparable forms of violence. To that end, we must enact a "homicide by abuse" statute that would allow us to punish for first degree murder someone who kills a child by repeatedly abusing him or her.

Twelve states have already enacted such a statute. California should join them.

Violence is overwhelming our state. And yet, there are those who insist on reducing crime to a few slogans and litmus tests. Later today, many of the reporters in this room will call the Governor's office for comment. They know, and I know, what the Governor will say. Even though the plan I unveiled today contains 33 proposals, all of them aimed directly at the problem of violence, the Governor will try to focus your attention on the death penalty instead.

But here is the truth about that issue: Regardless of my personal beliefs or the Governor's personal beliefs, regardless of how politicians try to use this issue, the death penalty is the law of this state, and I will enforce it.

There is no difference between Kathleen Brown and Pete Wilson when it comes to enforcing the death penalty.

And so I say to my friends in the press corps: after you hear the comment you already know you're going to hear, ask the Governor a few questions. Ask him whether he supports a total ban on assault weapons used to massacre innocent people and bullets that form flesh-ripping jagged edges when they enter someone's body. Ask him whether he supports mandatory sentences for first-time drug offenders, and funding for anti-drug education to save our kids. Ask him whether he believes California is a safer place than it was three years ago.

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*"There is no difference between Kathleen Brown and Pete Wilson when it comes to enforcing the death penalty."*

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As is the case with other serious problems that are moving California backward instead of forward, Pete Wilson has not provided leadership. His tenure has been marked by passivity, timidity, and indecision.

Strong leadership and forceful solutions are our only hope of restoring our sense of personal safety. We need action that will bring relief now, in our time. We can't wait any longer. Crime is draining the joy of our children, our jobs, and our homes. We want our communities back now. We want to stop the multiplication of misery and grieving parents. Of lost children. Of outlaws threatening our police and intimidating our citizens. We must stop it now.

Thank you very much.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary  
(Belmont, California)

For Immediate Release

October 22, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
TO THE STUDENTS OF CARLMONT HIGH SCHOOL  
AND IN SIGNING THE PRESIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM:  
"ZERO TOLERANCE FOR GUNS IN SCHOOLS"

Carlmont High School  
Belmont, California

12:11 P.M. PDT

THE PRESIDENT: It's nice to be back in California. It's nice to be here in Belmont. It's nice to be here at Carlmont High School. (Applause.) I'm honored to be the first President to come here. And it's only fair that I came here to see your principal, since he didn't get to come and see me. (Applause.)

Now, that should not be interpreted as a sign of dissatisfaction with the lady who got to be the principal of the year, but he would have made an awful good one. (Laughter.) And he sounds to me like the principal of the year here. (Applause.)

I want to say how very honored I am to be here with all of you. I thank Mayor Riande for her welcome; Mayor Davids for what he said. I thank them for their leadership and their devotion to public service at the grass roots level, where so many of our problems and challenges have to be met.

I thank Congressman Lantos and Congresswoman Eshoo for not only being my friends but for their extraordinary service in Washington. I can tell you that there is this popular feeling, I think, that nearly everybody who goes off to Washington has something bad happen to them and forgets about the folks back home -- they do not. And they represent you well, and you should be very proud of them. (Applause.)

I'm also very pleased to be joined today by your State Treasurer Kathleen Brown. (Applause.) And your State Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi. (Applause.) Thank you, John. (Applause.)

I'd like to introduce one other person, too, who is my partner in these education endeavors, a former colleague of mine and former Governor of Vermont and now the Deputy Secretary of Education, come all the way from Washington with me today, Governor Madeleine Kunin. (Applause.) Please make her feel welcome. (Applause.)

I want to say a little more about Senator Feinstein in a moment, in connection with this work, but I appreciate what she said today.

But let me begin by saying that, as all of you know, I had the opportunity to spend a great deal of time in this magnificent state of yours a couple of years ago. And since I have been President I think I've been back here a dozen times. I've worked on the emergencies for California, like the earthquake and the fires; I've worked on trying to get the economy of this state going again -- to sell computers overseas, to sell the farmers' rice to Japan for the first time; to start the ship building industry in the southern part of the state; to help the defense conversion momentum really get going here so we could build a lot of jobs out of this defense downsizing and not just lose them.

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I've tried to do things that would help you deal with the crime and the immigration problems -- real, concrete steps, not just talk about it. Ten thousand more police officers will come to California under the Crime Bill. We have doubled the number of immigration officers along the southern border of the state. We've begun to have a real impact in dealing with the problem of illegal immigration.

But what I want to say to you is that over the long run, if we are going to have a bright future for the people of the United States, and if California is going to work -- and it can work, you look around at the students here, look at all the different ways they found to say welcome to me up there -- (Applause.) If this country is going to work, and this state is going to work, then schools like this school have to work all across America. We have to prove that there is strength, not weakness, in our diversity.

We have to prove that all children can learn. And we have to prove that with all the changes that we're going through in America today, we can still give our kids an old-fashioned, safe upbringing and a good education, because that is the key to the future of the global economy. (Applause.)

One of the least known stories, perhaps, of the recent concluded session of Congress is that it was the best session for education in at least three decades. (Applause.) That's worth clapping for. I appreciate that. (Applause.) This Congress expanded the Head Start program, making more children eligible and making younger children eligible. This Congress passed the Goals 2000 bill, writing into national law our national education goals, world class standards; and saying that we would help to develop means of measuring whether we're meeting those standards, but emphasizing that education reform has to come from the grass roots, school by school.

Just a couple of days ago I signed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, which dramatically reduces the federal regulations telling schools how to spend the money we give them to help kids who need extra help in schools, and encourages schools to do things that will actually prove that children can learn without regard to their racial or economic background. (Applause.)

The bill also, as Senator Feinstein said, helps to support the safe schools initiative and promotes the concept of character education when basic civic values to be taught in the schools are developed at the community level.

We also passed a bill for young people who don't go to college but do want to get good education; an apprenticeship bill to help every state in the country develop a system to guarantee that even those who don't go to college will have a chance to get some further education and training and get a good job with a prospect of a growing income. (Applause.)

Finally and perhaps most important, we dramatically reorganized the system by which the national government makes colleges loans available, not only to low-income but also to middle class young people. (Applause.)

One of the things that's always bothered me in the last couple of years is seeing the cost of a college education go up faster than any other essential part of a family's budget, even more rapidly than health care costs. In my own state I saw young people start college and then drop out because they either couldn't get loans or they were convinced they would never be able to repay them.

Then I saw young people get out of college with big debt and take jobs that paid higher wages, not because they

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wanted them but because they were afraid they couldn't afford to do something they really wanted to do, like work with people in the community to help kids get a better start, or be school teachers or police officers or do other things, because they were afraid they could never repay their college loans.

Under this system, you won't have to worry about that anymore when you become of age and you get out of high school. You'll be able to choose to borrow money and pay it back over a longer period of time at a lower interest rate as a percentage of your income so that if you choose to serve the public and you choose not to get rich, you at least won't be driven into the poor house by the cost of your college education. (Applause.)

The last thing the Congress did was to pass a program that's already being felt here in California, the national service program, AmeriCorps, to give young people the chance to serve their communities and earn money for their college education. This year, 20,000 young Americans are doing it; year after next 100,000 young Americans are doing it. If the Congress will continue to support it, I am convinced we can have as many as a half a million young Americans paying their way to college by solving the problems of this country one on one, person by person at the grass roots level all across America. And I thank the Congress for that record of education reform. (Applause.)

Now, having said that, let me come to the point. Education still does not occur in Washington. Education occurs school by school, class by class, student by student. The magic of education is in what happens between the teachers and the students, what the role of the principal is, whether the parents are supportive at home, what is going on inside the student. None of that can happen in an atmosphere of fear.

We all know stories, horrible stories of children being shot or cut or terrorized. When I was in California last year, I did a town meeting and a young man from Northern California told me that he and his brother changed schools because they thought the school they were in was so dangerous. And then when they lined up to register in the new school they thought was safer, somebody just came in the school door and shot his brother, standing right there in line to register. He just happened to be in the wrong place.

You would not believe the letters I get from children of all ages begging me to do something about the violence that terrorizes their lives. You may have seen me read a letter that I got from a young man from New Orleans, when the Crime Bill was being debated, who said, "I know you can do something about crime, and I am frightened." That young man was shot a couple of weeks after he wrote a letter to me.

I got a letter after the Crime Bill was signed from the son of a friend of mine in my administration who said, "I have a nice family. We have a high income. We live in a good neighborhood. I go to a good school. My friends and I are still scared every time I go downtown to the movies. I feel better now that the Crime Bill has been signed."

We cannot operate in a country where children are afraid and cannot feel, much less think. You cannot learn in that kind of atmosphere. That is why, as the principal said, we're trying to be tough and firm and strong in some of these critical areas. That's why we had to pass the Brady Bill. That's why we had to pass the Crime Bill. That's why we adopted Senator Feinstein's amendment to ban assault weapons on the streets of our cities. (Applause.)

And that's why we come here today to sign this executive order. I know here in this high school you already

have a zero tolerance policy for guns, and I applaud you for it. I applaud your principal, and I applaud the students who support it. Now, students all over the country, their parents, their teachers, their principals, will be required to meet the challenge that you have met, to follow your example. Students have to take the lead, to take responsibility for this. We can do better, and we must.

"Zero Tolerance" is a common sense policy. Why does anybody need to have a gun in school. That's why this order directs the Secretary of Education to withhold funding the states that don't comply with the law. Young people simply should not have to live in fear of young criminals who carry guns to schools.

And again I will say, just like the assault weapons, this bill is in the federal law because Senator Feinstein sponsored it and demanded it, and we got it thanks to her efforts and those of Senator Dorgan, and I thank them both. (Applause.)

Now, as I sign this order, just before I do, I want you to think about it, all of you students here. What are you going to do? What are you personally going to do about what's going on? That's really what counts. We can have this rule and fewer people will bring guns to schools; we also need fewer guns on our streets. One of the things in the crime bill is the banning of juvenile possession of handguns unless the juvenile is under the supervision of an adult. We are doing all we can to pass laws. But in the end your future will be decided by what is inside you, what you decide to do.

I think all Americans have been very moved -- I know I certainly have -- by the signs of the Haitian people getting their freedom back and President Aristide going back, to bring democracy back to Haiti. (Applause.)

You know, one of his biggest challenges after all the violence that those people have suffered is to make sure that his own supporters now do not resort to violence to retaliate. Why is violence going up so much among young people in our country? Violence begets violence, begets violence, begets violence. It has to end somewhere.

And if you watched President Aristide back in Haiti, perhaps the most gripping thing was when he stood there having had many of his friends killed, having had children that he tried to help terrorized, standing there saying to the masses of his people: No to violence; no to retribution; yes to peace; yes to reconciliation.

And if they are saying that inside their heart that will do more than any law. So I say to you, as your principal said, we've done some tough things to try to give you a bright future. And we're not ashamed of them; we're proud of them. If we can think of other things to do, we will do them as well.

But in the end what you say inside is even more important. You must say no to guns. No to gangs. No to drugs. Yes to education. Yes to hope. Yes to your own future.

The 21st century can be the best time this country and this state ever knew because of all of you; because of our diversity; because in a global society we will be the great global nation, because everybody can be an American. You don't have to be of a certain race or ethnic background or religious conviction. You just have to come here and share our land and share our values and make the most of your own life. That is what you have to do.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary  
(Belmont, California)

For Immediate Release

October 22, 1994

REMARKS BY SENATOR FEINSTEIN  
AT THE SIGNING OF PRESIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM:  
"ZERO TOLERANCE FOR GUNS IN SCHOOLS"

Carlmont High School  
Belmont, California

SENATOR FEINSTEIN: Thank you very much. Mr. President, my colleagues in government, and ladies and gentlemen, I want you to know how much we appreciate this President, and how much he has done for California. I don't know any sitting president that has returned to California as much as President Clinton has. I know after the Loma Priater earthquake a president wasn't here. I know after the Northridge earthquake this President came to California, the Vice President came, the Cabinet Secretaries came, \$10 billion in earthquake relief was fed, and this President cares about our great state. (Applause.)

So, Mr. President, as the Senator from California, it's a great treat for me to welcome you once again to this magnificent and beautiful state. Although, I must say that this morning we welcome you with a sobering and concerning note because the legislation, and the executive order that you're about to sign to implement it, is something that should cause everyone in this gymnasium and in gymnasiums all across this state great concern.

Let me begin with a couple of statistics. According to the National School Safety Center, every day 135,000 guns are brought into the schools of this country. Since 1993, in a year alone, there have been 35 deaths and 92 injuries from guns. It's estimated that 150,000 students across this great land don't go to class because they fear violence. And one out of every five students carries a weapon: a gun, a knife or a club. School violence has become the number one concern of parents.

And for very good reason. Violence and fear have become epidemic on some of our campuses. Worse than that, in many areas it's standard. Last year in this great state two students were killed in a single California school district in one month. One, shot during his english class. And the other, Michael Ensley (phonetic), with whom I visited with his mother at Reseda High -- during a break at Reseda High -- and shot because he had a look on his face that the assailant didn't like.

And it's not just an urban school problem. Earlier this year in this school a 15 year old student, named Edward Simms (phonetic), was shot and killed by another student who had threatened Simms with a gun at school in the days before the shooting. And throughout the state our school districts have experienced an alarming increase in weapons on school campuses. And it's not just a high school problem. In fact, there was 103 percent increase in weapons seized in Oakland elementary schools last year. And five guns seized at a single junior high school.

That's why Senator Byron Dorgan of North Dakota, and I, in the Senate of the United States, propose some very strong language as an amendment to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. It's called the Gun Free Schools Act. And I am very proud, Mr. President, that you have decided that this amendment is important enough for you to be signing an executive order to put it in place today in California. (Applause.)

MORE

The Gun Free Schools Act requires that states and school districts adopt a mandatory one year expulsion policy for students who bring guns to school. Local discretion is built-in, states will be given time to conform, and alternative education is permitted. But what this legislation means is that as parents, teachers, students and law enforcement we will have zero tolerance for guns anywhere in the schools in the United States of America. (Applause.)

Mr. President, your signature on this executive order will make clear that state and local education agencies must implement a zero tolerance policy as a condition of receiving federal education funds. Those who refuse to adopt this policy could lose their share of over \$10 billion in federal education funds, including \$729 million in Chapter One funds for the state of California.

I must tell you, Mr. President, and ladies and gentlemen, that mandatory expulsion has already proven to be an effective deterrent, and it has been credited with lowering gun possession and gun related violence in many school districts. Let me give you one. Los Angeles, for example, gun possession dropped 27 percent. And gun related school violence decreased 34 percent in 1993 and 1994, when a zero tolerance measure was implemented by the Los Angeles County Board of Education.

I am very proud to welcome you here today, and also to point out that you have provided in recommendations to the Congress for additional funds in Goals 2000 -- which you recommended to us and which we passed and which you signed into law; in the Safe and Drug Free Schools Act, which you recommended, we passed and you signed into law -- \$54 million in one, and \$47 million to others -- to provide for safe schools throughout the state of California. And, Mr. President, the Crime Bill, which you so strongly supported and we passed, provides \$37 million in safe haven and youth violence prevention funding, to help communities develop programs before and after school.

And, finally, there is just one prevention program none of us at the federal level can mandate, and that's good parents. Parents that teach their youngsters the difference between right and wrong, parents that give them love and discipline, and parents that know their whereabouts every hour of every day of every week.

So, Mr. President, I truly believe that you and the Congress of the United States have done their job in providing a framework within which local jurisdictions -- school districts, mayors, boards of supervisors, city councils all across this great nation can mount a major prevention problem for safety in our schools, in our work place, on our streets and in our homes. And, Mr. President, I thank you for this leadership. (Applause.)

And, now, it is a great treat for me to be able to introduce to an audience that knows him well, the principal of this great school, Mr. Michael Johnson. (Applause.)

END

But in the end you will have to do it. So I say to you, I'm proud to sign this order to give you the chance to say yes to your future. And I hope and pray you will do it.

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

(The Memorandum is signed.)

END

12:35 P.M. PDT

**THE WHITE HOUSE**  
**Office of the Press Secretary**

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For Immediate Release

October 25, 1994

**PRESIDENT CLINTON NAMES THREE MEMBERS  
TO THE COMMISSION ON CHILD AND FAMILY WELFARE**

President Clinton today announced his intention to appoint Robert Robles, Barbara J. Sabol and Kaye Theimer as members of the Commission on Child and Family Welfare.

**Judge Robert Robles** is a District Judge for the Third Judicial District, the highest level trial court in New Mexico. His primary responsibility is for domestic and family law matters, including child custody, visitation and support, and child support enforcement. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Robles was a partner in the law firm of Evans and Robles, and served as Assistant Attorney General in the New Mexico Attorney General's office.

**Barbara J. Sabol**, of the District of Columbia, is President of University Research Corporation (URC) in Bethesda, Maryland. URC is a multi-disciplinary firm, providing its clients with training, human resource development, leadership, management, health education and communication services. Prior to taking the helm of URC, Ms. Sabol was the Commissioner of the New York City Human Resources Administration, where she was responsible for the nation's largest public welfare agency.

**Kaye Theimer**, of California, is a child psychologist in private practice and is President of Childworks, Inc., a professional consulting firm specializing in research and evaluation of child care issues. Dr. Theimer was previously the Coordinator of Child Care for the County of Santa Barbara, California.

The Commission on Child and Family Welfare was established by the Child Support Recovery Act of 1992 (P.L. 102-521). The Commission is to provide recommendations for the improvement of the child welfare system. To complete its charge, the Commission must study issues that affect the best interests of children, including domestic issues such as abuse, family relations, services to and agencies for children and families, and juvenile and family courts. Three of the Commission's fifteen members are appointed by the President.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

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For Immediate Release

October 25, 1994

October 22, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

SUBJECT: Implementation of the Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994, and the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act

Our schools are increasingly plagued by violence and crime that is abhorrent to all law-abiding citizens. It is of paramount importance that this Nation's schools be safe, disciplined, and conducive to learning.

Several laws passed this year will promote our effort to make schools safe for learning. The Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994 provides that within one year, every State receiving Federal aid for elementary and secondary education must have a law requiring school districts to expel from school for at least one year any student who brings a gun to school, subject to certain exceptions. The Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act funds comprehensive violence prevention programs, including those that enhance school security.

To ensure vigorous enforcement, I am directing you to coordinate implementation of these anti-violence measures with appropriate local authorities to the maximum extent possible. Your collaborative efforts should include the States, school districts, law enforcement agencies, and educators. In the case of the Gun-Free Schools Act, enforcement should include termination of Federal assistance if you determine that a State is not in compliance.

You should report to me in writing by December 31 on the specific steps you have taken to implement these statutes.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

# # #

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary  
(Albuquerque, New Mexico)

For Immediate Release

October 17, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
TO THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
CHIEFS OF POLICE

Albuquerque Convention Center  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

11:38 A.M. MDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Chief Daughtry, Chief Whetsel, ladies and gentlemen of the IACP, I am honored to be here. I love the jacket -- (laughter) -- and I love what it stands for. I thank you more than I can say for your help and support in passing the Brady Bill and the Crime Bill.

I'd like to acknowledge in this audience today the presence of some very important people here in the State of New Mexico and throughout our nation. First of all, behind me, the Governor of the state of New Mexico, Governor Bruce King. (Applause.) Bruce and I are the only -- two of the only three people serving in America who were governors in the '70s, the '80s and the '90s. I don't know what that means anymore. (Laughter.) I can barely remember them.

I'm delighted to be here with the two senators from the state of New Mexico, Senator Domenici and Senator Bingaman who are out there. (Applause.) Congressman Steve Schiff, congressman from this district, is here. Thank you, sir. (Applause.) My good friend, Congressman Bill Richardson, who was very active in passing the Crime Bill. Where's Congressman Richardson -- he's here somewhere. Thank you. (Applause.) And, of course, the mayor, Mayor Marty Chavez, who is one of my jogging partners, is here. (Laughter and applause.)

I want to also say that, you know, I think I have more administration members who have been active in this outfit than previous presidents. (Laughter.) Your ex-president, Lee Brown, is now our Drug Czar. Your ex-vice president, Tom Constantine, is now our DEA Administrator. (Applause.) The head of the U.S. Marshal Service, Eduardo Gonzalez, was Tampa Bay Chief and once active in this organization. So I feel at home here.

I think our FBI Director is here -- I want to tell a story on him. Is Louis Freeh here somewhere? Tomorrow -- he's coming tomorrow? It's the first time I've been ahead of him in a long time. (Laughter.)

I want to tell you a story about the -- since this is an international organization, one of the things that I have really tried to do as President is to build international cooperation in law enforcement. It's important in dealing with drugs, it's important in dealing with terrorism, it's important in dealing with organized crime.

Lee Brown and Tom Constantine, both of them, as you know, have major responsibilities that go beyond our nation's borders, as you would expect, in dealing with the drug problems. But the FBI Director, Mr. Freeh, also took a very popular trip to Europe and to Russia not very long ago, and slightly after that

when I was following him, instead of the other way around, I went to Riga, Latvia to celebrate the withdrawal of Russian forces from Eastern Europe for the first time since World War II, and from the Baltic States. And we had this meeting with the heads of the government of Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia; and, so help me, the first thing the President of Latvia said is, can we have an FBI office in Riga? (Laughter.)

Now, it's funny and it's flattering, but it's also serious. Why? Because as these countries convert from totalitarian societies to free societies, as they become much more open, they become much more vulnerable to organized crime, because they haven't developed their banking system and their trading rules and their business rules. And that relates to whether they, themselves, then become more vulnerable to drug-trafficking and to terrorism, and to trafficking in weapons of mass destruction or stolen nuclear materials, or any of that sort of thing.

So I say to you -- I'll make you a prediction: For the next 10 years when you meet, more and more and more, your concentration will have to be on the international aspects of the crime problem which affects what you do on the streets in your cities and towns throughout the United States.

I'd like to talk a little today about the Crime Bill and what it means against the background of the crime problem in America. And the state of play, as you know, is very troubling, because the good news is that in many of our cities, the crime rate is actually going down. The Mayor of Odessa, Texas was in town the other day when we handed out the first wave of grants, police grants, under the new Crime Bill only two weeks after the bill was signed, and she said they'd had a drop in the crime rate in excess of 15 percent for three years running because of community policing, because of what law enforcement officers have done. The Mayor of Houston was reelected with 91 percent of the vote after they had over a 20-percent drop in crime in only one year there.

This is happening in many cities and towns throughout the country. On the other hand, we know that a lot of small towns and suburban areas having rising crime because as cities clamp down on crime, a lot of times the criminals just move their base of operation, and they're not as well equipped to deal with it.

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

The point I want to make about all this is that this is a manifestation of trends that have been developing in our country for quite a long while now. We have had, really, 30 years -- a whole generation and more -- of these trends that have been developing in a lot of the high-crime areas in America -- the breakdown of families and community organizations and neighborhood organizations; the loss of economic opportunity, creating huge social vacuums into which have moved gangs and guns and drugs and crime and violence.

I wanted this Crime Bill to pass very badly because I believed that the national government had a responsibility to help you deal with it. But we have to look at what we can do together within the Crime Bill and then what we have to do beyond the Crime Bill, because we're going to have to change this country from the grass roots up. We're going to have to change the culture that a lot of these kids live in. And you can do it; I can do it; parents can do it; but we're all going to have to do it. And there is clearly something for everybody to do.

The first job I ever had as an elected official was as Attorney General of my state. And I began to work with law enforcement on a regular basis. Then I was governor for a dozen years -- the years when crime was exploding in America. I built prison cells. I devised work programs. I put in education programs and drug education programs and boot camps for first offenders. I enforced the capital punishment laws and tried to find ways to rehabilitate people who were getting out. I went to funerals of police officers who were friends and family members of friends of mine who died in the line of duty.

Dealing with all this has made an indelible impression on me. And when I became President, I guess I had in that sense more personal experience with the human cost and the human side of crime and law enforcement than a lot of people who have had this job. I was determined to bring an end to six years of political debate in Washington and to pass the Brady Bill, which had been there for seven years, to pass a crime bill, which had been debated for six years -- because I knew that we had some things that we had to do. I am doing my best where I live and where I work to get this country together and to move our country forward again.

I think my mission as President is to keep the American Dream alive and to help make sure Americans can compete and win as we move into this exciting 21st century by making government work for ordinary people and by bringing this economy back, by making us more secure and more prosperous in our relations with the rest of the world.

After 21 months, I can tell you I think that we've made a good start. America's in better shape than it was two years ago. We've got more jobs, low inflation, a much lower deficit. Over 70 percent of the new jobs coming into our economy this year, according to a report just published today, are higher wage jobs; we're moving away from the time when all of our new jobs were low-wage jobs.

We've got a smaller federal government by more than 70,000 already that's doing more for ordinary citizens. The Congress just passed, and I signed a procurement bill which changes the way we spend your money when we buy things, and it'll put an end to the \$500 hammers and the \$50 ash trays. The Vice President kind of has mixed feelings about that; he'll never get to go on David Letterman again now because of that, but it was the right thing to do. (Laughter.)

Russian missiles are no longer pointed at the United States. We've got big increases in trade that are fueling these high-wage jobs, and now America is leading the way to peace and security and democracy, as you've seen in the last few days in the Middle East and Northern Ireland and Eastern Europe and, of course, in Haiti.

But all of us know, I think, that no matter how much economic progress we made, no matter how much progress we make in dealing with trouble spots around the world, there will be a gnawing feeling that all is not right in America until our children feel safe in their schools and on their streets, and Americans feel secure in their homes and at their work.

We have to do things that will go beyond talking, that will actually reduce the rates of crime and violence in the United States, that will actually make sure that more of our children do say "no" to drugs and gangs and guns, and "yes" to books and to Boys and Girls Clubs and to games. That's what the Brady Bill was all about; that's what the Crime Bill was all about. It was the national government's contribution to a national effort to really change the way Americans are living, to change the way they feel inside. And it is terribly important.

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

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

These are the voices of the children of America across racial and income and regional lines, telling us that we have to do better. That is what this is about. Well, we are doing better, but there's more to be done. The Brady Bill has made a difference -- all of you know it. There are thousands of people who have already been denied weapons who were not entitled to them, who had a criminal background, who would have gotten them if it hadn't been for the Brady Bill. (Applause.)

And the Crime Bill will make a difference. We have evidence of that. Before the Crime Bill passed last year, I asked Congress to make a down payment on our commitment to put 100,000 more police officers on the street. And the Congress funded another 2,000 police officers. Last week when we gave out the first police grants under the Crime Bill, Chief David Massey from Ocean City, Maryland came with the police officers he'd hired under the first grant. One of them was an ex-linebacker at the University of Maryland -- the sort of person that you just see and you want to ask permission. (Laughter.)

This young man was in a community policing program riding a bicycle in Ocean City. And very soon after he went to work, he caught a serial rapist -- he did, as a community police officer. Now, all the victims that will never be preyed upon by that rapist will never know what they owe to that one young man who is a community police officer. And now we're going to be able to multiply that by 100,000 in every state in this country. (Applause.)

Something else I think that really needs to be pounded home over and over again is that this Crime Bill was fashioned largely by law enforcement officers -- from the punishment programs, to the policing programs, to the prevention programs, it was the law enforcement officers who shaped what was in it. You said we ought to have three strikes and you're out because there were some violent criminals who kept getting paroled because they were lucky enough not to have severe consequences to the victims of their crimes. But what they tried to do was terrible. That's what the purpose of three strikes and you're out was.

You said that too many people were getting out too

quick because there wasn't enough prison space, so there's provision for 100,000 more prison cells in this bill. Never been done before. The federal government had never before helped to build prison space for states. You said that we ought to have capital punishment if someone kills a police officer and it's in the bill. (Applause.)

You said it ought to be against the law for a minor to carry a handgun except when supervised by an adult. It's in the bill. You said we should do more for victims of crime. You

said we should make a serious assault on the problems faced by women and children -- the problems of domestic violence and neighborhood violence. You said we should do more to make schools safer. You said we should do more to give our kids some prevention programs, some things they could say "yes" to -- places to go, things to do, good things to do. Maybe most important, good people to look up to when they can't find that at home.

When the NRA tried to take the assault weapons ban out of the Crime Bill, you stood firmly in favor of leaving it in -- not because you were against the rights of hunters and sportsmen, but because you knew that there were 650 weapons in the bill specifically protected from any government interference. And to those of you who come from small town and rural areas, you can go home and tell your sportsmen that we are not going to allow the federal government to interfere with the legitimate interest of hunters and sportsmen, but we do not support leaving weapons in the hands of kids, its only purpose is to kill as many people as quickly as they can. (Applause.)

And you said that we ought to have 100,000 more police. Indeed, we probably ought to have more, but that's all we could figure out how to pay for.

For the American now, that's a number that doesn't mean a lot. That's why last week was so important when we had 400 communities coming up and little towns getting one police officer and bigger places getting 25 or 30, because people began to visualize what that means. There are 550,000 police officers in this country. If you add 100,000 and they all go into beat work, if they actually go into working to prevent crime and to catch criminals, it'll be about a 20-percent increase in the presence of police on the street. It will work. It will work. We've had only a 10 percent increase in police officers in the last 30 years, while we've had a 300 percent increase in violent crime. This was a critical component of the Crime Bill.

And today I want to announce two important steps to get those officers on the streets as quickly as possible. And you will have the release from the Justice Department here today supporting that.

First of all, we're going to make it possible for cities with at least 50,000 people to begin hiring officers immediately, by setting aside some money even before the grants are awarded so that you can know what you're going to get and you can start hiring and training now. And the grants will be there when you put the people on the payroll full-time. (Applause.)

Secondly, for cities and towns of fewer than 50,000 people who don't have a lot of people in clerical departments to help you deal with the federal government, we're going to do for you what we did for small businesspeople applying for SBA loans. We're going to give you a one-page application with about eight questions on it, and you can start filling out them out right now, so that nothing will come between America and the new police officers. (Applause.)

I'd like to end today by asking you to reflect on three things. One is a tribute to how the Congress funded this bill. This is a big bill. It was funded not by raising taxes,

not by increasing the deficit, but by reducing the size of the federal government by 270,000 over six years, and giving all the money back to local communities to fight crime. That's how it was funded. (Applause.)

I consider that to be a solemn trust with America that we must not breach. And you will have to work every year for the next six years to make sure that we keep that trust.

The second point I want to make is that for most of its life, this Crime Bill enjoyed broad bipartisan support which dissipated at the end of the debate, as all of you know. It became a political football -- first, because there were some who were honestly willing to sacrifice everything in the Crime Bill to beat the assault weapons ban: to give up the police, to give up the prison cells, to give up the capital punishment provisions, to give up the prevention programs, to give up the violence against women section, to give up the victims against crime section -- to give it all up.

Second, there were some who just thought it was important to kill the bill for political reasons. That's all in the past now; it passed. What I want to say to you is, we have got to make this Crime Bill work -- every provision of it --work. We have got to demonstrate to our people that the money is being well-spent. And we have to find a way to reach out at the grass-roots level across political lines. We have to stop this.

We can't tell the American people they've got to change their behavior to change this country if crime is a partisan political issue. The victims of crime are Republicans, Democrats and Independents. The people who put on uniforms every day are Democrats, Republicans and Independents. This is about America and our future. We must never again permit crime to be divisive in a partisan political way, and you can stop it and I want you to do it. (Applause.)

And I have to tell you -- the only thing that I really worry about now in that regard is that in this election season, there are many who are campaigning on a contract with America which cost \$1 trillion -- to balance the budget, to increase defense, to revitalize Star Wars, to give huge tax cuts. And there is no clear notion of how this is going to be paid for. But the only option to pay for it is the way it was paid for before: higher deficits and cuts in everything else -- from Medicare to veterans' benefits, to this Crime Bill.

So I ask you: Start today. Say we've fought too hard for this bill, we won it fair and square, let's not take it away indirectly by adopting a commitment to a budgetary process that will make it utterly impossible to fund the Crime Bill. The lives and the future of the American people, and especially our children, are too important. This must not become a political football. The bill is long, the trust is there, we must fund this Crime Bill. We cannot back away, and you must see that it is done. (Applause.)

The third thing I want to say -- and probably one of the most important things -- is that we have now done a major thing with this Crime Bill, and you will do major things with it. But the people of this country have a job to do here, too. We're not here giving things out to the American people, we're here challenging the American people to take their streets and their schools and their neighborhoods and, indeed, their homes back.

And if all of us go out here and say the right things and do the right things, and we get no help from the rest of America, we'll be back here next year and the year after, and the year after that, bemoaning the same problems. And you know that as well as I do.

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

We've got to have more folks turning off the TV and knowing where their kids are, and spending time reading and doing homework, and accepting personal responsibility. And we've got

to have more folks helping them, like those wonderful police officers in the D.A.R.E. programs all across America.  
(Applause.)

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

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

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

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

I am telling you: this country is coming back economically. This country has resources and character and richness and diversity that will open unparalleled opportunities to us in the 21st century. This is a good country. (Applause.)

When the delegation came back from Haiti yesterday, they said that all the Haitian people had these little signs in Creole, painted, and the most popular one said simply, "Thank you, America." They looked at those young men and women we sent down there in uniform and, just by walking around, these young people -- our kids -- they make a statement about what's right and what's wrong; what's good and what's bad; what kind of a person it's worth being -- just by being there and being who they are. And it is thrilling to other people to see the best of this country.

And we need not be worried about that if we just roll up our sleeves and face our challenges and go on. But what we must be worried about is wave upon wave upon wave of these little children, who don't have somebody both good and strong to look up to. Who are so vulnerable that their hearts can be

turned to stone by the time they're 10 or 11 years old. And when there is a good one -- a 5-year-old kid in difficult circumstances, blooming like a flower in the desert, knowing that it's wrong to steal candy. He actually has his life at risk.

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

Thank you, and God bless you all.

END12:10 P.M. MDT

Date: 10/17/94 Time: 16:54

## Clinton Cheered by Police, Attacks GOP on Paying for Crime Bill

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) From the stage of a police convention, President Clinton suggested Monday that Republicans are plotting to rob money from the war on crime with their call for lower taxes, higher military spending and a balanced-budget amendment.

In a political attack just over three weeks before the midterm elections, Clinton declared, his \$30 billion crime bill would make a crucial difference. And he told 2,500 officers at the convention, "We must never again permit crime to be divisive in a partisan political way and you can stop it."

After a string of campaign events in which Democratic candidates have avoided Clinton or the turnout has been low, the president had reason for cheer, basking in loud applause in a convention hall packed with police.

New Mexico's political establishment Republicans and Democrats alike welcomed Clinton at the airport and joined him at the annual conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

"Law enforcement has no better friend than President Clinton," association president Sylvester Daughtry said in introducing him. The officers responded with a standing ovation.

New Mexico was a state Clinton carried two years ago but his popularity has sagged here as elsewhere. An Albuquerque Journal poll published Monday showed that 37 percent of those surveyed Oct. 11-13 approved of his performance, compared with 45 percent in April. The poll showed 51 percent disapproved.

Clinton made the seven-hour flight to New Mexico and back without any other stops in the Southwest, where there's no shortage of close political races.

In an era when voters are angry at incumbents, Clinton for some reason reminded his audience that Democratic Gov. Bruce King, struggling for re-election, has been in office since the 1970s.

Clinton helped fatten King's campaign war chest, speaking to 50 people at a \$5,000-a-person fund-raiser. He also met privately with Hispanic leaders, urging them to get out the vote to support King.

In his speech to the police, Clinton said law enforcement officials told the administration what they wanted in a crime bill and the legislation was tailored to their demands.

Declaring that crime should not be a political issue, Clinton said, "The only thing that I really worry about in that regard is that in this election season, there are many who are campaigning on a Contract for America which costs \$1 trillion."

The contract, signed by more than 300 Republican candidates, has become Clinton's prime target for attack as an irresponsible gimmick.

"There is no clear notion of how this is going to be paid for," Clinton said. "But the only option to pay for it is the way it was paid for before: higher deficits and cuts in everything else, from Medicare to veterans' benefits to this crime bill."

Clinton said he won the crime bill fight "fair and square, let's not take it away indirectly by adopting a commitment to a budgetary process that will make it utterly impossible to fund the crime bill."

The president also spoke with emotion about the failure of parents to teach their children right from wrong.

"We've got to have more folks turning off the TV and knowing where their kids are, and spending time reading and doing homework and accepting personal responsibility," Clinton said.

He cited the death last week of a 5-year-old boy in Chicago who was thrown from a window by two youngsters when he refused to steal candy, and another case in Virginia in which two youths doused a toddler with gasoline and set him afire.

"We can hire 5 million police officers and if we keep losing the battle for what these kids think is right and wrong, we're going to be in a lot of trouble."

APNP-10-17-94 1653EDT

Date: 10/17/94 Time: 17:06

## White House Sees Anti-Crime Legislation As Boost for Democrats

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) President Clinton, whose political woes threaten to drag down Democratic candidates in midterm elections, used the crime bill today as a weapon against Republicans taking aim at him.

"There were some who just thought it was important to kill the bill for political reasons," he told hundreds of police attending a conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Without criticizing the Republican Party by name, he told the police: "We must never again permit crime to be divisive in a partisan political way, and you can stop it and I want you to do it."

But he made crime a political issue, in a further attempt to redefine himself and his party as "new Democrats," not old liberals, in the face of slumping popularity.

Even here, in a state he carried two years ago, poll ratings are dropping. An Albuquerque Journal poll published today showed that his approval rating has dropped in recent months.

The poll, based on telephone interviews Oct. 11-13 with 601 registered voters statewide, showed that 37 percent of those surveyed approved of his performance, compared with 45 percent in April. The poll showed 51 percent disapproved of his performance.

Not by coincidence, Republican Colin McMillan has made Clinton the center of his campaign to unseat two-term Democratic Sen. Jeff Bingaman.

"I think the Clinton agenda is the issue," McMillan said recently.

Like dozens of other Democrats, Bingaman has been forced to distance himself from his president.

"Our campaign, of course, will point out that while I've supported the president on many initiatives that I think he was right on, I've opposed him on others and will continue to do so," he said.

Democrats also may have trouble holding on to the governor's office. The latest Journal poll showed Republican challenger Gary Johnson favored by 40 percent of the state voters surveyed and Democratic Gov. Bruce King the choice of 35 percent.

Both Bingaman and King were on hand to greet Clinton when he landed in Albuquerque today and attended the speech. King planned to meet with Clinton afterward but Bingaman did not.

Echoing his standard political speech, Clinton listed his accomplishments, including an improved economy.

Perhaps explaining why his popularity is diving despite better economic conditions, he added: "No matter how much economic progress we make, there will be a gnawing feeling that all is not right in American until our children feel safe in their schools and streets and Americans feel secure in their homes."

APNP-10-17-94 1705EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 12, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
IN ANNOUNCEMENT OF POLICE GRANTS

The South Lawn

10:50 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, General Reno, for your remarks and your tireless work on this, and for really a brilliant effort on the part of the Justice Department employees to move this grant money only 12 days after the bill became effective out into our communities.

Thank you, Chief Massey, for your testimony and for your work; and I want to thank all your forces. When I was introduced to his community policing recruits, I mean, just look at them, they're going to lower the crime rate by walking the streets. (Laughter.)

I want to thank the other law enforcement officers from Maryland who are up here and all of you who are out in the audience today. I thank the members of Congress who are here -- Congressman Pallone, Congressman Moran, Congresswoman McKinney. And especially I thank Senator Sarbanes for telling me Chief Massey's story a few weeks ago and bringing this whole issue to my attention as an illustration of how we can fight crime and lower the crime rate through community policing.

It was just a month ago that we were here on the South Lawn of the White House to sign the crime bill. We came back today to show determination to implement this law without delay.

I want to make three points, if I might. One is, I think all Americans know that we can never be strong abroad unless we are first strong at home. As we are very proud of the work our armed forces are doing today in Haiti and in the Gulf, we know that they are able to be there doing what they're doing because they come out of a strong, good country with strong basic community ties and values. And our ability to make our people secure is the critical element of personal freedom that rests at the root of our strength as a nation.

The second point I want to say is that we know we've got an issue here we have to deal with and we're determined to hit the ground running. And we want all of you to help us keep hitting the ground running not just now, but over the entire life of this crime bill.

And the last point I want to make has already been made more graphically and powerfully by the story Chief Massey told -- this is not a problem that can be fought in Washington, D.C. The genius of this crime bill is that it empowers people at the community level in big cities like San Francisco, whose mayor is represented

here today, and in smaller communities like Ocean City, to take control of their own destiny, to drive down the crime rate and to catch criminals. The genius of this bill in the end may be that we really did say, we're going to pay for this by shrinking the size of the federal government and giving every last dollar of the shrinkage to local communities to fight crime to prove that they can bring the crime rate down; not we in Washington, but you out there. This is a bill which gives you the power to take control of the destinies of your people. And I know that you will do it.

Today we have rejected decades of excuses that crime is a local problem that Washington can do nothing about. However, Washington can do a lot to help you fight crime. And if you look at the crime bill, and the grants for local police, and the prevention programs, and the help to build prison cells for serious offenders, and the supportive work coming out the extra help for federal law enforcement authorities, this is an enormous step forward in a national partnership to help people fight crime at the grass-roots level. We have to prove here in America that we can make progress on this. We have to prove that we can make a difference.

Yesterday I was in Detroit, celebrating the revival of our automobile industry. For the first time in 15 years, it's now clearly number one in the world in sales worldwide. And it's wonderful to see that the biggest problem in Michigan is now how much overtime they have at the auto industry -- a story you wouldn't have heard 10 years ago. But, you build a country the same way you build a company like that. You have to face your problems, face your challenges, get people together, empower people to take control of their own destinies and get after it. And that's what we're trying to do.

After I did the event in Detroit, I went by and met with the editorial board of the Detroit Free Press, and they read a letter that a nine-year-old girl named Porsha had written to me and asked to be delivered. And she said, "please, please make me free from fear." That is what we're here about. We can talk about all the details and we can glory in all the specifics, but the bottom line is that we together have made a commitment to make the American people freer of fear.

It is a great tribute to the members of Congress who voted for this bill; a tribute to the Attorney General and all the people who work with her who worked so hard for it; a tribute to all of you, without whom we would not have passed it.

Let me say again that 100,000 police officers is a number that doesn't mean a lot to the average American. Most Americans don't know how many police we have now. They don't know how many that is; they're not sure what it means on their block. There are 550,000 police officers in America today -- 100,000 police is nearly a 20 percent increase. And if they are all put into community policing as they are supposed to be, then it will be at least a 20 percent increase in the effective police presence on the street in the United States. That is the message we need to get out to the American people, so they can imagine what this means. This is something of profound magnitude; not only in catching criminals, but as every officer here will tell you, in reducing the rate of crime in the first place by deterring crime, by the simple, effective presence of community policing.

I am very, very proud of all of you for your support. I

am very proud of Chief Massey for coming here to tell this story.

I want to emphasize one other thing that the Attorney General said before I close. The more we got into this problem, the more we realize that big city crime was going down in some cities, but that the inevitable consequence was that it was being exported to smaller towns and rural areas nearby; that, as many of our larger cities perfected their capacity to do community policing and to drive down the crime rates, was actually putting inordinate pressure on the smaller towns who were in the vicinity.

And one of the things we were absolutely determined to do is to make sure -- I might add, with the support of all the big city mayors -- that this would not simply be a big city bill. So now, as you know, we have already put out over 2,000 police officers in 250 different communities of all sizes in the country, and the Attorney General gave you the figures on what we're doing today. I can assure you that over the life of this crime bill, we will not lose focus on the fact that crime is a problem for all Americans in all size communities. Four hundred communities today, hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of more to follow.

So I ask all of you now as we leave this place, not only to celebrate what we have done, but to redouble our efforts. We're getting off to a quick start. We're making our country strong at home, just like we have to be strong abroad, and we know that it starts at the grass-roots level. This is something Washington has done to give you the power to change the future of your communities, so that all the little Porsha in this country can think they are truly free.

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

END

11:00 A.M. EDT

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDE  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDE

12-Oct-1994 02:16pm

TO: Bruce N. Reed  
TO: Jose Cerda, III

FROM: Jonathan M. Prince  
Office of Communications

SUBJECT: Today's prepared remarks

President William J. Clinton  
Announcement of Police Grants  
The South Lawn  
October 12, 1994

[Acknowledgments: Attorney General Reno; Chief David Massey,  
Ocean City, MD]

It was only one month ago that we stood here, on the South Lawn of the White House, to sign the Crime Bill into law. We are back here today, because we are determined to put that law to work without delay.

Today, we reject decades of excuses that crime is a local problem Washington can do nothing about -- and bring the full force of the national government to bear on the side of local communities fighting a national problem we must do something about.

Countries all over the world expect America to succeed and want to follow our lead. We saw that underscored again in the last few days when the democratically elected Presidents of Russia and South Africa were here working with us on their common futures and aspirations for their people.

I am proud of the work America has done around the world in the cause of deomcracy. I am proud of our troops and the work they have done in the last few weeks. But if America is to remain an example for the world, we must constantly struggle to uphold freedom and democracy at home. America cannot be free as long as Americans are afraid.

It's really this simple: In order to remain strong abroad, we must remain strong at home. That's what today is about; that's what 100,000 new police officers are going to help us do.

We pay for this attack by reversing decades of unchecked growth in the federal bureaucracy to reduce it to its lowest level in over 30 years -- because the war on crime won't be won by bureaucrats here in Washington, it'll be won by the brave men and women who put their lives on the line for us every day.

When we were fighting for the Crime Bill, our opponents said that we couldn't really put that many new police officers on the street with our Crime Bill -- and that those new police officers wouldn't really make a difference even if we could.

Well, you're all here because we are delivering 100,000 new police officers, and Chief Massey just told us what a difference every single one of those officers can make.

He's in a position to tell us that because, in the last year -- even as we were fighting to pass the Crime Bill -- we put over

2,000 new police officers on the beat in more than 250 communities around the country. These officers were a down payment on the 100,000 officers that we are going to deploy.

They are already working, on the beat in neighborhoods across America, proving what all of you on the frontlines already know: The single most effective way to reduce crime is to put more police officers on the street.

And that's exactly why we're here today. Today's police grants will put almost 3,000 new police officers on the streets of almost 400 communities. They are going to every state in the country: to counties, to large cities and to small towns.

Together with last year's grants, we are already 5,000 cops down the road towards a 100,000 new police officers on our nation's streets. We are right on track to fund 15,000 new police officers by next fall, and 35,000 new police in the next year and a half.

And we're able to pay for this as we go, not with any new taxes or by cutting important programs, but because we've already reduced the federal bureaucracy by 70,000 positions. That's a good deal for the American people.

And no matter what the critics, say, all of you here know exactly how important this is. The Mayor of Omaha, Subby Anzaldo, is sitting out there with Police Chief James Skinner. Anybody who thinks this won't make a difference should ask them how they feel about 40 new police officers on the streets of Omaha.

My friend the Republican Mayor of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, Paul Helmke, couldn't be with us today, but Police Chief Neil Moore is. Ask him if he thinks 30 new police officers will make a difference in Ft. Wayne.

Police Commissioner turned Mayor Frank Jordan of San Francisco is out there. Ask him what he thinks 20 new police officers will mean for San Francisco.

Today, we hit the ground running. It's only a beginning, but it is a very good beginning. And all of us were hired to build on it, to keep fighting for the future.

To keep fighting until every neighborhood in America has the what it needs to catch criminals, keep violent offenders off the street, and prevent crime before it happens. To keep fighting until we give people back the right to feel safe.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you all very, very much -- and God bless you.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 13, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
AT SIGNING OF CRIME BILL

The South Lawn

10:48 A.M. EDT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Now, too many kids don't have parents who care. Gangs and drugs have taken over our streets and undermined our schools and undermined our schools. Every day we read about somebody else who has literally gotten away with murder. But the American people haven't forgotten the difference between right and wrong. The system has. The American people haven't stopped wanting to raise their children in lives of safety and dignity, but they've got a lot of obstacles in their way.

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

When this bill is law, three strikes and you're out will be the law of the land, the penalty for killing a law enforcement officer will be death, we will have a significant -- (Applause.) We

will have the means by which we can say, punishment will be more certain. We will cut the federal work force over a period of years by 270,000 positions to its lowest level in 30 years, and take all that money to pay for this crime bill. (Applause.)

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

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

But, my friends, let us be frank with each other: even this great law, the toughest and smartest crime bill in our history, cannot do the job alone. By its own words, it is still a law. It must be implemented by you; and it must be supplemented by you. Even when we put a new police officer on your block, the officer can't make you safe unless you come out of your home and help the officer do his or her job. (Applause.) Even when we keep our schools open late and give our children an alternative to drugs and gangs, your children won't learn the difference between right and wrong unless you teach them and they're in those schools when they're open. (Applause.)

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

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

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

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

Thirdly, in the coming months the Vice President and I will hold forums on crime and violence all across our country, with all kinds of people from all walks of life, leading up here to a meeting at the White House next year to launch a national effort at

the grass roots level in each and every community to implement the crime bill properly, to enshrine the values and common sense the crime bill represents, and to do something about this terrible scourge of violence that is especially gripping our children and robbing them of their future. We intend to continue the fight, and we want you to keep working with us. (Applause.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(The bill is signed.) (Applause.)

END

11:00 A.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 14, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
TO U.S. ATTORNEYS

State Dining Room

2:40 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, General Reno, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the White House, and I want to begin by just thanking you -- all of you -- for the work you did to help us pass the Crime Bill. It was one of the more interesting and rigorous legislative exercises we've had around here in a long time. (Laughter.) I believe that you fought for this Crime Bill because you knew that there was so much in it that would actually work for this country.

And I'm encouraged as I saw some of the coverage on the Crime Bill last night that people are finally beginning to look at a lot of the provisions that weren't so hotly debated during the campaign for and against the Crime Bill that are really going to help us to make a difference to lower the crime rate and make the American people safer.

We know that some of these things will work. We have example after example in America that more police, properly deployed in community policing settings, will actually lower the crime rate. We have example after example that if you can figure out how to lock up the repeat offenders and give the first-time folks a chance to build a better life, you can lower the crime rate. We know that if you can keep guns out of the hands of schoolchildren, you can make the schools and the streets safer, you can save a lot of victims, and you can save a lot of potential criminals, too, for a more constructive life.

But the hard work of passing the Crime Bill, as I said yesterday when I signed it, was only the beginning. It's up to those of us who are charged with executing the laws to roll up our sleeves and put the Crime Bill to work as quickly as we possibly can.

One of the most important provisions of this Crime Bill is one which has been largely overlooked, I think, in this debate. I want to discuss it with you today because I think it can make a huge difference. And that is the ban on juvenile possession of handguns. Except when hunting or target shooting with a parent or other responsible adult, young people simply shouldn't be carrying guns. Period.

This provision is critical to our ability to make our schools and neighborhoods safer. It is so critical that I am directing you today, each of you, to prepare a plan in your districts

for enforcing this law over the next 100 days. We need to work with local law enforcement officials and other local officials as you have been doing.

And I want to compliment all of you and compliment the Attorney General for bringing this group in on a repeated disciplined basis and working closely with you on policy. And then I want to thank you for the work you've done with state and local officials.

But we have to make this work. If this law turns out to be just a law on the books that is widely ignored and never enforced, it will be a terrible shame because this law can save children's lives. This law can make a huge difference, but we obviously have to have a strategy to enforce it, and the means by which it is enforced may not be the same as a practical matter in every district in the country.

So I want to urge you to do that. By January the 1st, we should have a strategy in every community to get guns out of the hands of violent teens and away from young criminals.

Anybody can talk tough on crime; this law gives you a chance to be both tough on criminals and successful in making your community safer. We must -- we must -- implement it vigorously and promptly.

I also want to discuss the penalties which are in the laws, which are now available to you -- to make sure that people who do commit serious crimes are punished, people who commit violent crimes are punished severely, people who repeat their offenses are punished even more severely.

This Crime Bill gives you the ultimate punishment -- capital punishment -- for most heinous crimes, including murdering a police officer. It makes it possible to keep repeat violent offenders off the street for good with the so-called "three-strikes-and-you're-out" law. It stiffens the penalty for criminals who lure children into the drug trade. And from now on, if you use a child to sell drugs, the penalty will automatically be tripled.

It tells young people that if you commit a serious crime or belong to a gang, you can get more time in jail automatically. It not only helps to protect communities by notifying them of people who have committed crimes which qualify them as sexual predators, but from now on, the penalty for these offenses has doubled. The bill has some remarkable provisions in the violence against women section, which I urge all of you to read, become familiar with, and use. Violence in and around the home is still a terrible problem in this country, and it gives us the tools to do something about it.

It has some innovative provisions for boot camps and drug courts, and other innovations which we know have worked to lower the crime rate and to give people the chance to live a safer and more secure life.

These are just some of the examples of what is in the Crime Bill. Much of America does not know everything that's in the Crime Bill yet, but many people in the law enforcement community don't know everything that's in the Crime Bill yet. The penalties for selling drugs to residents of public housing are doubled. There are increased penalties for felons who commit crimes with guns. For criminals who use assault weapons, for those who sell guns to minors.

All of these things have to be implemented in order to work. The most important thing I want to emphasize today is the sweeping ban on handgun possession by minors. If we can enforce this, it will make a massive difference in the problem of youth violence. So let's come back here in 100 days with a plan to do it, and let's start the next year, 1995, with a system in place that will prove that the confidence of the people in this Crime Bill is not misplaced, and that we are going to lower crime, reduce violence and increase security in the United States with your leadership.

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

Now I'm going to introduce Mary Jo White and Michael Stiles, and they're going to speak, and maybe they'll ask me to do something, since I asked you to do something. (Laughter.)

The Attorney General said that's dangerous, they'll ask for money. (Laughter.) I've gotten good at saying no to that. (Laughter.)

Let me also say, just as I introduce Mary Jo and Michael, because I know they are the leaders of this task force representing you in working with the Attorney General, we have worked very hard here at the White House and in the Justice Department, in the appointment of United States attorneys, in the appointment of federal judges, and that we are proud of the job that we have done because of the job that you are doing and the job you will do, and I want you to know that that is also, to me, a very important part of the President's job, and I spend a great deal of time on it.

So I want to emphasize again, as I ask Mary Jo and Michael to come up here, that one of the things that I have been so pleased about the Attorney General's performance in doing is bringing you here on a regular basis and involving you in a regular way in making the policy of the Justice Department. Because for most Americans, the policy of the Justice Department is not the decisions we make about what appeals to enter into, or what position to take on appeals.

For most Americans, the policy of the Justice Department is what you do all day every day, and we thank you for that.

END

2:45 P.M. EDT

Date: 08/20/94 Time: 14:41

Text of President Clinton's weekly radio address delivered

Text of President Clinton's weekly radio address delivered Saturday:

Good morning.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

But this crime bill is smart as well as tough, because our approach recognizes what the law enforcement community has been saying for years and years. There isn't a single victim of crime who wouldn't trade the toughest sentence in the world for some way to have prevented the crime from happening in the first place.

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

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

streets, and the crime bill will take them off.

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

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

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

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

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

APNP-08-20-94 1442EDT

For six long years, the American people have waited for Washington to help stem the surging tide of crime and violence. Today, Senators in both parties took a promising step to bring the long hard wait for a Crime Bill closer to an end.

I want to salute Republicans and Democrats in the Senate who voted today to put law and order before politics and party.

Ordinary Americans across the country should take heart: In the past two weeks, members of Congress in both houses from both parties have thrown off the bonds of politics as usual to do the people's business. That's exactly what the people sent us here to do.

**President William J. Clinton  
Statement on Senate Crime Bill Vote  
August 25, 1994**

STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT  
AUGUST 25, 1994

The American people will not forget what a few in Congress did to them here this afternoon. Today, the Republican Senate leadership proved once and for all that they care more about their own political interests than about the lives and personal security of ordinary people.

Let's be very clear about what happened here today: a number of Republicans who voted for this Crime Bill in November and helped come up with the provisions to pay for it by cutting the federal workforce, turned around and used those provisions to throw up a roadblock and stop this Crime Bill. There's no excuse for what they did, and we're going to tear that roadblock down.

I know that some in the Senate want to go home. But we're not going to let them go.

The first responsibility of government is to keep its citizens safe. The police officers and prosecutors of this country don't walk away from that responsibility. Earlier this week, Republicans and Democrats in the House of Representatives didn't walk away from that responsibility. And we're not going to let Republicans in the United States Senate walk away from their responsibility to keep the American people safe.

I want to thank the Democrats and Republicans in the Senate who had the courage today to put law and order ahead of politics and party. And I want to reach out to many of their Republican colleagues who helped write this bipartisan bill, who support this bipartisan bill, and who will vote for it if their Republican leaders ever let the Crime Bill come to a vote.

We will come back tomorrow and the next day and the day after that, and we'll keep coming back for as long as it takes to win this Crime Bill for the American people. The American people don't care what party we're in, who's up and who's down, or who's running for what in the next election: They just want their children to grow up in a country that is safe.

I want the Senate to go back and finish the job the people sent us here to do. For more than 200 years, when our nation's security has been threatened, Americans have stood together without regard to party to keep this country safe. Today our security is threatened in our streets here at home. When violent criminals are preying on innocent children and teenagers roam the streets with assault weapons better armed than the police, we must put politics aside and keep our people safe.

CRIME INSERT  
AUGUST 24, 1994

This past weekend, Democrats and Republicans in the House joined in an unprecedented effort to set aside the petty concerns of partisan politics, and act quickly to address the real concerns of real people. Not only did they pass a Crime Bill that the American people desperately want, but they showed the bipartisan spirit and good faith we desperately need here to make Washington work again.

Now the Senate has a chance to pass the toughest, smartest, most bipartisan Crime Bill in our nation's history -- a bill that is built on the bipartisan roots of the Crime Bill that Republicans and Democrats in the Senate passed late last year by a vote of 95 to 4.

This bill is centrist and bipartisan to its bones: 100,000 new police; billions for more prisons; three-strikes-and-you're-out; prohibiting juveniles from owning handguns; a ban on deadly assault weapons; crime prevention programs; a massive cut in the federal bureaucracy to pay for all these crime-fighting efforts . . . These aren't Democratic ideas or Republican ideas -- they're common-sense ideas that the American people support because they can make a difference against crime now.

The American people have waited six years for a Crime Bill, even as they have watched the average violent criminal go free in four years. For six years, Americans' fear of crime and frustration with the political system have been going up at the same time.

So this isn't just about passing a Crime Bill. It is about keeping faith with the millions of American families who work hard, pay the taxes, obey the laws, and don't ask much from government but just want to raise their children in a country that is safe. We will never win back the confidence of the American people until we pass this Crime Bill and do our best to make them feel safe again.

The American people will not tolerate a criminal justice system that makes excuses for criminals or a political system that makes excuses for politicians. It's time to put the excuses, the blame, and the politics aside, and join forces to pass this Crime Bill now.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 23, 1994

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

The Rose Garden

11:30 A.M. EDT

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

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

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

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

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

And one of the best ideas in the bill was also supported in both Houses by members of both parties; that is to establish a trust fund funded by the reductions in the federal work force over the next six years -- 270,000 -- to bring our federal government to its smallest size in over 30 years, and to give all that money back to our local communities for police, for punishment, and for

prevention. Not by raising taxes, not by cutting other services, but simply reducing the size of the federal government to its lowest point in 30 years.

This trust fund was sponsored by leaders from both parties, including Senators Byrd, Mitchell, and Biden for the Democrats; Senators Dole, Gramm, and Hatch for the Republicans. It passed the Senate by a vote of 94 to 4 the first time.

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

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

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

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

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

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

college, and more and less expensive college loans and national service for those who wish to pursue higher education.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

(The bill is signed.)

END

11:40 A.M. EDT

On Sunday, Democrats and Republicans in the House produced a victory for law-abiding Americans by passing the Crime Bill. They showed that a little bit of faith and a lot of hard work can overcome the old labels and partisan divisions that have held us back for too long.

This week, the United States Senate has a chance to pass the toughest, smartest, most bipartisan Crime Bill in our nation's history. Many of the best ideas in this Crime Bill are ones that Republican and Democratic Senators came up with together. It will put 100,000 police on our streets, keep violent offenders off our streets with longer sentences and by making three-strikes-and-you're-out the law of the land. It will prohibit juveniles from owning handguns and ban deadly assault weapons. And it will launch innovative crime prevention programs that were sponsored by Democrats and Republicans alike.

And one of the best bipartisan ideas in this Crime Bill is a Trust Fund that will pay for all these crime-fighting efforts -- not by raising taxes or cutting necessary services -- but by reducing the size of the federal bureaucracy by more than 270,000 positions, to its lowest level in more than 30 years. The Trust Fund was sponsored by leaders in both parties -- Senators Byrd, Mitchell, and Biden for the Democrats, and Senators Dole, Gramm, and Hatch for the Republicans -- and it passed the Senate by an overwhelming vote of 94 to 4.

When the time comes for them to vote, every Senator without regard to party ought to remember the bipartisan spirit of this Crime Bill, and the nonpartisan urgency of restoring law and order to our streets. It is time for us to put politics aside and finish the job the people sent us here to do.

This isn't a Democratic Crime Bill or a Republican Crime Bill -- it's an American Crime Bill, and we should pass it without delay.

**STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT**

Over the past two days, I have spoken with many Senators, Democratic and Republican, who are interested in working together to pass the Crime Bill now. Unfortunately, there remain too many Senate Republicans who are unwilling to join in this bipartisan effort, which gained such a boost in the House last weekend, to give this nation its toughest and smartest Crime Bill ever.

This group of Senators wants to delay putting 100,000 cops on our streets, block tough sentences and new jails to hold violent criminals, postpone making "three strikes and you're out" the law of the land, and reject a serious effort to prevent crime, and keep kids off the street. Why? Because they are interested in partisan posturing, or appeasing the gun lobby's demand to kill the ban on assault weapons, or both.

These Senators claim they are acting in the name of bipartisanship, but they are not. Bipartisan cooperation is what produced this Crime Bill -- not what is blocking it. The spirit of compromise is what got us to this point -- not what is keeping us from getting farther. The fact is that the minority of Senators who want to use procedural tricks to block the Crime Bill now are not acting out of bipartisanship, or a spirit of cooperation -- they are obstructionists, plain and simple.

The Crime Bill before the Senate is the product of six years of bipartisan work. It contains provisions sponsored by numerous Democratic and Republican Senators, and this very bill won the votes of almost one-third of the House Republicans last weekend.

Moreover, the procedural device that some Republicans want to use to block this bill is particularly hypocritical. They want to raise a technical point of order against a provision -- the Crime Bill Trust Fund -- that they wrote, that they voted for, that one of them called "God's work." Just days before the Crime Conference began, the Senate Republicans voted overwhelmingly -- 40 to 4 -- to direct the Conferees to include the Crime Trust Fund in the final bill. Now, these same Senators want to block the Crime Bill -- ironically, not because the Conference ignored their demands, but because it complied with them. Only in Washington.

We were sent to Washington to enforce law and order, not points of order. If these Republican Senators persist in their efforts, the American people will know just what is going on here: an attempt to thwart legislation, devised in a bipartisan manner, endorsed by every major police and prosecutor group in the country, for reasons having nothing to do with the public interest, and much to do with political and special interests.

The Senate should reject the procedural delays, and pass the Crime Bill now.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 21, 1994

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

The Oval Office

8:16 P.M. EDT

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

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

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

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

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

And the entire crime bill was fully paid for -- and I

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Republicans?

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

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

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

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

THE PRESIDENT: That's hard to say --

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you.

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

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

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

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

END

8:24 P.M. EDT

CRIME INSERT  
AUGUST 23, 1994

On Sunday, Democrats and Republicans in the House produced a victory for law-abiding Americans by passing the Crime Bill. They showed that a little bit of faith and a lot of hard work can overcome the old labels and partisan divisions that have held us back for too long.

This week, the United States Senate has a chance to pass the toughest, smartest, most bipartisan Crime Bill in our nation's history. Many of the best ideas in this Crime Bill are ones that Republican and Democratic Senators came up with together. It will put 100,000 police on our streets, keep violent offenders off our streets with longer sentences and by making three-strikes-and-you're-out the law of the land. It will prohibit juveniles from owning handguns and ban deadly assault weapons. And it will launch innovative crime prevention programs that were sponsored by Democrats and Republicans alike.

And one of the best bipartisan ideas in this Crime Bill is a Trust Fund that will pay for all these crime-fighting efforts -- not by raising taxes or cutting necessary services -- but by reducing the size of the federal bureaucracy by more than 270,000 positions, to its lowest level in more than 30 years. The Trust Fund was sponsored by leaders in both parties -- Senators Byrd, Mitchell, and Biden for the Democrats, and Senators Dole, Gramm, and Hatch for the Republicans -- and it passed the Senate by an overwhelming vote of 94 to 4.

When the time comes for them to vote, every Senator without regard to party ought to remember the bipartisan spirit of this Crime Bill, and the nonpartisan urgency of restoring law and order to our streets. It is time for us to put politics aside and finish the job the people sent us here to do.

This isn't a Democratic Crime Bill or a Republican Crime Bill -- it's an American Crime Bill, and we should pass it without delay.

August 22, 1994

Dear Senator:

This week, the Senate has an historic chance to move us beyond the old labels and partisan divisions by passing the toughest, smartest Crime Bill in our nation's history.

I want to congratulate members of Congress in both houses and both parties who have reached across party lines and worked in good faith to produce this Crime Bill. This isn't a Democratic Crime Bill or a Republican Crime Bill -- it's an American Crime Bill, and it will make a difference in every town, every city, and every state in our country.

The Crime Bill produced by House and Senate conferees and passed yesterday by Democrats and Republicans in the House achieves all the same objectives as the bipartisan Crime Bill which the Senate passed last November by a vote of 95 to 4.

Many of the central provisions of this Crime Bill were included in the Senate bill:

- \* Nearly \$9 billion to put 100,000 new police officers on our streets in community policing;
- \* An additional \$4.6 billion for federal, state and local law enforcement (a 25% increase above the Senate bill);
- \* \$9.9 billion for prisons (a 30% increase above the Senate bill), coupled with tough truth-in-sentencing requirements that will shut the revolving door on violent criminals;
- \* Life imprisonment for repeat violent offenders by making three-strikes-and-you're-out the law of the land;
- \* Federal death penalties for the most heinous of crimes, such as killing a law enforcement officer;
- \* A ban on handgun ownership for juveniles;
- \* Registration and community notification to warn unsuspecting families of sexual predators in their midst;
- \* A ban on 19 semiautomatic assault weapons, with specific protection for more than 650 other weapons; and
- \* Innovative crime prevention programs, such as the Community Schools program sponsored by Senators Danforth, Bradley, and Dodd, and the Violence Against Women Act sponsored by Senators Biden, Hatch, and Dole.

One of the most important elements of this Crime Bill is the creation of a Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund, which ensures that every crime-fighting program in the bill will be paid for by reducing the federal bureaucracy by more than 270,000 positions over the next six years. The idea for the Trust Fund came from Senators Byrd, Mitchell, Biden, Gramm, Hatch, and Dole, and the Senate approved it by a vote of 94 to 4. The Trust Fund will ensure that the entire Crime Bill will be fully paid for, not with new taxes, but by reducing the federal bureaucracy to its lowest level in over 30 years.

The Senate led the way in passing these important anti-crime proposals last November, and I urge you to take up this Crime Bill in the same bipartisan spirit that marked that debate. The American people have waited six years for a comprehensive Crime Bill. It's time to put politics aside and finish the job. After all the hard work that has gone into this effort by members of both parties acting in good faith, we owe it to the law-abiding citizens of this country to pass this Crime Bill without delay.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton