



Pam: ① Ask Maggie if she knows what —  
 if anything — I'm supposed to do  
 re this  
 ② re index personal info Jim Florio  
 at bottom p. 2

cc: Carol K.

January 26, 1994

The Honorable Marian Wright Edelman  
 President  
 Children's Defense Fund  
 25 E Street, NW  
 Washington, D.C. 20001

file

Dear Ms. Edelman:

I was pleased to note last week's major announcement by the Children's Defense Fund regarding CDF's continuing high-profile focus on violence against children. Problems associated with violence in our society, particularly involving children, are finally receiving the attention that they deserve. The outstanding State of the Union address delivered by President Clinton last evening should, one would hope, encourage the Congress to embrace the general issues of violence and stricter law enforcement, as well as issues related to strengthening the family unit. As a society, we have only recently come to appreciate the sociological and psychological impact that violence can and has had on our youngest citizens, all too often with long lasting and irreversible results. Our Nation owes a debt of gratitude to CDF for its enduring commitment to these issues and to our children.

During my tenure as Governor of New Jersey, I, too, devoted much of my time toward improving the lives of our young people. Our assault weapons ban, the strongest in the Nation, was upheld in part due to our ability to convince all New Jerseyans that assault weapons have no place in civilized society. We hear too many stories about innocent children caught in the crossfire between people wielding these weapons of war.

Additionally, we enacted stiffer penalties for violent crimes against children, and expanded a model community policing program designed to make our neighborhoods, particularly in our urban areas, safer to live and play in.

While I no longer serve as New Jersey's chief executive, I am no less committed to the cause of eradicating violence in our society. I would be pleased and honored to work with you and CDF, in any way that you might suggest, toward this important goal. I

Page Two

can be reached at Rutgers University, where I am presently teaching, at (908) 932-9200.

Once again, thank you for all that you and CDF have done - and will do in the days and months ahead - to combat violence against children. There is no more worthy an endeavor.

Sincerely,



Jim Florio

c: First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton

Office of Governor Jim Florio  
Rutgers - The State University of New Jersey  
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New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901  
(609) 932-9200

*Carol Rosen*

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3001

## SPEECH BY SENATOR BILL BRADLEY ON VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

National Press Club  
Washington, D.C.  
May 11, 1994

Let me begin with a poem I got from a 16 year old in Camden, New Jersey. The title of the poem is, "RIOT at East Camden Middle":

The riot start after the basketball game--hallway outside the East Camden Middle School gym. Unknowns fightin the Two-Eight Youngsters. An Unknown get up in a Two-Eight face. And then it's knives. Razor blades. Black eyes. Busted noses. Blood all over the halls. Girls screamin, cryin. People steppin on each other to get outside. Fifty to a hundred people fightin. Crazy! War inside the school. An even fists an knives is not enough. Guns. Someone duck out to get the guns. Bullets sprayin the crowd out on the parkin lot. Three girls, two dudes get shot that night. I carry my gun every day.

The young African American male who wrote this poem is more likely to die in the violence he describes than in any other way. Murder is still the number one cause of death for young African American males. In thinking about violence in America, our goal has to be to keep these young people alive by reducing the level of gunfire and terror among the young, in schools and in cities.

But it would be a mistake to stop there, for violence is not confined to street crime nor to urban America. It burns in many places. It is a blaze fed by many fires. Ask any corporate executive who never drives home the same way two days in a row. Ask any head of security at a suburban mall or a college campus. Ask anyone who uses an ATM machine at night. Ask any Japanese tourist if he would under any circumstances knock on a stranger's door for help in Louisiana. Ask any German tourist about getting off the freeway in Miami. Ask Michael Jordan.

Violence, while present throughout our nation's history, has of late taken some inexplicable turns. Somehow our times seem different from the past. Nancy Kerrigan and

the Bobbitts are not a singing group from the 1960s, and the Menendez family is a far cry from Ozzie and Harriet. Gone are the TV days of Matt Dillon rounding up outlaws in the old West or Elliott Ness and the boys always prevailing against organized crime. A Charles Starkweather or a Charles Manson used to come along once in a decade. Now it seems a Jeffrey Dahmer pops up someplace every year. And the more bizarre the incident, the bigger the news coverage.

People flock to TV, competing to tell the most lurid story. There are days when through "the tube" it seems as if the country has taken form as one, big, dysfunctional family. More and more people seem to be living on the outer edges, unsure how they'll get back. We seem to be daring each other as if we were teenagers, taking risks that in another time and place would have been unthinkable, not realizing that unless we get things under control the country will be the loser. And the remarkable thing is that too many people don't really do anything about it. They just take all this. Rape, muggings, murder pass us in a blur of recognition. Street taunts raise awareness of danger that triple locks can't lessen. Slowly violence burns and eats away at our social fabric as if it were acid so that even when statistics show improvement, we don't feel more secure.

Violence in America goes deeper and comes closer to many families than we would like to admit. Domestic violence, for example, is America's dark little secret.

A few weeks ago a woman told me the following story: her husband used to beat her regularly. She wanted to leave, but feared the consequences for herself and her children. One day her two year old witnessed her husband strangling her. Finally, that incident was the catalyst for the woman to seek refuge with her two year old and her four year old in a shelter for battered women. A few days later, the two year old got mad at the four year old. The mother turned to see what was the matter and witnessed the two year old going for the throat of the four year old. I've thought often about that image of violence being passed on from one generation to another.

"The most dangerous place to be," a policeman recently said, "is in one's home between Saturday night at 6 p.m. and Sunday at 6 p.m." He forgot to add, "Especially if you're a woman." One half of all women who are murdered in America are killed by their male partners. Three fourths of all assaults happen in the family. Thirty percent of all women admitted to emergency rooms of hospitals are there because of family violence. Violence against women in the home causes more total injuries in America than rape, muggings, and car accidents combined. Sudden, stark, incomprehensible, family violence doesn't just happen. It builds in a cycle of aggression and forgiveness and blame until it explodes. And the battered spouse is almost never a man.

When J. Robert Oppenheimer witnessed the first nuclear explosion, he said that the nuclear bomb was a "destroyer of worlds." In the homes of battered women and abused children, violence is destroying the world of love.

Few have observed this better than one of our greatest writers,

Russell Banks, in his novel, *Affliction*:

Pop held Wade with one hand by the front of his shirt, like Matt Dillon drawing a puny terrified punk up to his broad chest, and he took his left fist, swung it out to the side, opened it and brought it swiftly back, slapping the boy's face hard, as if it were a board, then he brought it back the other way, slapping him again and again, harder each time, although each time the boy felt it less, felt only the lava-like flow of heat that each blow left behind, until he thought he would explode from the heat, would blow up like a bomb, from the face outward.

At last the man stopped slapping him. He tossed the boy aside, onto the couch, like a bag of rags. . . .

This kind of violence turns boys like Wade into men such as Wade, who later in the novel becomes a cold, soul-less killer.

Violence not only destroys the world of love; it also destroys the world of trust that is essential to a humane public life. Ask urban dwellers who are afraid to go to the PTA or a church meeting at night, and they will tell you that the fear of violence strikes at the core of individual liberty.

Liberty is the right to choose. It is often expressed as freedom from coercion or control. But it is also freedom to, freedom to make the best of our capacities and opportunities. One way you exercise liberty is through freedom of association. You must be able to associate in order to learn, invent, communicate, organize, pass on values, practice democracy. Through association, we pursue our happiness. Security protects liberty and thus lets us readily create associations through which we build community, which in turn will guarantee liberty. The genius of all of this is the interdependence of these ideals. They are meant to chase each other in a virtuous circle. None of these ideals is ever fully achieved--whether it's liberty, happiness, or security. And the vitality of our dynamic democratic society is the incessant effort to achieve them.

In communities where violence prevails, ideals are lost. Violence clogs the arteries of a free society. It stops us from reaching our hand out to our neighbor. Violence robs us of liberty. It destroys the world of trust by turning citizens into either frightened, isolated victims or into predators living off of others' pain.

In America today, the blaze of violence is fed by many fires.

Television, CDs, and video games bring it into the open windows of our homes. By the time kids reach 18, they have witnessed as many as 26,000 murders on TV. But, not all those murders are the same. Some can make a child pause at the consequences of violence, while other murders pile up in an empty litany of bashing and stabbing and shooting that creates a numbness that in turn requires ever crueler or gorier violence to induce just a flutter

of shock. Murder pays--for the sponsors. Rap anthems that glorify gang violence and the brutal abuse of women sell.

Often the corporate search for violent product gives us violence of such intensity that it has no context at all--neither moral nor autobiographical. There is a difference between, on the one hand, the fiction of Russell Banks or the news footage of a Bosnian war--both of which portray violence--and, on the other hand, a corporate product such as Mortal Kombat II that consists of nothing but violence--that in a sense *is* violence. George Gerbner, a communications professor at the University of Pennsylvania who has been following violence in the media for a long time, draws a distinction between the symbolic and often tragic violence of Shakespeare and fairy tales, and "happy violence," which shows no pain or tragic consequences.

Every year 500 high schools participate in high school seminars I do in New Jersey. This year for the first year in 15 years, one of the topics I discussed was violence. My staff and I broke up into small seminars and had a conversation.

In one of the seminars I spontaneously asked the following question, out of the blue, without any idea of what the response was going to be: "How many of you in this room have ever seen someone killed?" Two hands in one small group went up. I said, "Can you describe it?" Neither one of them could. They were too traumatized still. In the second group, one senior raised his hand. I said, "Can you describe it?" He then described what it was like to see a person standing on a street corner and have somebody else come along with an automatic rifle and shoot him in the head. He described in vivid detail what happened to the victim's head and how it looked as the person fell into a pool of blood. He said, "That's not how it looks on TV."

The blaze of violence is fed by many fires.

There are more gun dealers in America than there are gas stations or grocery stores. In 1991, 14,373 Americans were murdered with a gun, over 12,000 with a handgun. In England, it was 486. Every 14 seconds, someone dies of a gunshot wound. Every gun injury involving hospitalization costs over \$30,000--80 percent of which is paid by the taxpayer. There are 71 million handguns in America. In 1992, 34,000 people applied for licenses to sell guns; only 37 were denied; with only 240 inspectors to police 245,000 gun dealers, this is not a surprise. In a nationwide poll of teenagers, Lou Harris found that 15 percent of suburban teenagers and 17 percent of urban teenagers reported carrying a gun in the last 30 days. Forty percent of all teenagers say they can get a handgun within 24 hours if "I wanted one," and the same percentage say that the threat of violence has "made me change where I go, where I stop on the street, where I go out at night, what neighborhoods I walk in, and who I make friends with." Police officers point out that the change in violence over the last decade is that the murderers are younger, the guns more high powered, and the acts themselves more and more random.

The blaze of violence is fed by many fires.

Native American reservations in South Dakota have a murder rate more than double that of Los Angeles. And the rate in poor, rural counties in Mississippi equals that of Newark. The common denominator in all these places is poverty and loss of hope. Vast segments of urban America are in an economic depression. Lives are being wasted, shortened, demeaned, without a job that could give dignity to each of them. At a time when our common economic future needs every able-bodied person, we see poorer, sicker, less well educated, third-world enclaves emerging in our midst.

I have spoken on Native American reservations and in urban recreation and school programs for over 25 years. A decade ago there was a distinct difference between the kids in these two places. On a Native American reservation the kids sat quietly, almost impassively, hesitant to ask questions or offer opinions. The toll of 200 years of neglect had settled so deeply that it had squelched hope. As I looked out into the audience I stared into dead eyes, dead eyes--no response. No hope.

In an urban community the kids seemed wired with energy. They couldn't sit still bobbing up and down, left and right. They asked questions, talked incessantly with each other. Often they didn't concentrate, but their eyes were alive with expectation. I go to speak in urban America today, and something has changed. Too often I see--dead eyes. Once the hope is gone, everything is gone.

The blaze of violence is fed by many fires.

In Detroit, nearly 80 percent of the kids are born to single parents. In 1991, 30 percent of all children born in America were born to a single parent. Among black children, it was two-thirds. Many single mothers do heroic jobs in transmitting values and raising their children well against great odds. Many others are too young, too poor, and too unloved, and their children at birth become 15-year time bombs waiting to explode in adolescence. If you think violence among the young is bad now, wait until this army of neglected, often abused, sometimes abandoned, street-trained, gang-tested, friendless, young people reach age 15. Their capacity to have any kind of meaningful attachment will be gone. One recent study said that a surprising number of urban teenage boys volunteered that they had no best friend and no one person they trusted. When only "the gang" gives life meaning, death cannot be far behind.

In America, the blaze of violence is fed by many fires.

The emerging federal crime bill is an attempt to counter rising violence. Its architects have worked hard and it does many good things, but its effect, in my view, is uncertain. It is a huge heap of ideas and proposals cobbled together by representatives of a nation which is increasingly desperate about violence. In a way, it reminds me of what a group of anxious citizens would do as they threw furniture and household goods onto a barricade to stop the invading hoards. Many of the provisions appear to have the following rationale: "Well, maybe that would work; maybe it would help. So let's add it to the barricade." My fear is that the remedies come from so many different places and expand over such a wide area, it

will have limited impact--notwithstanding our good intentions.

What is missing is an overall national goal and an admission that much of what must be done is beyond the reach of the federal government.

We need a national rebellion against violence that sets a specific target for reducing violence over ten years. For example, I suggest a 75-percent reduction in our homicide rate, which if achieved would place us at about England's homicide rate of today. A national rebellion against violence would be rooted in the knowledge that violence strikes at the core of our democratic freedoms. It would also give us some way to measure progress. So often Americans, on the one hand, seem catatonic in the face of violence and, on the other hand, ready to entertain the most radical solutions to stop violence. Unless we have a way to tell whether what we're doing is working, people will assume the worst and we will be caught in a spiral of extreme measures, perhaps endangering our rights permanently. We cannot simply replace a violent society with a repressive one. That would be a pyrrhic victory. The rebellion against violence must enhance our national example, not diminish it. We must always remember that the world is watching us more than ever before.

Like so many other issues in public life, in the debate about violence, people don't listen to each other. They are frozen in the dichotomy between conservative or liberal, tough or coddling. Those who believe the answer is gun control don't listen to those who want the death penalty. Those who believe severe punishment is the answer can't see the necessity of limiting guns. And often neither gun control advocates nor tough sentencers see the connection between societal violence and poverty, family disintegration, and exploitative media violence. Instead of confronting reality, more and more people look for the magic bullet that will stop violence dead in its tracks. The truth is much, much harder.

Truth #1: There is no miracle cure, and the answer lies closer to home than to Washington, D.C.

Truth #2: Violence will not be stopped by soft words. Every person who uses violence must pay the price in lost freedom, and "doing time," especially for the young, must be a memory that one doesn't ever want to repeat.

Truth #3: We will never counter violence unless we restrict the handguns used in 80 percent of America's gun murders. What is common sense to people of virtually every other country in the world becomes a Constitutional crisis for us.

Truth #4: There is no substitute for a job. If we can move those on the bottom of the economic ladder up just a few rungs, our efforts against violence will have acquired a powerful ally.

Truth #5: Violence is a phenomenon caused by twisted values and the loss of self-control. The formation of values and self discipline begins in childhood, and teaching them is the job of parents. Unless we instill them in all our children, we have only ourselves to

blame.

Truth #6: We need to make it as unfashionable to sell violence in America as it is to smoke cigarettes. We don't need censorship; we need enhanced citizenship, particularly in the board rooms.

Truth #7: Drugs and violence go together like gunpowder and a match. To ignore addiction as a national problem is to sentence many more Americans to death.

Those are the truths.

A national rebellion against violence requires individuals, communities, and all levels of government working together. Why? Because people don't live in isolation. They live in communities where they go to church, play sports, pick up groceries, and raise their children. Often these days they live in fear. What they don't realize is the power they possess if they work together. In the 1960s, an aroused citizenry that focused on an evil--legally sanctioned racism--ended racial discrimination under the law and furthered the cause of justice. Today an aroused citizenry focused on an evil--violence--can restore our streets to order and further the cause of liberty. A street thug can intimidate an individual, but he cannot intimidate a unified, energized community

Politicians have to stop treating security like a product that government delivers to your home. We create security for ourselves in the same context where violence occurs--the family, the community. At the national level, we can set standards, set limits, spread innovative ideas, create uniform rules, gather data, and insure that those who commit federally prohibited violence pay for it by a swift loss of freedom and in some cases, such as drug kingpins who murder, by the loss of their lives. But the real battle against violent crime committed by the young and within the family won't be waged at the federal level. Like education, where the feds have only 6 percent of the resources, in crime the feds have about 13 percent of the nation's crime resources. The crime bill will seem like a false promise if we forget our individual obligations as police officers, local officials, teachers, parents, spouses, and citizens.

Yet there are some common-sense actions that the federal government can encourage that would help prevent youthful gun violence, challenge young people with the possibility of a future without violence, and raise awareness of domestic violence while providing women a way out.

First, I believe that everyone who buys a handgun must have a national identity card with his picture on it like a driver's license. Every transfer of a gun must be registered, with tough penalties for those who refuse. No one should be allowed to purchase more than one handgun per month, and a gun dealer ought to pay \$1,000 per year for a license. These changes would hasten the day when only law-abiding citizens would have guns. Technology might also help. If we can develop heat-seeking missiles, certainly we can invent remote metal-sensing devices that will allow police forces augmented by the police corps volunteers

to seize more illegal guns and to disrupt the commerce of armed street criminals.

Second, communities should have greater access to their public schools. With federal support, schools should remain open in the evenings, on weekends, and during the summer for community use. The school is the most underutilized asset in urban America. Churches, synagogues, mosques, and community development corporations should be allowed to provide the mentoring, safehaven, and guidance whose absence all too often contributes to delinquency. The availability of the school would also give the community a place to focus public and private resources to win back the minds and hearts that the streets have captured today.

Third, to counter domestic violence, we need to get it out of the closet and then help women find a way out of a brutal environment. Domestic violence is a problem at all income levels. It is more than a serious health care problem, it's a social sickness, a tragedy that is destroying families, and an experience that spreads violence to future generations.

Every man's home may be his castle, but it's not his torture chamber, in which he can beat someone less physically strong without consequences. Many men will deny the impulse and the existence of the behavior. Like drunks that haven't quite reformed, they promise their partners and the world that the latest episode of violence will be the last episode of violence. Too often they go back on their word, and the cycle of aggression, seeking forgiveness, blaming the victim, and committing aggression starts over again. We can wait no longer for universal personal reform.

When a woman is the victim of domestic violence, she must have a place to go. There should be a counseling hotline so that experienced professionals can guide her to an appropriate place. Above all, there must be enough battered spouse shelters with enough resources for relocation to give women some idea of where they can escape the fear of a threatening phone call or knock on the door in the middle of the night.

But we have to do more than give women a place after they're beaten. We have to prevent the violence in the first place. I suggest that every health professional--doctors, nurses, physician's assistants, social workers--be trained to recognize domestic violence and to ask female patients about it. Asking the question hopefully will free women from considering beatings as a "family matter" that they are not sanctioned to discuss, even with their doctor. At a minimum, domestic violence should not be treated as a pre-existing condition to deny women health insurance.

But it's not just up to health care professionals. If we are going to stop domestic violence, each of us, in our own spheres of influence--home, work, PTA, Little League--have an obligation to acknowledge it occurs, recognize it when we see it, and say something about it. It's so much easier to overlook it, turn the other way, regard it exclusively as a family matter, pretend we don't have any responsibility. But if we are going to prevent it, we all do.

These three proposals will not end violence in America, but combined with the crime

bill and, more importantly, with an energized national community prepared to cooperate with the police and with each other, they will take us further along the path toward greater security.

A friend of mine, a member of the Japanese Diet, told me recently that as his two girls were growing up, he looked forward to them coming to the United States as exchange students and he looked forward to visiting them and vacationing here with his wife. Now he says he's sending them to England, and he and his wife are vacationing in Europe. "Why?" I asked him. He replied, "The guns, the drugs, the violence--Senator, unless you get control of them, you'll lose a lot more than a few tourists; you'll no longer be the model democracy for the world."

The only way to achieve our aim of a 75-percent homicide reduction within a decade and in a way consistent with our democracy is to assume individual responsibility, to enlist all who love their communities and nation in a rebellion that is waged locally, neighbor by neighbor, building by building, and at the same time to build bonds of community that render violence moot.

The world of love and the world of trust must be provided with enough resources to fight the fires of violence. All who believe in the worlds of love and trust must join the rebellion against violence. If we don't, the riot in Camden middle school will spread to more schools and the story of the 2 year old going for her 4 year old brother's throat will be just one among many chapters of future pain. The fires that feed the blaze of violence can only be extinguished when all of us act as citizens to achieve what everyone in a democracy deserves--the right to live a life without fear of unexpected random violence whether on the street, at the school, or in the home.

Sent  
3/9

To: Mark Gearan  
Rahm Emanuel  
Bruce Reed

Fys:

This is going to  
NYTimes prior to  
her speech this  
weekend at AMA  
Violence Conference.

Wlasso

"Terrorism in the Home"

Donna E. Shalala

Secretary of Health and Human Services

I know of a woman who is well-educated and a professional success. Twice last year she wound up in the emergency room.

First it was a broken finger. Then a few months later, she was on crutches. The first time, the story was that she hit her hand on the wall. The second time, that she accidentally fell down stairs.

But the truth is, in the first incident, she and her husband got in an argument and he punched her while she was holding their infant son; the other time, he shoved her down the stairs.

Domestic violence is an unacknowledged American epidemic. Until now, this was something the federal government never talked about -- but now we will. I think it's time to call this violence what is really is: terrorism in the home.

Domestic terrorism is the leading cause of injury to women in our country. The fact is, it's just about as common as giving birth -- about four million instances every year.

Think about that -- hopelessness and hope, equally weighted in our society -- and all too often, intermingled in the same woman's life: One study funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has found that 17 percent of women reported physical or sexual abuse during pregnancy.

Worse, it's hard for women to escape from terrorism at home. Financial dependence, the care of one's children, low self-esteem, and the desire not to be uprooted all keep women from making a break.

Also, many women stay with an abuser because they fear being stalked and killed. Make no mistake, this fear is often justified: a majority of women murdered by their abusers are killed after choosing to walk out and live independent lives.

A battered woman's reluctance to take action is pretty typical. Last year, a major survey found that 92 percent of women who were physically abused by their partners did not tell their doctors.

Health professionals must do a better job identifying and then responding to the needs of battered women. For example, a study by the Family Violence Prevention Fund of San Francisco found that only 23 percent of California hospitals had trained emergency room staff to detect victims of domestic abuse. This,

3

despite the fact that the American Medical Association has issued protocols for emergency room personnel to identify and help victims of domestic violence. And despite the fact that studies find that 20 to 30 percent of the women who show up at emergency rooms were hurt by their domestic partner.

All health professionals look for the warning signs of domestic violence and be familiar with the support services available to victims and their children. But we need to do even more.

We need everyone to understand in no uncertain terms that beating one's wife or girlfriend is a crime. That goes for perpetrators, and it also goes for police departments.

Some communities have worked with law enforcement officers to protect women from abuse. In Newport News, Virginia, all calls to the police by a woman in crisis are immediately followed up -- even if the woman calls back and says she's all right.

When the officer finds probable cause of domestic violence, the perpetrator is taken into custody. Even if the woman withdraws her complaint, the policy is mandatory arrest. This takes the control out of the hands of the abuser.

4

This may not be the precise answer in every community, but in Newport News it has saved lives. Before the policy was enacted in 1984, 13 of 20 murders there were related to domestic violence. In 1992, not one murder was related to domestic abuse.

In District Court in Quincy, Massachusetts, former Chief Judge Al Kramer said arresting the perpetrator wasn't going far enough. In court, he assigned advocates to battered women. And he gave convicted abusers the hard line -- for some, treatment; for the rest, jail.

Terrorism in the home is not new; what's new is that the federal government is willing to speak out against it -- and back up our words with substantial resources.

The Violence Against Women Act, included in the Senate-passed version of the Crime Bill, authorizes \$1.8 billion over five years to help police, prosecutors, battered women's shelters and community-prevention programs. It also establishes a national family violence hotline.

At the Department of Health and Human Services, for the first time we're making major investments in researching and preventing domestic terrorism as part of our broad women's health agenda.

5

Our Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has received significant funding for research into domestic violence, and we are implementing a new \$1 billion Family Preservation and Support Program that addresses the multiple factors placing families at risk, such as joblessness, poor housing, substance abuse and lack of day care.

This program aims to prevent problems in the home by teaching skills that can prevent fighting. It does not try to keep families together no matter what. Substantial resources are devoted to making sure that children are protected from danger.

That's critical, because millions of children are forced to witness violence between their parents every year -- and the consequences can be devastating. Just as charity and learning begin at home, so too does the habit, and tolerance, of violence. Some children learn to be aggressive towards others; others learn to be passive when they are being abused. Both are tragedies.

Battered women -- whether a friend, a family member, or someone we will never meet -- need to know that the police, the courts, the health care system, and the social service system will respond if they are terrorized by someone they know.

6

As a society, we must acknowledge the terrible secret of terrorism in so many of our nation's homes, take steps to protect those who are terrorized, and punish those who inflict the terror.

DETERMINED TO BE AN  
ADMINISTRATIVE MARKING  
INITIALS: Ry DATE: 8/9/11

<sup>2</sup>  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~: Please review prior to the 3 p.m. meeting today.

TO: Distribution List  
FROM: Carol H. Rasco  
SUBJ: Violence  
DATE: December 2, 1993

Attached are two memos given to me by Bruce Reed last evening. The first one by Bruce and Jose Cerda brings you up to date on the potential crime bill conference issues. As you can tell from this memo, we are not ready to have a discussion with the Attorney General today on the administration position for conferencing the crime bill; further research is needed as the information becomes available to us for review. Bruce and Jose are working with OMB and the Justice Department in this ongoing review.

The second memo is about the violence/media issues in relation to the President's trip to California this weekend which is the topic I understand we now want to cover with the Attorney General this afternoon. The attachment to this memo as noted by Bruce is from the report the interagency group will be submitting toward the end of the month.

As far as the relationship of today's meeting to the broader crime/violence/personal safety/family values/etc. issues and potential initiative(s): At the meeting recently called and held by Roy Neel in the Roosevelt Room, DPC staff presented a set of talking points/principles for this multi-faceted agenda as well as an outline for a series of events. As the DPC staff and I understood the conclusion of that meeting, a smaller group called by Roy would begin the process of scheduling those events which would finalize the decision as to a "summit" or variation on the summit idea. None of us have been called to further meetings on the matter so we are somewhat in limbo as to what is next expected. If we need to present a new scenario, then we need to know. This broader initiative is NOT an appropriate topic for the 3 p.m. meeting today, however. We need to get the matter resolved in-house to the White House first as to direction, etc. I would recommend we discuss it fully at the 8:45 a.m. meeting on Friday morning if possible.

In regard to the very brief agenda I have attached for this afternoon's 3 p.m. meeting I should add that I have had a call from Peter Edelman who was also backed by a "I prefer to remain anonymous Justice Official" with the message that both HHS (due to Shalala's and Elders' comments to date on TV violence) and Justice support the White House leading a group to oversee the negotiations with the networks/other media on the violence issues. Justice official does not want AG to know that sentiment was expressed.

Distribution list:

McLarty  
Gergen  
Stephanopoulos  
Gearan  
Reed  
Cook

Media/violence issues  
3 p.m. McLarty's office

Attending:

McLarty  
Gergen  
Stephanopoulos  
Gearan  
Rasco  
Reed  
Cook

Attorney General Reno  
Heymann, Justice Dept.  
Acheson, Justice Dept.

Purposes of meeting:

1. Review any negotiations to date between White House and any media as well as between Justice and media on violence issues.
2. Formalize a structure with a White House head through which all these discussions will pass.

AGENDA

30 minutes maximum for the meeting

Opening: McLarty

The purpose of the meeting is to pull together our collective knowledge on administration contacts and/or actual negotiations with various media on the issue of violence and violence reduction as well as fixing a coordinating structure for future negotiations. Call on Gergen for update from White House and Attorney General for update from Justice; Bruce Reed is following this issue and may have points to add.

Gergen, others from White House?  
Attorney General

Coordinating body: McLarty

Depending on what is learned from the preceeding conversation, a group with

- (a) White House representation (Gergen? Reed? others?),
- (b) Justice representation,
- (c) as well as perhaps representation from HHS and/or Education (since those Departments have the other two co-chairs of the Interagency Violence Working Group currently finalizing their recommendations for presentation; the working group does have a media subgroup)

should be formulated to coordinate on the Administration's work/negotiations with the media on violence issues.

With the formation of this working group, the meeting is adjourned.

**CRIME AND VIOLENCE MEETING**

Roosevelt Room

November 15, 1993

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Draft Organizing Principles on Crime and Violence
2. Options for Crime and Violence Tour (Reed/Cerda)
3. Potential Site List for Crime Tour (Bernstein)
4. Potential Outcomes -- Executive Actions on Crime and Violence (Reed/Cerda)
5. Survey of Media Interest in Promoting Anti-Crime Message (Greenstone)

## ORGANIZING PRINCIPLES CRIME AND VIOLENCE

"The Administration has got to examine everything we can do . . . challenge every community in this country and every organization in this country and every individual in this country to make a contribution with us in restoring the conditions in which civilized life can go on. . . . There are millions of people in this country who literally are not even playing by the same set of rules that all the rest of us take for granted. And we have learned in this country to accept many things that are unacceptable. . . .

"What you will see from us over the next several months is a sustained, organized, disciplined approach. . . . What I think I have to do is to mobilize every person in my government to do what can be done to address these problems."

President Clinton  
News Conference, November 10, 1993

Our long-term challenge as a nation is to restore the conditions of civilized life: work, family, community, order, personal security, and a common set of rules and values on what is acceptable and what is wrong. Our immediate challenge is to restore order in the streets and safety in our schools, and to help Americans take back their neighborhoods, community by community.

A sustained, organized, disciplined approach to this challenge should stick to clear, well-defined themes:

**1. Personal security has become the most pressing concern in the everyday lives of millions of Americans and their families.** People have a right to feel safe, and the first duty of government is to keep them safe.

**2. The old debate between prevention and punishment is a false choice; we need both.** We are in the midst of an epidemic of violence in this country. It is time to put politics and ideology aside and start providing real answers to the real fears of real people. We need more cops, more boot camps, and relief for an overloaded criminal justice system. We also need stronger families, better schools, and more work in our communities.

But there is no debate about our attitude toward crime, violence, and those who commit it. **As President Clinton said in his campaign, "We need to prevent crime and punish criminals, not excuse away their behavior."**

**3. It's not enough to change laws -- we have to change behavior.** We must do everything we can to prevent crime and violence, but government cannot solve this problem on its own. We have to change "from the inside out," as the President said recently in Memphis.

Families need to take responsibility for their children. Individuals need to take personal responsibility for their own actions. And communities need to challenge their citizens to stand up for common decency, and refuse to accept the unacceptable anymore. **Together, we must confront what the President called "the great crisis of the spirit" that is gripping America today.**

**4. We will use every tool at our disposal to break the epidemic of violence and keep people safe:**

\* **Community Policing:** Congress is on the verge of passing a crime bill that will help communities put 100,000 new police officers on the street.

\* **Gun Violence:** Congress is also close to enacting the Brady Bill and a ban on handguns for minors. The Senate should pass an assault weapons ban. Federal firearms licensing reform is also possible.

\* **Boot Camps / State Prisons:** The crime bill includes a major expansion of boot camps for young offenders -- an idea the President pioneered in Arkansas -- as well as other measures to help states deal with their overcrowded criminal justice systems.

\* **Drugs:** The crime bill provides substantial funds for drug courts and drug treatment for criminal addicts. The health reform benefits package covers some drug treatment. Congress will take up more extensive drug legislation next year.

\* **Safe Schools:** In addition to banning handguns for children, Congress is close to passing Safe Schools legislation to help schools reduce violence through the use of metal detectors, additional police, etc.

\* **Other Justice Department Initiatives:** The Justice Department is working with state officials to convene state law enforcement summits. The Department has also undertaken anti-gang initiatives and efforts to restore healthy neighborhoods through Weed n' Seed and other programs.

\* **National Service:** Public safety is one of four priorities for service in the President's national service program. The National Service Corporation will be working with police departments and community organizations to develop innovative public safety, law enforcement, and crime prevention programs for young people. The Senate crime bill also includes the Police Corps, which provides college scholarships in return for police service.

**\* The Health Care Costs of Violence:** The President and the First Lady have devoted considerable attention to the impact of violence on the health care system. We spend an estimated \$4 billion a year on health care for the victims of violence.

**\* Work and Economic Opportunity:** Later this year, the Community Enterprise Board, chaired by the Vice President, will announce selection criteria for Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities. Public safety will be an important component. The Administration has several other initiatives aimed at improving economic opportunity and self-sufficiency, including community development banks, microenterprise, and welfare reform.

**\* Values:** The President will continue to use the Bully Pulpit to call attention to crime, violence, and the collapse of social institutions essential to civilized life: family, community, work.

November 15, 1993

**MEMORANDUM TO THE CRIME SQUAD**

**FROM: BRUCE REED  
JOSE CERDA III**

**SUBJECT: OPTIONS FOR CRIME AND VIOLENCE TOUR**

We believe that focusing the nation's attention on what the President has called our "great crisis of the spirit" will require a sustained effort beyond any single event. We recommend a series of Presidential events on crime and violence in the coming weeks, including a nationally televised address over Thanksgiving, a three-day tour of innovative answers in communities across the country, and a one- or two-day summit that brings real people to Washington to talk about their fears and what America can do.

In every instance, these events should involve real actions taken by the President and the Administration to fight crime and reduce violence. We should also enlist major news organizations that have shown an interest in the subject of crime and violence to help us convey the strongest possible message to Americans that we as a people can do something about it.

**I. Purpose of a Crime and Violence Tour**

Convening a crime and violence summit in Washington is an excellent way to capture the nation's attention, as the economic conference in Little Rock did last December. We should certainly do it.

But by itself, a summit will not come close to meeting the standard the President set last week, to launch a "sustained, organized, disciplined" effort against crime and violence, and "mobilize every person in my government to do what can be done." Unlike the economy, crime does not lend itself to charts and graphs. It is an emotional issue, it hits real people where they live, and it cries out to be seen, not just talked about.

Moreover, in the wake of two relatively similar summits on the economy and timber, we need to keep trying new things before we exhaust the old format. A national swing before the summit begins will give the President new ideas and real experiences to talk about, and ward off possible criticism that we're just doing more of what Washington has always done about crime, which is talk about it.

Our real challenge, after all, is not simply to show the American people that we understand their fears about crime -- although there is great value in that -- but to show them that we can and will do something about it. There's a reason Congress has taken years to pass a serious crime bill: Crime debates are almost always hopelessly politicized and mired in irreconcilable ideological differences that have very little to do with the real business of keeping people safe. The only way to overcome the inevitable posturing is to visit communities that are finding new ways to fight crime, reduce violence, and offer hope.

## **II. What a Crime Tour Might Look Like**

We have not seen the President's schedule for December, or factored in existing commitments to health care or other matters. The scenario described below is one example of how the President might achieve maximum impact in a week's worth of crime-related events. The ideal dates for Crime Week would be Dec. 4-10 or 11-17. The itinerary listed below is only suggestive; a more comprehensive survey is included in Liz Bernstein's memo.

### **A. Phase One: Setting the Stage**

The President will have several opportunities to set the stage for Crime Week:

**Tues./Wed., Nov. 16-17:** The press office should issue Presidential statement commending the Senate for passage late Tuesday (we hope) of the crime bill and possibly the Brady bill. We should also consider issuing a chronology of the President's role over the last 2 years in pushing 100,000 cops, the crime bill, and the Brady bill.

**Thurs./Fri., Nov. 25-26:** Televised address to the nation on crime and violence from Camp David over Thanksgiving weekend. This will be an opportunity to tout what Congress has done, reiterate the themes of the Memphis speech, and announce further plans for December and beyond.

**Late Nov./Early Dec.:** Possible bill-signing(s). There's still a chance Congress will pass the crime bill and/or the Brady bill before Thanksgiving. If possible, the two signings should be separate events.

### **B. Phase Two: Crime Week**

**Saturday -- Radio Address:** The President could use the Saturday radio address to spell out his plans for the week, and perhaps announce one or more of the potential executive actions we suggest in a separate memo.

**Sunday -- Sermon in Washington:** The President could deliver a sermon on crime and violence at a service in Washington or Anacostia. If we could pull it together in time, he could use the occasion to announce a united crusade by church leaders across the country to reduce violence in their communities.

**Monday -- Crime Tour, Day One -- Violence in Schools (Primary Site: Los Angeles):** The Crime Tour could begin on the West Coast, with a visit to a crime-ridden school in the Los Angeles area. He could return to the elementary school in South Central L.A. that he and the First Lady visited in 1989, where 12-year-olds told them their number one fear in life was getting shot going to and from school. He could promise more cops for Los Angeles, the most underpoliced city in America, talk about the crime bill's anti-gang measures, and perhaps sign an executive order banning the Street Sweeper semiautomatic weapon (which is included in Sen. Feinstein's assault weapons ban that will pass the Senate but most likely die in conference).

Other Nearby Events for Day One:

\* **Meet with Community Service Officers in San Diego:** San Diego has one of the best community policing programs in the country, and its department has pioneered the use of young people as community service officers who help with problem-solving and administrative duties so that more police can walk the beat.

\* **Visit the San Francisco law firm where 8 people were killed last summer with an assault weapon:** This would be a perfect event to do with Feinstein, whose assault legislation would ban the weapon used in these murders (the gunman was able to obtain the weapon because of a loophole in California's assault ban).

\* **Community policing in Portland, Oregon:** Another good program in a city plagued by gang violence and hate crime.

\* **Visit a school in Colorado:** Gov. Romer called the legislature into special session this year to pass a number of measures to limit gun violence, including a very tough ban on handguns for minors. This could also be the first stop on Day Two.

**Tuesday -- Crime Tour, Day Two -- Community Policing (Primary Site: St. Louis):** At least one day of Crime Week should be devoted to community policing, the most revolutionary aspect of our entire anti-crime agenda. Several cities have developed good programs, including St. Louis, Kansas City, Chicago, Boston, Portland, and San Diego. St. Louis and Kansas City are two of the very best.

The President could use Day Two to announce winning cities and towns in the first round of the Justice Department's competition for \$150 million in community policing challenge grants (which the President fought for as part of his FY93 Supplemental). If so, he should visit a small or medium-sized city that will be awarded a policing grant. The

President could also announce that he is forming a President's Council on Community Policing, made up of leading police chiefs (including Lee Brown) and representatives of major police organizations who will meet with the President periodically to advise him on the deployment of 100,000 new police and other crime issues.

Other nearby sites for Day Two:

\* **Visit Junction City (Kansas) Senior High School**, where a 14-year-old freshman girl was shot in head earlier this year while she was eating lunch in the cafeteria.

\* **Tour housing projects in Chicago or Cleveland:** Vince Lane ran a model public housing safety program in Chicago called Operation Clean Sweep, which the President visited as a candidate. Cleveland recently won a HUD grant to help children who witness violence, and Mayor Mike White has many other innovative programs -- including a Black on Black Crime Task Force.

**Wednesday -- Crime Tour, Day Three -- Tough Love (Primary Site: Charleston, S.C.):** The Crime Tour should close by focusing on the values of opportunity and responsibility that must be at the heart of any effort to restore safety and community. One promising place to visit is Charleston, S.C., where Police Chief Reuben Greenberg -- a pioneer in community policing -- has struck a social contract with housing authorities under which his department provides security so long as residents agree to keep the place drug-free.

The President might use this day to announce his intention to rename the Byrne program -- the primary state law enforcement grant program -- the Byrne-Gould program, after South Carolina resident Kathy Gould, the slain police officer's widow who endorsed Clinton in 1992 (four years after Bush posed with her husband at a photo op in 1988).

Other nearby events might include:

\* **Visit a Boot Camp or Rural Crime Event in North Carolina:** The President could also return to visit one of the successful boot camps he set up in Arkansas.

**Thursday/Friday -- 1-2 Day Crime and Violence Summit in Washington:** The President could invite some of the most moving victims and innovators he meets on the Crime Tour back to Washington for the Crime Summit -- and give them a chance to tell their stories to a national audience on C-SPAN and CNN. The Summit might close with an address by the President laying out specific steps every individual can take to keep their families and their communities safe.

**Crime Tour - Potential Site List**  
(as of 11/15/93)

COMMUNITY POLICING

Police Stations (in order of preference):

**San Diego, CA**

**Portland, OR**

**Boston, MA**

**New York, NY**

**Chicago, IL**

PUBLIC HOUSING

Police/Public Housing

**Chicago, IL**

Vincent Lane, head of the Chicago Housing Authority has faced consistent opposition from various city agencies, civil libertarians, and even some of his own employees in Chicago, most recently over his plans to refashion parts of the Cabrini-Green complex into mixed-income housing.

"It is this craving for a new urban approach, emphasizing personal responsibility as the key to public benefits, that attracted Clinton to Lane; Lane's policy of "weeding and seeding" is Clinton's welfare philosophy played out on a large scale."

On the same day as police sweep a building, social workers visit tenants and check for signs of child abuse or neglect; maintenance crews inspect for needed repairs; public-works employees meet to map out renovations; and organizers work with tenant leaders to pull together crime watches and plan youth activities.

[note: For more than two months, HUD officials threatened to seize the CHA because of past mismanagement, political meddling and financial irregularities. The conflict was resolved under a complex agreement that included the appointment of Jerome Van Gorkum as CHA executive director. However, Van Gorkum quit less than five months later, complaining that he was being undercut by the CHA chairman, Rev. B. Herbert Martin, for political reasons.]

**Portland, OR**

Community policing interaction with public housing projects in the city; great track record.

**New York, NY**

**Ft. Myers, FL**

Took women out of public housing and sent them through police academy training.  
**Richmond, Norfolk, Newport News, VA**

Residents/Public Safety

**Cleveland, OH**

The Cleveland area's public housing will be one of three places nationwide for development of new programs designed to help children cope with violence. The Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority has been awarded a \$2.5 million grant by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development to create community-based programs to aid children who witness violence. Similar awards were made to Washington, D.C., and Saginaw, Mich. [October 1993]

CMHA already sponsors or participates in several programs designed to curb youth violence, including the Midnight Basketball League and Mayor Michael R. White's Black on Black Crime Task Force.

**Austin, TX**

Children at Risk (CAR) program - collaboration among private foundations, DOJ, and Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse. The program attempts to involve neighborhood youths in an array of services that provide an alternative to substance abuse, gangs, drug-dealing, and other criminal behavior. (Other program sites are **Bridgeport, CT; Memphis, TN; Seattle, WA; Newark, NJ; and Savannah, GA**)

SCHOOLS

Systems with high success rates in combating drugs and violence:

**Miami, FL**

**San Diego, CA**

**Philadelphia, PA**

**New York, NY**

Recent Violence/Guns

**Atlanta, GA**

A ninth-grade student died after being shot by another student in a crowded lunchroom at Harper High School. Another tenth-grader was wounded in the shooting. About 150 students were in the cafeteria at the time. This was the first student homicide at a metro school since 1989 when a Harper High student was fatally beaten. (September, 1993)

A recent poll by the Journal/Constitution found that one out of every three children in metro Atlanta knows someone who has brought a gun to school.

### **Dallas, TX**

A 15-year-old student at Roosevelt High School was fatally shot by fellow student in a crowded hallway. The student was shot at point-blank range. While the school has two walk-through metal detectors and several hand-held scanning wands, they were not working the day of the shooting. (September, 1993)

In August, a Colony High School student was shot in the shoulder at a school orientation program.

### **Junction City, KS**

A 14-year-old freshman girl eating lunch at the Junction City Senior High School cafeteria was accidentally shot once in the head after an argument between two boys resulted in gunfire. (September, 1993)

### **Chicago, IL**

In a study of 8th-graders in Chicago, it was found that 73% had seen someone shot, stabbed, robbed or killed.

### **Project Smart**

(School Management and Resource Teams - DOE and DOJ)

Designed to help schools collect and analyze data on incidents of school crime, drug use, and disciplinary infractions. School areas include projects in **Virginia, California, Maryland, Illinois and Wisconsin.**

### **Safety**

#### **Portland, OR**

The Portland Public School system has a comprehensive gang violence reduction plan in place. One part of their strategy includes having all students who were suspended for fighting, weapons violations, gang violence or assaults attend special classes in non-violence training before returning to their regular schools.

The district has reported positive results when the student returns to their regular classroom.

#### **New York City, NY**

In 1985, the NYC Board of Education and Educators For Social Responsibility Metropolitan Area founded an effort called the Resolving Conflict Creatively Program (RCCP). The teacher-designed curriculum focuses on showing young people alternatives to violent behavior and increasing their understanding and appreciation of their own and other cultures. They also train "peer mediators".

The program has grown from 20 teachers in three schools in 1985 to 1,200 teachers and more than 35,000 students from 120 schools throughout NYC. Today over 4,000 teachers and more than 120,000 students are involved in RCCP

nationwide.

### **Miami, FL**

Miami schools initiated a school-based crime prevention program, the Youth Crime Watch, in 1984. The program is led by students who work to promote awareness of the problems of crime. School groups work with local businesses, law enforcement officials, and other community members.

Dade County also has implemented a "Gun Safety Awareness" curriculum, which began in 1988. In January, 1993, Dade County became the nation's first school district to have a mandatory "gun awareness" program for all of its K-12 students.

### **Apopka, FL**

DOJ and Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services sponsor the Ebony Knights, an after-school mentoring program for black males between the ages of 11 and 14.

### **Roxbury, MA**

Timility Middle School (inner-city Boston) was selected as a pilot for "Project Promise" in 1985. Students organized activities centered around strategies to end violence among teenagers. Today they host anti-violence forums at least three times a year - participants include all 8 district middle schools, the Mayor, officials from the justice system, social service representatives, and some leading non-violence curriculum specialists as guest speakers.

## **BOOT CAMPS**

### **Jessup, MD**

Of the 722 people who have completed the program, 237 -- about 33% -- have either had parole revoked or had warrants issued for their arrests. The recidivism rate for all inmates paroled from all Maryland is about 47 percent. [Rep. Steny H. Hoyer (D-MD/5)]

### **Rikers Island, NY**

High Impact Incarceration Program (HIIP) established in October 1990. New York has the most extensive boot camp program. It has saved the State \$55.6 million in construction costs and shortened sentences. Recidivism rate is about 5% better than for the parole population. [Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY/8)]

### **Summit, NY**

Shock Incarceration Correctional Facility. Noted in that it accepts women. 250 inmates. [Rep. Hamilton Fish (R-NY/19)]

### **Riley, KS**

U.S. Army Correctional Facility, Established in 1868. 600 residents. Offenders do not return to active duty, but are returned to the community. Rep. Jim Slattery (D-KA/2).

### **Orleans Parish, LA**

Intensive Motivational Program of Alternative Correctional Treatment (IMPACT), in 1987. Officials estimate they save \$750,000 for every 100 inmates who attend boot camp instead of being incarcerated. [Rep. William J. Jefferson (D-LA/2)]

- ✓ During the first 6 months 6.9% of the shock parolees, 6.0% of the parolees, 2.8% of the probationers, and 12.1% of the dropouts failed on community supervision.
- ✓ There were no significant differences in the groups in percent arrested during the first six months of community supervision: 14.3% of the shock parolees; 15.4% of the parolees; 14.2% of the probationers; and, 23.0% of the dropouts.
- ✓ Initial studies placed the recidivism rate at less than 9% for those that complete the program.

### **Wrightsville, AR**

Forty percent of the inmates serving time in Arkansas's traditional prisons return to the system, while only 14 percent do so from boot camps. [Rep. Ray Thornton (D-AR/2)]

### **Sumter County, FL**

The recidivism rate has been around 10 percent, but the Sumter County facility accepts a narrow class of criminal --first time male offenders between the ages of 16 and 24. [Rep. Karen L. Thurman (D-FL/5)]

## **NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAMS**

### **Baton Rouge, LA**

Zion Terrace used to have the highest crime rate among the city's 16 public housing projects. In the past few years, however, they have developed a program organized by residents and housing officials to provide a safe environment for kids by keeping them away from drugs and violence. Police patrols have increased, the crime rate has sharply decreased and residents are now regularly reporting crimes and cleaning up the complex.

In addition, eleven VISTA volunteers uniformly address the total community and its problems in an effort to stamp out drugs and drug-related crimes through

information and referral, increased resident participation in community programs, and resident association activities.

**Chicago, IL**

Chicaco Alliance for Neighborhood Safety was founded in 1981 as the Urban Crime Prevention Program. It provides community organizations and residents with training and technical assistance, research and safety-related public policy advice.

Utilizing VISTA volunteers in 1986-89, CANS developed and provided training to over 1400 block groups in the Chicago area. Voluteers are now being trained in community policing efforts.

**Jonesboro, AR**

Volunteers are working on a shelter for victims of domestic violence.

**DRUG COURTS**

**Oakland, CA**

**Miami, FL**

**Washington, D.C.**

**MIDNIGHT BASKETBALL**

**San Francisco, CA**

Modeled after the National Midnight Basketball League, San Francisco's program, headquartered at the Ella Hill Hutch Community Center in the Western Addition, uses basketball as a hook to encourage inner city young adults into a comprehensive service program. They have support and cooperation from police officers, corporate sponsors, program administrators, local government, universities and the youth population.

One key corporate sponsor is Nestle Beverage Co., which provided a \$ 47,000 donation to help fund Midnight Basketball for the fall 1993-94 season. Nestle has also established an internship program in order to provide disadvantaged inner-city youths an opportunity for employment.

**Glen Arden, MD**

G. Van Standifer created the first Midnight Basketball League seven years ago in Glen Arden, Md., the Washington suburb where he had been town manager.

**Chicago, IL**

Chicago Midnight Basketball League is the most successful in the country.

**GUN STORES**

**Chicago, IL**

Gun store across from elementary school.

**"SOCIAL CONTRACT" AREAS**

Charleston, SC

**EMERGENCY ROOMS/HOSPITALS**

**Washington, DC**

At Children's Hospital National Medical Center, the rate of penetrating trauma caused by violence seen in the emergency department *increased 1,740% between 1986 and 1989.*

## CRIME TOUR -- POTENTIAL OUTCOMES

This memorandum outlines some of the actions that the President might take as a result of the crime tour and summit. The message of the President's actions should be:

"We'll do everything we can do to fight crime and violence, but it won't matter unless we all change our behavior -- unless everybody chips in."

The President should respond to the urgency of the crime and violence debate by taking immediate action on a variety of proposals -- from announcing community policing grants to signing more gun-related executive orders. At all costs, however, the President should avoid overpromising and implying that the Administration's programmatic decisions, by themselves, will solve the complex problems associated with crime, drugs and violence. Previous administrations have offered a lot hollow rhetoric, photo ops and programmatic responses on crime, but the American public feels less safe today than it did five years ago.

The President must couple his tangible actions on crime tour by issuing a greater challenge to the American people at the close of the crime summit. This challenge would allow the President to elevate the tone of the crime and violence debate -- based on his theme of rebuilding communities and reconnecting people.

Here are our preliminary suggestions:

### **I. Tangible Actions**

**Community Policing Grants** -- Policing grants to be awarded as part of \$150 million included in the spring supplemental should be available for disbursement by mid-December.

**Gun-Related Executive Actions** -- (1) ATF is on the verge of banning the Street Sweeper/Striker 12 assault shot gun, which has been banned from importation but it currently being domestically produced. We could announce ATF's banning of this assault weapon. (2) The President could also order ATF to draft new regulations to limit the number of military surplus firearms being imported as "curios and relics" -- or ask the State Department to disallow the importation of these and other inexpensive handguns under the Arms Export Control Act.

**Public Safety Component of National Service** -- Approximately one-fourth of National Service's slots will be available for various public safety duties, including community policing-related work.

**Consolidate Drug Grants** -- Agency drug policy representatives have been meeting with ONDCP to try and come up with a way of allowing communities to submit a single, coordinated drug grant application for the various federal drug grant programs. We could use this process to target drug-related monies for three priority areas: youth

violence, drug treatment and crime.

**Drug Courts** -- We could announce funding, out of current DOJ-HHS monies, for another drug court type program.

**Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee or Czar** -- To emphasize the importance of the community policing initiative in the crime bill, the President could appoint a Cops Czar or a Cops Coordinating Committee to oversee this new -- and very large -- program.

**Chiefs Breakfasts** -- The President could announce his intention to have regular luncheon meetings with the Nation's police chiefs, just as he does with CEOs. This luncheons could be expanded to include other law enforcement/crime representatives, too (e.g., AGs, DAs, community coalition leaders, Mayors, etc.).

**Midnight Basketball League** -- The President could announce the formation of a Midnight Basketball League that would be sponsored by the NBA and chaired by Michael Jordan and the President.

**Violence PSAs** -- We could announce the President's involvement in a series of violence PSAs.

**TV Violence Agreement** -- If we are able to strike a deal with the networks before the Summit, we could announce it at the summit (and also avoid the AG's January deadline for legislative action).

**Other Policy-Related Announcements** -- There are a whole series of initiatives that we have yet to focus on but could try and put together with discretionary monies before the summit. These include: Troops-to-Cops, HUD crime initiative, community prosecution projects, etc.

## **II. Greater Challenge**

At the close of the summit, the President should issue a greater challenge to the American people on the issue of crime and violence -- asking them to get personally involved in taking back their streets and neighborhoods. He fought to put 100,000 new police on the street, and now he should challenge 100 million Americans to work with those new police officers to reduce crime and violence. Everybody needs to contribute something if we're going to lick the crime and violence problem. The President should challenge not only individuals -- but groups, too. He should challenge the NRA and the ACLU to work to make a difference at the community level. He should challenge insurers, doctors and lawyers to do the same. The White House would play an instrumental role in disseminating information to the people, perhaps by having them call an 800 number and putting them in touch with their local community coalition, crime prevention group, etc.

November 15, 1993

## MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES

### Network

-CBS, ABC, NBC and FOX are all interested in doing anti-violence initiatives next year. Jay Kriegel of CBS is loosely organizing this effort. There is a wide open opportunity for the Administration to be involved in this effort. The networks would like to come down to talk about this initiative in the next few weeks. We should prepare our ideas for Administration involvement prior to that meeting.

### NBC

-NBC has an ongoing PSA program called "The More You Know." They would like the President and the First Lady to shoot a PSA. (They said they thought the President has already agreed to shoot a PSA for CBS.)

-NBC plans to devote a week in January to crime and violence. All news shows will have segments on this topic.

-NBC is considering airing a documentary about the making of Edward Olmos's film about gangs in California.

-NBC is interested in mobilizing their affiliates at the community level to get more involved in this issue (they could provide referrals to local community groups and disseminate "how to" information).

### Conferences

-AMA Meeting (March 11-13) will focus on family violence.

-National League of Cities (December 2,3; Orlando).

-There are numerous education conferences, family related conferences, religious conferences etc. which could be used as forums for this issue.

### Corporate

-American Airlines is interested in initiating an anti-violence campaign.

### Newspapers

-NY Amsterdam News would like to do a one-on-one with the President for wide distribution.

cc

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

TO: Mack McLarty  
FROM: Carol H. Rasco *file*  
SUBJ: Crime/Violence Initiative  
DATE: November 23, 1993

I am concerned that this initiative to which the President had made clear to me (and continues to send me reams of clippings, other articles he gathers) he wanted emphasized during December has just fallen from the radar screen so to speak. I have not determined if that is a conscious decision by anyone or it is happening by default. Following your discussion with me about George and myself taking on this issue jointly, we met as I described in my previous memo. Besides the coordination on the Crime Bill itself, we then found ourselves in the meeting in your office. At that time Roy suggested that he take the coordination forward, and the meeting was held with interagency participation. At the conclusion of that meeting Roy said he would get with a smaller in house group to begin scheduling, etc. Since that time, outside the Crime Bill work, Bruce Reed and I are unaware of any movement on scheduling events for the December/January time period. I simply don't want to drop the ball without making sure there is some rationale to the sudden absence of a plan.

Thank you.

*Sent bcc via Email to Reed 11/23/93 p.m.*

file - Violence

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 10, 1993

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT**

**FROM: BRUCE REED  
JOSE CERDA III**

**SUBJECT: OPTIONS TO ADDRESS GUN VIOLENCE**

In the wake of recent congressional progress on the Brady Bill and assault weapons, we have prepared an overview of further measures you may wish to consider to address gun violence. In the short run, we urge you to keep the focus on the measures we are still fighting to pass: the Brady bill, an assault weapons ban, and the Kohl bill to ban handgun for minors.

Moreover, it remains important not to suggest that gun control, by itself, is an adequate response to the Nation's crime problem. To break the epidemic of violence, we must emphasize the need not only for fewer guns, but also for more police, more boot camps and state prisons, a criminal justice system that protects those who play by the rules and punishes those who don't, and a society that expects parents to take responsibility for their children and citizens to take responsibility for their actions.

For your information, tomorrow the Treasury Department will send to you the Federal Firearms Licensing report ordered by the directive you signed in August. The report will outline what actions ATF has taken and intends to take in the near future to comply with your directive. ATF staff has indicated that they will not publicly release the document because they expect resistance from the NRA, and would prefer to fight these issues on a case-by-case basis -- as opposed to pre-releasing their "playbook".

**I. Executive Actions**

**A. Ban the Street Sweeper and other Combat Shotguns**

In 1984, ATF banned the importation of the Street Sweeper/Striker 12 shotgun, which was designed in South Africa as a military, security and anti-terrorist weapon. In 1988, ATF banned the USAS-12, a similar combat shotgun. Both of these weapons are now domestically produced and would be banned as part of the Feinstein-DeConcini-Metzenbaum assault weapons ban.

In September of this year, Handgun Control petitioned ATF to classify these domestically produced combat shotguns as "destructive devices" subject to the restrictions and controls in the National Firearms Act (NFA). ATF assembled a working group to study this proposal and recently concluded that it can, in fact, restrict these shotguns as "destructive devices." The Agency is now deciding on implementation procedures for this re-classification, which we could announce any time soon.

## **B. Surplus Military Firearms**

While much attention has been paid to the importation of assault pistols, there has been little focus on a new and potentially more serious problem -- the importation of large numbers of surplus military rifles and handguns from Eastern Bloc countries and China.

Prior to 1968 the United States was the dumping ground for millions of surplus military firearms and other cheaply made and inexpensive firearms. The Gun Control Act of 1968 (GCA) banned the importation of firearms unless they met the sporting purposes test, and the importation of surplus military firearms was banned altogether. In 1984, Congress weakened the GCA to allow the importation of surplus military firearms that qualify as curios and relics. At the time, the amendment's sponsor, Senator Dole, argued that this change to the GCA would apply to only a small number of firearms.

Until recently, the curio and relic exception had been a minor problem. Not only was it illegal to import surplus military firearms between 1969 and 1984, but the Arms Export Control Act (AECA) prohibited the importation of rifles and handguns -- of any type -- from virtually all communist countries. However, after the passage of Dole's 1984 amendment, the importation of surplus military firearms started to increase, and their prices started to drop. The opening up of trade with Eastern European countries has made millions of World War II era firearms eligible for importation into the United States -- mostly bolt action or fixed magazine semiautomatic rifles and semiautomatic handguns. With the breakup of the former Soviet Union, most former European communist countries have been removed from the list of restricted countries under the AECA. So has China. ATF estimates that in this year alone, some 95,000 surplus military firearms have been imported into the United States, the number of firearms that could enter the country under already existing importation permits has jumped into the hundreds of thousands, and the prices of these weapons has dropped to or below their pre-1969 levels.

In addition, the State Department's relaxing of the AECA has resulted in the increased importation of cheap -- but powerful -- handguns that do not technically classify as military surplus firearms. The Chinese are exporting large quantities of semiautomatic pistols used by their military forces -- most of which sell for less than \$100. This year, some 25,000 of these handguns have been imported and importation permits covering as many as 100,000 are pending.

You have two non-legislative options to address this problem. First, you could direct ATF to change the regulations on curio and relic classification. Curios and relics are defined by law to mean firearms of interest to collectors which are (a) 50 years old, (b) certified by

museum directors to be of interest, or (c) of value because they are novel and are associated with some historical figure, period or event. At the rate these arms are being imported, they can no longer be regarded as collectors items.

Ordering ATF to amend these regulations would require a 90-day comment period -- and would not address the problem of inexpensive handguns. As an alternative, you could order the State Department to suspend the importation of these weapons under the AECA. Under this statute you have broad authority to control the importation of firearms in furtherance of world peace, security and the foreign policy of the United States. Our State Department is not on the record on this issue, but we expect that they would need to review the foreign policy implications of limiting trade with the former Soviet Union and China.

## **II. Non-Controversial Legislative Options**

Once the crime bill and the Brady Bill have passed Congress, the Administration could offer a gun violence package that might include any of the following measures, which are relatively non-controversial. We can also continue to push an assault weapons ban until both houses of Congress agree.

### **A. Federal Firearms Licensing Reform**

The Administration has already committed to federal firearms licensing (FFL) reform. The Vice President's National Performance Review called for legislation raising the basic \$10 FFL fee to cover actual costs, and Lee Brown's Interim Drug Strategy called for an increase in the basic FFL fee as well as for putting a stop to the practice of allowing gun dealers with FFLs to circumvent state and local gun laws. More recently, you stressed the need for FFL reforms during your meeting with Jim and Sarah Brady.

The presidential directive you signed in August called for tougher enforcement of compliance requirements under present law -- such as by improving background checks on prospective dealers, requiring dealers to obtain more reliable identification from purchasers, and scrutinizing multiple handgun sales reports. These reforms were long overdue. To date, ATF has licensed approximately 284,000 gun dealers, and new applications come in at the rate of approximately 60,000 a year. The policies of previous Administrations and congressional action to weaken ATF's enforcement authority over guns have prevented the agency from doing all that it can to address the issue of gun proliferation and violence. Additionally, the \$10 FFL fee does not even come close to covering the cost of processing and investigating FFL applications -- in fact, it costs less to get an FFL than to join the NRA.

Senators Simon and Moynihan have introduced legislation to reform gun dealer licensing (Moynihan's bill also includes his proposed bullet tax, which is discussed later in this memorandum). Generally, proposed FFL reform would do the following: (1) raise the basic fee from \$10 per year to \$750 per year; (2) require dealers to certify that they are in compliance with state and local laws; (3) drop the 45-day requirement for action on FFL

applications; (4) allow ATF to investigate a dealer more than once a year if necessary; (5) require dealers to report a shortage in a firearm shipment, or lost or stolen inventory to ATF; (6) require dealers to comply with ATF firearms trace requests; and (7) require common carriers to obtain identification from individuals who receive a firearm shipment.

Although Senator Biden has asked Democratic Senators to keep gun legislation off the crime bill, Senator Simon may offer his FFL reforms -- perhaps without the basic fee increase -- as an amendment to the crime bill. Simon's staff has been negotiating with the Republican staff and the NRA -- who want this issue to go away -- but no deal has been struck. Earlier this year, Simon offered his FFL reforms as an amendment to the Treasury appropriations bill and lost by a large margin.

### **B. Armor-Piercing Bullets**

Last spring, the Department of Defense considered importing a new bullet, the M39B, but decided against this action after the Attorney General and the White House asked them to reconsider. Police groups had visited with you and expressed concern that DOD's use of the M39B would result in black market availability of this new armor-piercing bullet.

Under current law, ammunition that can be used in a handgun and whose cores are made entirely from one or more of a list of prohibited materials -- including tungsten alloys, steel, iron, brass, bronze, beryllium copper, or depleted uranium -- are defined as armor-piercing and are thus prohibited. But the 9mm caliber M39B has a conventional lead core and relies on a steel metal jacket that constitutes a disproportionate amount of the total bullet's weight to penetrate soft body armor. ATF studied the M39B bullet, comparing it to 20 other conventional full metal jacket bullets, and discovered that while the average handgun bullet's jacket rarely constituted more than 23 percent of its total weight, the M39B's jacket comprised almost half (40.5 percent) of its total weight. You should not let this loophole in the ban on armor-piercing bullets go unaddressed.

The FBI and ATF are promoting two different solutions to the problem. ATF has suggested banning handgun bullets whose jackets have a weight of more than 25 percent of the total bullet weight. This is the easiest and least controversial way of addressing the problem. The FBI has advocated a much more ambitious -- but controversial -- approach: developing a performance standard that would ban all armor-piercing bullets. This proposal has the advantage of covering not only the M39B, but other armor-piercing bullets that might get around the ban in the future. Either approach requires legislation.

### **C. High-Capacity Ammunition Feeding Devices**

To ensure that criminals are not better armed than our police we need to ban not only assault weapons, but the high-capacity ammunition feeding devices that preclude the need to re-load these weapons. Your Crime and Drugs campaign position paper supported such a ban, and it should be part of any assault weapons ban that you support.

Last Congress, Representative Schumer attached a ban on ammunition clips with more than 7 rounds to the crime bill during committee consideration. The number 7 represented the least stringent ban imposed by any state that had acted to limit the number of rounds in a clip. However, this ban was deleted from the bill by the same amendment that struck the assault weapons ban. This year, Senator Metzenbaum and Representative Schumer have included a ban on clips with more than 10 rounds as part of their assault weapons legislation -- the same language is also included in the Feinstein-DeConcini-Metzenbaum amendment currently being considered by the Senate.

#### **D. Disability Relief and Definition of State Conviction**

Federal law prohibits convicted felons from possessing firearms. However, they may apply to ATF for disability relief, which restores their gun rights. ATF spends about \$4 million a year on investigations to grant relief. In a number of cases over the years, these people who got their gun rights back went on to commit and be convicted of other crimes. Last year and this year, Representative Schumer and others succeeded in defunding this provisions. We can continue to defund this provision on a year-to-year basis or amend the Gun Control Act (GCA) to terminate this program.

A definitional issue also arises as to what constitutes a state felony conviction for purposes of Federal law. More specifically, when can a person become "unconvicted" under state law and, therefore, ineligible for prosecution under Federal law for possessing a firearm. To deal with this issue, Representative Schumer has also advanced legislation that would permanently preclude anyone convicted of a violent or drug felony from possessing a firearm, and would restore gun rights for other offenders only if the state did a complete background check and investigation, and decided it was in the best interest of the public to do so.

#### **E. Machine Gun Replacement Parts**

The possession and sale of machine guns made after 1986 is banned by Federal law. Machine guns bought and sold after that date can still be bought and sold, but they must be registered and are taxed pursuant to the National Firearms Act (NFA).

This machine gun ban can be circumvented, however, by purchasing machine gun replacement parts and using them to convert semiautomatic assault weapons into fully automatic weapons. Although it is also illegal to sell or possess parts designed "solely" to convert a weapon into a machine gun, there are no limits on the sale or possession of replacement parts for a machine gun. It is believed that the Branch Davidians were able to accumulate more than 100 machine guns as a result of this loophole.

Narrow legislative language requiring that machine gun replacement parts be sold only to buyers who have an NFA license should close this loophole.

### **III. Controversial Legislative Options**

A multitude of other more controversial gun violence proposals are worth considering, but will require a lengthier public education campaign to pass.

#### **A. Restricting Multiple Gun Purchases**

Some gun advocates would like to build on their victory in Virginia last year limiting gun purchases to one a month. They believe such a restriction is a simple, common sense idea that can be easily sold to the American public and want to push for a similar federal restriction on multiple gun purchases -- perhaps one gun per visit, if not one a month. However, the NRA strongly opposed Governor Wilder's efforts to pass this legislation and succeeded in watering it down. We can expect them to fight us on similar legislation at the federal level.

#### **B. Gun License to Demonstrate Proficiency**

The Attorney General and others have spoken about the need for a uniform firearms license that is awarded only to those who go through some type of firearms training and who demonstrate proficiency in handling a firearm. We don't let just anyone who can buy a car drive one -- why should we let anyone who is eligible to buy a gun use it. Although such a proposal makes intuitive sense, this is an ambitious proposal that would take considerable effort and time to develop and pass legislation.

#### **C. Ban All Handguns**

Handguns are the firearm most often used in crime, and many members of Congress and gun control advocates have argued that -- if you really want to get serious about gun violence -- all handguns and/or their ammunition should be banned or banned unless they meet a "sporting purposes" test. Local units of government that have enacted such controls have had their actions upheld by the Supreme Court. Recently, you were asked about your position on Senator Chafee's handgun ban and replied that it may be too broad. A handgun ban would extremely controversial.

#### **D. Expand the Category of Persons Prohibited From Possessing a Firearm**

Representative Torrecelli recently introduced legislation expanding the category of persons prohibited from possessing a firearm to include persons with a history of domestic violence and those currently under a restraining order. This proposal makes much sense and may not be as controversial as some of the other gun options listed here. But it may be too soon to gauge the level of support or opposition for this measure.

#### **E. Bullet/Gun Tax**

Current law provides for an excise tax of 10 percent on pistols and revolvers and 11 percent for other firearms and ammunition. These receipts, which totaled \$164 million last

year, are earmarked for the Pitman–Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and do not get deposited in the General Revenue Fund.

Many gun control advocates have called for a sharp increase in the tax on guns, arguing that gun taxes should be treated just as any other "sin tax," and that revenues raised by a gun tax could help offset the costs of gun violence on our health care system. We believe this issue is best addressed in the context of how to finance health care reform.

Senator Moynihan has made a separate, but powerful, argument for the need to increase the tax on handgun ammunition. He has promoted legislation to raise the existing tax on selected calibers of handgun ammunition to 1,000 percent and to impose recordkeeping requirements with respect to the disposition of ammunition by dealers. (He has previously proposed an outright ban on this ammunition.) Moynihan's argument for such a tax increase is based on the premise that we can't realistically control the estimated 200 million firearms on the street today, but that we can control the supply of ammunition for these guns through taxation. A narrow ban on specific forms of handgun ammunition may be feasible, although still a tough political battle.

ATF has mixed feelings about this proposal, and they have reconvened their National Firearms Strategy Panel to further examine the Senator's proposal. They hope to make recommendations to the Director of ATF at the end of November, and we have asked that they share their analysis with Domestic Policy.

#### **F. Strict Liability for Gun Violence**

Some gun control proponents have advocated legislation that would allow people who are injured by firearms to sue gun manufacturers and importers for damages in federal court. The District of Columbia passed legislation imposing strict liability on assault weapons, but gun control opponents in the Congress succeeded in repealing this law.

#### **G. Consumer Product Safety Commission**

Senator Metzenbaum has proposed legislation to authorize the Commission to regulate the risk of injury associated with firearms. Although this legislation very clearly makes the philosophical statement that gun violence should be treated as a greater public safety issue, it would be extremely controversial and is sure to cause disagreement within the Executive Branch.

September 17, 1993

orig: CHR - file Violence

XC: Susan J. Cook  
Lji

MEMORANDUM FOR MACK MCLARTY  
GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS  
DAVID GERGEN  
MAGGIE WILLIAMS

Logged / Sent 9/22  
PV

FROM: RAHM EMANUEL R.E.

Subject: Violence in America

The President and Mrs. Clinton have both talked about the moral emptiness in the United States. The need for a spiritual core is what Mrs. Clinton refers to when she talks about the "politics of meaning."

I think that we have an opportunity to explain what the Clintons mean by this language, and as a result, develop the moral voice to the presidency. Furthermore, we have an opportunity to define the Clintons in a very personal way, beyond their legislative agenda, that will connect them with the American people.

People do not understand what the "politics of meaning" means. We need to link this rhetoric of "meaning" -- or lack thereof -- to something relevant in people's lives.

Crime and violence near the top the list of issues that concern the American public. Americans, as a society, accept a level of violence that no other country tolerates.

Violence in America ranges from murder, rape, and theft to domestic violence and child abuse to bigotry and racial division. It is the result of an America that does not value human life, and it is an outgrowth of the moral void in American society -- the lack of a "national meaning." We should seize the issue of violence in America to define the rhetoric of meaning and to give this presidency a moral tone.

We must address the violence, be it hatred or crime, that has gripped this country. The President and Mrs. Clinton can jointly address this epidemic by voicing moral opposition to violence, and by promoting means to deter violence.

This could be our answer to Dan Quayle's attack on the non-traditional family. Quayle's attempt to be a moral voice was divisive. In contrast, denouncing violence in America will unite Democrats from Jesse Jackson to John Breaux.

I see three key ways to address violence in this country: through legislation like the Crime Bill; through community efforts; and through public education.

o **Legislation:** Anti-violence legislation is critical. The Crime Bill -- in particular the cops piece -- is central to the President's legislative agenda, and all other crime/violence legislation should revolve around it.

Yet we need to go beyond the Crime Bill, especially on the state and local levels. We need to encourage the enactment of tough pro-arrest legislation that will significantly deter crime. For example, police should have the right to arrest people on the spot for domestic violence or child abuse. Currently, this is not the case.

o **Community Action:** Local communities must take responsibility for their neighborhoods, and must play an active role in keeping their streets safe. This means more neighborhood patrols, community-based support groups, etc.

Empowering communities to protect themselves has proven to be one of the most effective methods of deterring crime. Bureaucratic red tape is avoided, and the people make it work because their neighborhoods are at stake. The administration must facilitate community empowerment and accountability.

The administration should serve as a source of information and support for communities. For example, we should provide communities with "neighborhood empowerment kits" which would give information regarding the most effective ways to deter crime.

o **Public Education:** We need to work with HHS, Justice, DoEd, and other relevant agencies to see what resources are available to launch a full-fledged public education campaign against violence. This would include anti-drug efforts, teaching racial tolerance, and denouncing violence against women and children etc.

An anti-violence campaign would resemble the campaign against smoking, for example, in that it would be an ongoing, long-term public education effort. In this effort, we may be pitted against Hollywood, but in a way that will most likely be to the administration's benefit.

By speaking out against violence, an issue that hits a chord with all Americans, the Clintons can position themselves as the moral voice for the country and define the "politics of meaning" in a very real way for the middle class.

According to Carol Rasco, the Office of Domestic Policy has a working group that will present a report on Violence in America to the President sometime in November. I think we should try to speed up this time table, if possible.

In addition, we may want to consider having the President and Mrs. Clinton speak directly to the American people on the issue of violence. We could integrate this into the President's holiday message in December.

Having the President say that "enough is enough" would be a powerful kickoff to an anti-violence campaign. Furthermore, it would show the Clintons as the leaders in the crusade to define a moral framework for American society.

cc: Mark Gearan  
Carol Rasco  
Dee Dee Myers  
Bruce Reed



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

August 2, 1993

Tricia Robin, President  
National Council for Families and Television  
3801 Barham Boulevard, Suite 300  
Los Angeles, CA 90068

Dear Ms. Robin:

As you meet today to review the status of television violence, we urge you to take further steps to reduce the amount of violent programming.

While we are pleased that you have taken some preliminary steps to caution parents, these do not address the viewing patterns of most children, who do not have a parent at their side to monitor what they watch.

The alarming rise in violent crime and behavior forces us to look at all of the causes. Clearly television is not the sole culprit, but it is a powerful contributing factor.

A 1992 report on TV and society by the American Psychological Association noted that prime-time entertainment programming contains about five violent acts per hour. Saturday children's programs show about 25 violent acts per hour.

The victims in these incidents are often women, non white and elderly, while the perpetrators are predominately white males. The impact on children is profound, in part because children do not draw the usual boundaries between fantasy and reality.

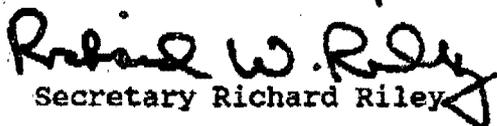
We recognize that the nation's education agenda--to improve the education for all children in America--cannot be realized when children go to school in fear, and teachers are intimidated by violence.

Neither can our youth look forward to a promising future, when violence threatens their life spans in the same manner as a virulent disease.

Therefore, we must take every possible step to reduce the incidence of violence in our society. Your leadership in this endeavor is essential.

We would be pleased to discuss with you a strategy that produces measurable reductions in the portrayal of violence in the media. Thank you kindly for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

  
Secretary Richard Riley

  
Deputy Secretary Madeleine Kunin

cc: Lee Brown, Director of the Office of National Drug Control  
Peter Edelman, Counselor to the Secretary, Department of  
Health and Human Services  
Philip Heymann, Deputy Attorney General  
Carol H. Rasco, Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy



**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

**The Executive Secretariat**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.**

**Suite 4161**

**Washington, D.C. 20202-0124**

AUG - 3 REC'D

**Telephone: (202) 401-3067**

**Fax Number: (202) 401-2854**

**FAX COVER SHEET**

**TO:** Carol H. Rasco

**FAX NUMBER:** 456-2878

**FROM:** Exec. Sec.

**COMMENTS**

A large empty rectangular box intended for handwritten or typed comments.

August 5, 1993

MEMORANDUM

TO: Carol Rasco  
Kathi Way

AUG 6 REC'D

FROM: Mitchell McKinney *MM*

RE: Television & Violence - *file*

Having worked with the television and violence project throughout the summer, I would like to leave you with a few thoughts on how I feel the Administration might address this important issue.

First, while we initially became involved with this matter only reluctantly through the request of Rep. Kennedy, I feel that attention to this issue can benefit the President. As we have seen this summer, televised violence has become increasingly important to the American public, and Presidential involvement on this topic will allow the Administration to associate itself with an issue of vital importance to the American family.

As we have seen, however, any action that we might take must include those members of Congress who have adopted television and violence as "their" project. I recommend that we align ourselves most closely with the work of Sen. Simon, as he seems to be taking a balanced approach and one that is most sensitive to charges of censorship.

At the very least, I feel the President could address this issue in a future Saturday radio address. Perhaps an appropriate time would be his Labor Day weekend address, as kids are heading back to school and as the networks are releasing their fall programs. The address could develop the themes of appropriate educational activities (encouraging less television watching), and also noting the responsibilities of parents, corporate advertisers, and the networks.

A second option, and one that I favor, would be to address this issue in a more visible, public event. The President could deliver a speech in an appropriate children's or family setting, commenting on the importance of the family, the many problems that families face today, and highlighting the urgent need to reduce the amount of violence that our children are exposed to through television.

Finally, the President's appeal to reduce the amount of televised violence must be directed not only to the television industry, but also to the advertisers. Recently, Rep. Markey

conducted a congressional hearing to consider the role corporate advertisers can play in limiting televised violence. While each of the top ten advertisers were invited to testify, only AT&T appeared before the committee. As Rep. Markey noted, "America's largest corporations are attempting to wash their hands of their responsibility . . . and this will not be tolerated by the American people or by the Congress." Clearly, more pressure must be placed on our corporate advertisers to address this crucial problem.

I have enjoyed working with this issue and hope that we will be successful in our efforts to encourage industry self-regulation, thus avoiding the certain calls for government intervention by the Congress. Please contact me if I can be of further assistance on this or any other matter.

K. Way - Fuji

file

# Briefly Stated

## Health Care Richards Signs Health Legislation

Recent legislation signed by Texas Gov. Ann W. Richards will allow small businesses to provide affordable health insurance to their employees. "This is major legislation that goes directly to the heart of fundamental problems small employers in our state have to face: how to provide their workers with health coverage," said Gov. Richards. The bill applies to businesses with three to 50 employees. It provides for purchasing cooperatives; guarantees renewability; prohibits excluding pre-existing conditions; and gives a choice of benefits packages.

Contact: Bill Cryer, Governor's Press Office, 512/463-1826.

## Education Wilson's Program Awards \$13 Million

California Gov. Pete Wilson's Healthy Start program recently awarded more than \$13 million in new planning and operational grants to schools and county offices of education to provide school-based, school-linked integrated health, mental health, social and other support services for children and their families. "Even in tight

budgetary times, our top priority remains an investment in California's children," said Gov. Wilson. Healthy Start was developed to address the increasing needs of school children who are struggling with problems of poor physical and mental health, inadequate nutrition, substance abuse, family dysfunction, or insufficient community support.

Contact: Cynthia Katz, Office of Child Development and Education, 916/323-0611

## Youth Violence Nelson to Host State Conference

Pulling communities and agencies together to develop new solutions to combat violence among youth will be discussed at a conference of state agencies hosted by Nebraska Gov. Ben Nelson Aug. 19-20 in Omaha. "If we don't join together now to find solutions, this problem will continue to grow and consume our most valuable resource—our children," said Gov. Nelson. He has asked the state's departments of education, public institutions, health, social services, corrections, economic development, the state patrol, the Crime Commission, and the Governor's Office of Urban Affairs to coordinate their efforts in remedying youth violence. Following the

August conference, a series of statewide workshops will be conducted. Presently, the agencies are joining Omaha Public Schools and city officials to augment a summer jobs program.

Contact: Karen Kilgarin, Governor's Press Office, 402/471-2244.

## Corporate Fellows Five More Firms Join NGA Program

Five corporations have recently joined NGA's corporate fellows program, bringing the total number of fellows to 91. New members include Bank of America of San Francisco, Calif., and The Travelers of Hartford, Conn., as full corporate fellows. National Computer Systems of Eden Prairie, Minn., New City Development, of Hartford, Conn., and Unisys Corporation of Blue Bell, Pa. are associate fellows. The corporate fellows program is nearing its goal to work with 100 corporations that provide resources and expertise to support NGA's nonprofit Center for Policy Research. The Center addresses emerging issues, develops long-term strategies, and strives for better, more effective and efficient government.

Contact: Bill Cramer, NGA, 202/624-5496.

Rathi  
Excellent  
idea! I would  
hate for them  
to come out w/  
strong requests  
of Exec. Branch  
in serious  
opposition  
to what we  
actually want  
to do.  
Thanks!  
CJR

DC 20500-0001

Ms Carol Rasco  
Assistant to the President  
for Domestic Policy  
White House  
Washington

Sent orig.

to KW

- Ric

7-26

Do you  
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## IN THE LEGISLATURES

### Governors Cite Legislative Wins This Year

*Their victories include health care, education, and welfare reforms*

**G**overnors' major initiatives enacted by state legislatures this year include reforms in health care, education, and welfare; streamlining of state government; economic development measures; and tougher criminal laws, according to an informal NGA survey of governors' offices.

**Health Care.** Governors continued to take the lead in health care reform, initiating legislation designed to make health insurance more accessible and affordable while controlling costs (*Bulletin*, June 7).

Maryland Gov. William Donald Schaefer's reform package takes a "managed competition" approach to health

reform. It seeks to make it easier for employees of small businesses to obtain and afford medical insurance, and requires the dissemination of substantial information about medical prices and practices to help consumers choose among health care options. A number of other states have also developed reform efforts that include managed competition.

The skyrocketing cost of Tennessee's Medicaid system has prompted Gov. Ned McWherter to propose replacing it with his TennCare program. "This program won't fix the entire health system....But unless we do something, the runaway cost of the Medicaid system will destroy the quality of every other service state government offers," said Gov.

McWherter. Gov. McWherter has signed legislation that clears the way for him to seek federal permission to implement TennCare. If a federal waiver is granted, this managed competition system will continue to cover more than 1 million presently on Medicaid, while providing coverage for an additional 500,000 uninsured.

**Education.** This year, governors continued to press for greater school autonomy, innovation, and flexibility. One way they did this was to establish "charter schools" (*Bulletin*, May 24), which operate free from many state regulations and create performance-based account-

*Continued on page 2*

## FEDERAL BUDGET

### Governors Urge Conferees to Consider State Views

The nation's governors are urging House and Senate conferees on the fiscal 1994 federal budget resolution to dedicate new gas tax revenues to the highway trust fund, make sure that any controls on entitlement spending are reasonable and workable, and keep proposed Medicaid changes in line with state views. Two of the most important Medicaid proposals deal with state options on purchasing prescription drugs for Medicaid patients and the effective date of new limits on payments to hospitals that care for disproportionately higher shares of low-income patients.

**Gas Tax.** If Congress enacts new gaso-

line taxes, the states are urging that revenues be dedicated to the highway trust fund. They also want state governments to continue to be exempted from paying the federal gas tax.

The Senate bill increases taxes on most transportation fuels but exempts state and local governments and dedicates the new gas tax revenues to the highway trust fund. But the House bill creates an energy tax that would effectively raise the gas tax by 7.5 cents a gallon (as well as tax other fuels), without exempting states or local governments or dedicating any of the gas tax revenues to the highway trust fund. Both bills stipulate that revenues

from a 2.5-cent portion of the current gas tax—now being used for deficit reduction—start to go into the highway trust fund on Oct. 1, 1995.

**Entitlement Controls.** Currently there are no entitlement spending caps in either the House or the Senate bill. But the House bill includes controls on entitlement spending that set a target for total entitlement spending for each of the next four years. Should the House provision prevail, the states support changes to ensure that inflation adjustments are realistic and don't shift costs to states.

*Continued on page 3*

## In this issue . . .

### FEDERAL BUDGET

Gas tax revenues, entitlement controls, and proposed Medicaid changes are among the important state issues. *Page 1*

### SKILL STANDARDS

State officials responding to an NGA survey support comprehensive industry-based skill standards. *Page 3*

### BRIEFLY STATED

Health legislation in Texas, early intervention in California, and a youth violence conference in Nebraska. *Page 4*

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## IN THE LEGISLATURES

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*Continued from page 1*

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This article was prepared with the assistance of Jack Balaban, an intern in NGA's public affairs office.

July 5, 1993

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*Industry-based skill standards would determine what workers should know and be able to do in order to succeed in today's highly competitive global economy.*

## SKILL STANDARDS

# State Officials Support Industry-Based Skill Standards

By Martin Simon

Nineteen states that took part in a recent NGA survey strongly support a comprehensive national system of industry-based skill standards. The standards would determine what workers should know and be able to do in order to succeed in today's highly competitive global economy.

Developing skill standards is time-consuming, costly, and difficult for states to undertake on their own, according to state officials taking part in the survey.

A recent NGA report, *State Initiatives on Creating Skill Standards and Credentials*, finds that many states are working with industry to develop skill standards—mainly as part of their education reform and workforce development strategies. However, these efforts are often fragmented within states and across states and at the national level.

State officials interviewed for the study support the creation of a national board that would establish an overall framework for a national system. Without such a structure, various national, state, and industry efforts now underway take separate approaches—possibly resulting in standards that are defined differently and credentials that are not “portable” from

state to state or discipline to discipline.

The system envisioned would provide a common language so that employers, government officials, and educators could communicate clearly about the skills employees need to be competitive.

It would guide both public and private training and labor exchange activities, and promote flexibility and portability of skills across occupations, industries, and geographic areas.

Industry would play a lead role in developing the skill standards and credentials, with states working closely with industry and education to implement the standards.

The report concludes that a major effort must be initiated at the national and state levels to build awareness and support for a national system of skill standards among employers, workers, educators, and the general public.

Widely accepted industry-based skill standards can significantly help raise the skills of the U.S. workforce and improve the competitiveness of U.S. firms, the report says. ■

Martin Simon is director of the training and employment program in NGA's employment and social services policy studies unit. The report is available for \$15.00 plus shipping from NGA Publications, 301/498-3738.

## Annual Conference Set for Nov. 10-12

NGA's annual employment and training policy conference this fall will focus on promoting economic growth and creating more jobs that pay well in a technologically driven global economy.

The conference, called —“Where Are The Jobs?”— will be held Nov. 10-12 in Los Angeles, Calif.

It will explore the rapidly changing workplace and the role of the employment and training system in promoting:

- job creation and job retention;
- high-performance workplaces;
- economically competitive communities, firms, and workers;
- effective job training for the economically disadvantaged; and
- transitional employment for workers entering the labor force. ■

For more information on NGA's annual employment and training conference, contact David Brown, NGA, 202/624-5427.

## FEDERAL BUDGET

### Reconciliation Issues

*Continued from page 1*

**Medicaid.** Current proposals restrict payments to disproportionate share hospital (DSH) payments, but other proposals may benefit states. Policy adopted by the governors generally supports delaying the effective date of the new limits until the states' 1996 fiscal year (as proposed in the Senate bill), rather than only fiscal 1995 (as in the House bill).

NGA policy also generally supports:

- giving states the option of establishing formularies (lists of prescription drugs eligible for Medicaid reimbursement) and calculating drug rebate formulas;
- participating in child immunization without federal mandates and penalties;
- increasing state authority to recover the costs of Medicaid services given to individuals who illegally transferred assets in order to qualify for Medicaid.

States also support:

- permanently extending tax-exempt bond and credit programs for housing,

small issue development bonds, jobs, education, and research and development credits;

- adding flexibility and more reasonable sanctions to the quality control system for the food stamps program;
- delaying for a year the implementation of a new federal fees for administering state programs that supplement the Supplemental Security Income programs.

Another issue under reconciliation is a requirement that states include an average 40 percent of two-parent AFDC families in work programs every month. ■

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

TO: Marcia Hale  
FROM: Carol H. Rasco *CHR*  
SUBJ: Violence Conference  
DATE: July 14, 1993

I am not submitting this as a regular request for scheduling but instead as a pass along letter from Madeleine Kunin as well as an FYI if the scheduling team is for any reason looking for a "violence" focused event next week. The President repeatedly talks to me about the violence issue and we are setting up an interagency working group (with no fanfare); the crime bill is getting very close to being ready to roll out; and this simply gives a tangible event to have him address, but certainly not a must given the reconciliation focus. Kunin tells me they will put the President on the agenda at any time. I have told her Mrs. Clinton will not be in town. Can you share this with Gore's scheduling staff if appropriate?

Thank you.

*Roz*

*(10)*

*Copy of Kunin  
letter / conf. schedule  
w/ @ memo. Hale's  
memo a red dot.  
cc of all for me*

*If we haven't started  
a file on VIOLENCE  
(different from  
"TV Violence"), start  
one w/ this stuff. Also  
call, Marcia's office  
to check on this.*

cc: Kathi Way

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

TO: Marcia Hale  
FROM: Carol H. Rasco  
SUBJ: Violence Conference  
DATE: July 14, 1993

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Thank you.

Kathi -  
You may want  
to attend this conference.  
If so, contact Kunin.

Frank,  
CHR



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

July 7, 1993

MEMORANDUM

TO: Carol Rasco  
Director  
Domestic Policy Council

FROM: Madeleine M. Kunin *M. Kunin*

SUBJECT: Conference on Violence Prevention, July 20-21, sponsored jointly by the Departments of Education and Justice

To follow up on my memo to President and Mrs. Clinton dated June 23, regarding a Presidential Commission on Violence, we are taking some first steps on the issue via this conference.

I am enclosing the draft agenda in case the President, Hillary or the Vice President or Tipper would be interested in being on the agenda. Needless to say, it would be great to have any one of them participate. We expect about 250 participants at the conference.

We are arranging a satellite television program the evening of the 20th to reach a larger audience.

Additionally, we also expect to have participation, prior to the recorded satellite program, by other cabinet members, but the format is not entirely complete. Let me know if you would like more information.

DRAFT AGENDA

"SAFEGUARDING OUR YOUTH:  
VIOLENCE PREVENTION FOR OUR NATION'S CHILDREN"

JULY 20-21, 1993

J.W. MARRIOTT HOTEL, WASHINGTON, D.C.

TUESDAY, JULY 20, 1993:

8:30 - 10:30

o Opening of Forum

Honorguard--U.S. Army

The Honorable Madeleine M. Kunin  
Deputy Secretary  
Department of Education

The Honorable Philip Heymann  
Deputy Attorney General  
Department of Justice

o Welcome

The Honorable Sharon Pratt Kelly  
Mayor  
District of Columbia

o Keynote Address

The Honorable Richard Riley  
Secretary of Education

o "Why Youth Engage in Violence and Why they are the  
Victims of Violence"

Dr. Mark Rosenberg  
Center for Disease Control

11:00 - 12:30

o Breakout Session #1

--Introduce breakout group members

- Explain the overall objectives for the three breakout sessions.
- Identify someone to be part of panel on last day which reports out findings.
- Respond to question: How does your \_\_\_\_\_ system currently or traditionally respond to violence that impacts youth?

12:30 - 2:00

o Lunch

Dr. Cornel West  
Princeton University

2:00 - 3:00

o "What's Working and What's Not Working in Safeguarding our Children/Preventing Violence"

Dr. Terrence P. Thornberry  
Professor, School of Criminal Justice  
State University of New York at Albany

Dr. Hope Hill  
Howard University

3:00 - 4:30

o Breakout Session #2

--Present key elements of violence prevention strategy: coordination, resources, problem assessment, community involvement.

--Respond to Question: What are the key obstacles for achieving a violence prevention plan?

4:30 - 5:30

o Program Fair

1. Tom Roderick, Executive Director  
Educators for Social Responsibility  
475 Riverside Drive, Suite 450  
New York, NY 10115  
212-870-3318  
212-260-6290 (FAX)
2. Irene Melendez, Ph.D.  
Project BREGA  
BCD Cooperative Plaza  
Suite 905 B  
623 Ponce de Leon Ave

Hato Rey, Puerto Rico 00917  
809-789-5612

3. Mr. Tim Shriver  
Supervisor of Social Development  
203-498-7773  
203-772-7443
4. Robbie Callaway, Assistant Director  
Boys and Girls Clubs of America  
611 Rockville Pike, Suite 230  
Rockville, MD. 20852  
301-251-6676
5. Patrick Tolan, Ph.D.  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
Institute of Juvenile Justice  
901 S. Wolcott (M/C747)  
Chicago, IL 60680
6. John Bailey, Project Director  
Trenton Safe Havens Program  
City Hall Annex, 1st Fl  
Trenton, NJ 08608  
609-989-3954
7. Ms. Annette Townley, Executive Director  
National Association Mediation In Education  
205 Hampshire House  
University of Massachusetts  
Amherst, MA 01003  
413-545-2462
8. Ms. Rosie Griep  
Turn off the Violence  
PO Box 27558  
Minneapolis, MN 55427  
612-593-8041
9. Selena M. Respass, Director  
Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
Office of Violence Prevention  
150 Tremont Street  
Boston, MA  
617-442-3202
10. Dr. Ronald G. Kuhn and  
Ms. Phyllis R. Antonelli  
Keys to Excellence, Inc.  
26550 N. Wrangler Road  
Scottsdale, Arizona 85255  
602-585-3535

7:00 - 9:30 Town Hall Meeting

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 1993

8:30 - 10:00

o Opening

Deputy Secretary and Deputy Attorney General

o Media Violence

The Honorable Paul Simon  
Senator  
Illinois

o Introductory Comments

Dr. Franklin Smith  
Superintendent  
Washington D.C. Public Schools

o "Children and Youth Panel"

Host--TBD

Group of children and youth will describe how violence (school violence, family violence, child abuse, murder etc.) has affected them. They will also be asked their opinions as to what needs to be done to reduce/eliminate further violence.

10:00 - 11:00

o Presentation "Building Effective Violence Prevention Strategies"

Dr. David Hawkins  
University of Washington  
(Prominent researcher on "Risk Factors" that lead children/youth to engage in variety of inappropriate activities and "protective factors"--ways in which we can protect youth).

Beverly Watts Davis  
Executive Director  
San Antonio Fighting Back  
1023 N. Pine  
San Antonio, Texas 78202  
512-228-0288

11:00 - 12:30

o Breakout Session #3

--Discuss questions actions that need to be taken by \_\_\_\_\_ and Federal government to effectively curtail violence among youth. Actions should be short term and long term.

12:30 - 2:00

o Lunch

The Honorable Janet Reno  
Attorney General Of the United States

2:00 - 4:00

o Report of Working Groups

--Panel One (Governor Kunin to Moderate).  
--Panel Two (Deputy AG Philip Heymann to Moderate).

4:00

o Adjourn

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202

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Carol Rasco  
Director  
Domestic Policy Council  
The White House  
West Wing, 2nd Floor



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cc of these ~~mk~~  
3 pages w/ my  
handwritten  
note to Regina.  
I need the 3 pag  
plus cc of note back.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Regina-

The attached will show  
our follow up actions to  
the letter from Mayor  
Schmoke to you. Let  
me know if any ?'s.

Thanks  
Chris

7/12/93

Carol -

Your policy approach sounds right. Suggest that

TO: David Gergen  
 FROM: Carol H. Rasco *CH* w/ Schmoke to solicit  
 SUBJ: Violence in America his views - - or bring  
 DATE: July 7, 1993 in form of memo to consist w/

I have received my copy of the July 2 memo sent to you by Regina Montoya regarding Mayor Schmoke's request for a summit on violence. Because of the intense interest in this broad topic of violence, the President and I initiated discussions on the matter a few weeks ago in my daily briefings. There have been calls for Summits, Commissions, etc. We have decided to take a careful, thoughtful approach to this topic, and I am in the process of finalizing the establishment of a quiet interagency working group to be headed by Phil Heymann of Justice and Peter Edelman of HHS. This group will be made up of key officials from a number of departments we have identified as interested in this topic. The group will be charged with coming forth with a proposed set of plans for the administration with the plans due by early fall. Kathi Way of my staff will serve on the group from the Domestic Policy Council.

Ren  
 et  
 al  
 (not  
 President  
 yet)

Thank

I would suggest that the Mayor be sent a reply stating that the Executive Branch has several departments working cooperatively on the best approaches to follow in response to the issue of violence, that the President appreciates his input and will forward it to the group for careful study. We do not plan at this time to publicly announce this study group. I will plan to describe the group in a Senior Staff Meeting report next week when more of the full staff is present.

Dave

Please advise if Domestic Policy should take the lead in answering the Mayor and let me know if you have further questions.

Thank you.

cc: Mack McLarty  
 Regina Montoya  
 Roy Neel

*PS - Understand Riley is attending OAD conference on this date July*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

TO: Mayor Kurt Schmoke

FROM: Carol H. Rasco  
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

SUBJ: Violence in America

DATE: July 13, 1993

President Clinton appreciated your letter of July 1 very much and asked that I call and visit with you about our plans to date. In order not to establish a long running phone tag, please excuse this informal follow up to my phone call to your office this morning.

We have been in the process of establishing a small Federal inter-departmental working group to review the work going on currently in the area of violence prevention/alleviation/etc., and they will be recommending various options for action to the President in the fall. Kathi Way of my staff will serve as a liaison to that group, and she will be calling your office very soon to set up a time to visit further with you on the ideas you discussed in your letter.

In the meantime, please know how very much the President appreciated your letter and your expressed interest. We look forward to working further with you on this critical matter.

cc: Kathi Way

cc

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

TO: Madeleine M. Kunin  
FROM: Carol H. Rascó  
SUBJ: Violence  
DATE: July 13, 1993

It was good to see you last night and to actually "hear" such excited energy about the concept of service delivery discussed.

Another follow up to our violence discussions....President Clinton has recently been asked in a letter from Mayor Kurt Schmoke of Baltimore to consider holding a conference on violence. We are responding to him that we want to hear more about his ideas on the matter and that an interagency group is being tasked to fairly quickly explore the various programs going on now regarding violence prevention/alleviation, make recommendations for further actions, etc. In the meantime, I thought if you were interested, you might call him to attend the conference next week if registration is not closed. His phone number is P6/(b)(6) If you call him it would be appreciated if you would mention the President asked that he be called as further follow up to the letter sent on the topic of a conference.

Many thanks! I hope we can schedule soon to visit more on the issues discussed last evening.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 30, 1993

MR. PRESIDENT:

Attached is a memorandum from Deputy Secretary Kunin recommending that you consider appointing a National Commission on the Prevention of Violence. Carol Rasco has seen this, and thought you should consider Madeleine's idea.

*pr*  
R. Paul Richard

Rasco

I think this has  
merit - all force -  
should also ask how  
they conflict w/ what  
she wants to do - R



## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

03 JUN 28 P3:13

June 23, 1993

## MEMORANDUM

TO: President and Mrs. Bill Clinton

FROM: Madeleine M. Kunin *MMK*

SUBJECT: National Commission on Violence Prevention

I would like to suggest that you appoint a national commission on the Prevention of Violence to examine the causes of violence in the family, the school, and the community.

I know of no other question that grips Americans more powerfully than the growing pervasiveness of violence in our society. It affects our sense of security and erodes our optimism.

I understand that you may question the effectiveness of such a commission. In this case, I believe a commission would not be seen as an excuse for inaction, but rather as a serious effort to probe a disturbing phenomenon and thereby, shed light, as well as help direct future public policy. It would demonstrate that the President is sensitive to our deepest concerns.

Establishing some of the causes of violence will not be an easy task, but the process of initiating an open discussion will permit the administration to emphasize the importance of family and community. I believe the public wants to know that the President and other public figures share their fears and will do everything in their power to strengthen their sense of security.

The increased incidents of violence reveal that the center is not holding, that society is more frayed than we would like to believe. As a result, I believe there is a strong desire to find ways in which we can reweave the social fabric.

I suggest that the Commission be chaired by Attorney General Janet Reno, or Marion Wright Edelman.

Participants should include some members of the cabinet, such as Justice, Education and Health and Human Services, Tipper Gore, as well as parents, women's groups, civil rights groups, academicians, theologians and philosophers. For example, Michael Lerner of Tikkun would make an excellent contribution.

I greatly appreciate your consideration of this suggestion and would be pleased to explore it further if you so desire.

cc: Richard Riley  
Mike Smith  
Ray Cortines

cc

TO: David Gergen  
FROM: Carol H. Rasco  
SUBJ: Violence in America  
DATE: July 7, 1993

I have received my copy of the July 2 memo sent to you by Regina Montoya regarding Mayor Schmoke's request for a summit on violence. Because of the intense interest in this broad topic of violence, the President and I initiated discussions on the matter a few weeks ago in my daily briefings. There have been calls for Summits, Commissions, etc. We have decided to take a careful, thoughtful approach to this topic, and I am in the process of finalizing the establishment of a quiet interagency working group to be headed by Phil Heymann of Justice and Peter Edelman of HHS. This group will be made up of key officials from a number of departments we have identified as interested in this topic. The group will be charged with coming forth with a proposed set of plans for the administration with the plans due by early fall. Kathi Way of my staff will serve on the group from the Domestic Policy Council.

I would suggest that the Mayor be sent a reply stating that the Executive Branch has several departments working cooperatively on the best approaches to follow in response to the issue of violence, that the President appreciates his input and will forward it to the group for careful study. We do not plan at this time to publicly announce this study group. I will plan to describe the group in a Senior Staff Meeting report next week when more of the full staff is present.

Please advise if Domestic Policy should take the lead in answering the Mayor and let me know if you have further questions.

Thank you.

cc: Mack McLarty  
Regina Montoya  
Roy Neel

JUL - 2 1993

MEMORANDUM

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TO: David Gergen  
FROM: Regina T. Montoya *RM*  
DATE: July 1, 1993  
RE: Violence in America

Attached is a copy of a letter to the President from Mayor Kurt Schmoke of Baltimore, regarding a request to convene a domestic policy summit focusing on the issue of violence in America.

Mayor Schmoke's idea is a good one, and our office would recommend that such a summit be convened.

Please advise.

RTM:ets

Attachment

cc: Mack McLarty (with attachment)  
Roy Neel (with attachment)  
Carol Rasco (with attachment)

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Call me to  
discuss -

CHRasco

TO: Mayor Kurt Schmoke  
FROM: Carol H. Rasco *CHR*  
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy  
SUBJ: Violence in America  
DATE: July 13, 1993

President Clinton appreciated your letter of July 1 very much and asked that I call and visit with you about our plans to date. In order not to establish a long running phone tag, please excuse this informal follow up to my phone call to your office this morning.

We have been in the process of establishing a small Federal inter-departmental working group to review the work going on currently in the area of violence prevention/alleviation/etc., and they will be recommending various options for action to the President in the fall. Kathi Way of my staff will serve as a liaison to that group, and she will be calling your office very soon to set up a time to visit further with you on the ideas you discussed in your letter.

In the meantime, please know how very much the President appreciated your letter and your expressed interest. We look forward to working further with you on this critical matter.

cc: Kathi Way

410-576-9425 FAX

## CITY OF BALTIMORE

KURT L. SCHMOKE, Mayor



## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

250 City Hall  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

o) 410-396-3100

July 1, 1993

Attn: ~~J. K. [unclear]~~  
Joanne Kess, Secretary

The Honorable William J. Clinton  
President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton:

I write to urge you to convene a domestic policy summit focused on the issue of violence in America.

Several weeks ago I joined in a conference call with you and many of our nation's mayors when you announced your proposal for empowerment zones. At that time I raised with you our concerns about the increasing levels of violence in our cities. You indicated that the Justice Department would play a meaningful role in the development of strategies designed to improve the quality of life for those living and working in those empowerment zones and in our cities in general.

There is a desperate need for short term and long term actions to reverse the escalation in violence that has gripped cities from one end of this country to another. For certain groups of young men in the United States, the chances of getting killed on the streets of their cities are far greater than were their chances of being killed during Operation Desert Storm. We face a national emergency that is a greater threat to the future of this country than is the adventurism of foreign governments such as the one in Iraq. Violence in America is the enemy within and we must defeat that enemy now.

Mr. President, I urge you to take the necessary steps to develop a national strategy to combat violence. Clearly, the Attorney General has articulated things that need to be done in the long term that will positively impact the lives of America's children. However, in the short run we must consider action such as the following:

- 1) Convert a selected number of military bases scheduled to be closed as correctional facilities for violent offenders and employ military personnel or former military personnel to operate these facilities;

The Honorable William J. Clinton  
July 1, 1993  
Page 2

2) Target your revised economic stimulus package on the issue of youth employment and permit local government to use the money not only for summer jobs but also for year round jobs in order to combat the high school drop-out problem;

3) Provide cities with the 100,000 police officers promised during your campaign;

4) Convene a summit on violence and charge the participants to rethink current national policies on handguns, narcotics, corrections and other issues that have an impact on local law enforcement effectiveness.

I believe that with your strong leadership we can develop strategies that will bring peace to our nation's streets and restore hope where there is now fear. I look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Mayor

KLS:smf

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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