



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D. C. 20530

*file
crime
talks points*

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL COVER SHEET

DATE:

3-9-95

TO:

Jennifer O'Connor

FACSIMILE NO.

456-6704

TELEPHONE NO.

FROM:

Liz Hyman

FACSIMILE NO.

514-1724

TELEPHONE NO.

514-2107

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET:

2

COMMENTS:

THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION IS COMMITTED TO FIGHTING AND PREVENTING CRIME IN RURAL AMERICA

March 9, 1995

*"Rural America is losing its innocence to a
slow but steady rise in violent crime."*

USA TODAY, March 9, 1995

The Clinton Administration has demonstrated its commitment to fighting and preventing violent crime in rural America by providing:

◆ More Police Officers.

- The President's Crime Bill requires that one-half of all police hiring grants go to jurisdictions with a population under 150,000. This requirement ensures that rural America will receive its fair share of officers.
- Under the COPS FAST program, the Justice Department awarded grants to over 6,500 jurisdictions with populations under 50,000. These grants will put over 7,100 new community police officers in small towns and rural areas all over America.

◆ More Crime Fighting Programs.

- Overall, the President's Crime Bill authorizes \$240 million for rural anti-crime and drug enforcement efforts.
- Criminal History Record Automation. In addition, the \$200 million National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) assists states in automating their criminal history records. Under this program, the Department of Justice has designated five "priority" states -- all with large rural populations -- to receive supplemental awards of up to \$1 million to begin immediate automation.
- Domestic Violence and Child Abuse. The Justice Department is currently drafting regulations for the Rural Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Enforcement Program, a cooperative effort between law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and victim's advocacy groups to improve prosecution of domestic violence and child abuse cases in rural areas.

◆ More Crime Prevention Programs.

- Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). VAWA provides substantial federal resources -- \$1.6 billion -- for police, prosecution, prevention, and victim service initiatives in cases involving sexual violence or domestic abuse. The often

overlooked needs of rural jurisdiction are given special consideration under VAWA.

- Formula Grants. Each state will receive funding for prevention programs under the Byrne grant program. For rural states, formula funds can be used to fund a number of initiatives, including multi-jurisdictional task forces.
- Discretionary Grants. Many rural jurisdictions have benefitted from Department of Justice discretionary grant programs, particularly those designed to provide training in community policing.
- Safe Futures Program. The Department of Justice has set aside \$7 million for the Safe Futures Program, which assists communities to prevent delinquency, enhance public safety, and provide a continuum of care for at risk youth. The program proposes funding for five communities, at least one of which must be rural.
- Rural States Crime Prevention Association Initiative. This program was funded in fiscal year 1994 to promote the development of community policing and crime prevention programs in rural states.



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Disregard previous fax

**HOUSE PROPOSES TO "BUST" THE VIOLENT CRIME CONTROL TRUST
FUND AND BREAK THE TRUST OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AND AMERICA**
March 17, 1995

- **Breaking a Promise to the American People.** Yesterday, as part of a call to cut discretionary spending by \$100 billion, the House Budget Committee proposed to slash the 1994 Violent Crime Control Trust Fund by \$5 billion. Such a cut would represent fully one-sixth of the total Congress promised to police and the American people in last year's Crime Bill.

Proposals to scale back our fight against violent crime shouldn't even be on the table. These cuts could mean fewer cells to house violent criminals and fewer police on America's streets to fight them. If we make promises, we ought to keep them.

-- Attorney General Janet Reno

- **The 1994 Crime Act: Promised by Congress and Paid For by Reducing the Size of Government.** The 1994 Violent Crime Control Act is a comprehensive strategy combining police, punishment, prisons, and prevention. To finance this fight against crime in America, a Trust Fund was created that would take the money saved by cutting the size of the federal government and put it into proven and effective crime fighting programs.

"The trust fund should not be touched."

-- Hubie Williams
President, The Police Foundation

- **Turning a Cold Shoulder to Law Enforcement ... Retreating From the Fight Against Crime.** Law Enforcement relied on the promise made to them by Congress when last year it passed with bi-partisan support a tough, balanced, smart Crime Bill. Now the House proposes to break that promise.

"Police are outraged."

-- Chris Sullivan
International Brotherhood of Police Officers

"If we cut back now, I think it's going to send a clear message to the people on the streets and the sheriffs of America that we are really not serious at all about crime in Washington, D.C."

-- Bud Meeks
Executive Director, the National Sheriffs Association



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FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL COVER SHEET

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3-16-95

TO:

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**A.G. VISITS "SAFE SCHOOLS" PROGRAM AT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
WHILE CONGRESS NEARS VOTE TO RESCIND FUNDING
MARCH 16, 1995**

Today, Attorney General Reno joined Secretaries Shalala and Reilly in visiting the Highland Elementary School in Wheaton, MD, to affirm her support for the Safe Schools Initiative. She met with young students who are participating in innovative educational and mediation programs that teach kids to address conflict without resorting to violence and to turn away from drugs and substance abuse. This type of program is threatened by the proposed rescissions that are scheduled for a vote today in the House of Representatives.

- ◆ **The Safe Schools Initiative helps kids.** The Safe Schools Initiative provides grant funds to high crime school districts aimed at preventing crime and helping our children cope with the realities of crime. By dealing with school crime, violence, substance abuse and discipline problems, we can enhance school safety and promote improved access to learning.
- ◆ **Stopping Dropouts Now Stops Crime Later.** If we do not offer the help to allow kids to address conflict without resorting to violence or escaping through drugs, we will send a terrible message to them. 82% of all the people in America's prisons are high school dropouts. We need to make our schools a place of creativity and learning so that kids want to come to school and lead productive, healthy lives.
- ◆ **Safe Schools in Tandem with Critical 1994 Crime Act Programs Fight Crime.** Building on good programs such as the "Safe Schools Initiative," the 1994 Crime Act, passed with bipartisan support, provided for proven and effective crime fighting programs such as Drug Courts and Community Schools. Breaking the cycle of crime and violence that is brought on by drug addiction and providing safe havens for children so they don't end up in peril on street corners, alley ways and with gangs -- that is effective crime fighting.
- ◆ **Funds Should Not be Rescinded for Safe Schools, Community Schools and Drug Courts.** Today, the House will vote on a rescission bill that cuts millions from these essential crime fighting programs. These programs were enacted with bipartisan support. Judges, prosecutors, police, and educators have said these programs work and they are expecting funds this year.

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**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HONORS D.C. DRUG COURT
WHILE THE HOUSE DEBATES RESCINDING DRUG COURT FUNDING
MARCH 15, 1995**

Today, Attorney General Reno addresses recent graduates of the Washington, D.C. drug court program, reiterating her long-standing support of drug court programs designed to break the link between substance abuse and criminal activity. At the same time, the House of Representatives is considering a rescission bill that would eliminate \$28 million in federal drug court funding contained in last year's crime bill. Without this funding, cities across the country will be unable to operate effective drug courts.

- **Drug Courts Make Common Sense.** Over half of those who enter the criminal justice have substance abuse problems. Drug courts employ the coercive power of the courts to ensure that non-violent offenders receive the intensive supervision and drug treatment necessary to kick their drug habits. Getting off drugs is essential to preventing these offenders from returning to prison as soon as they are released.
- **Drug Courts Are Tough.** Drug courts are not a soft-on-crime alternative to incarceration. They are comprehensive programs that require offenders to adhere to strict rules and requirements. Offenders must undergo mandatory, periodic drug testing, mandatory substance abuse treatment, and are subject to graduated sanctions for failing to show satisfactory progress in their treatment regimens. Plus, only non-violent offenders are eligible to participate.
- **Drug Courts Work.** A National Institute of Justice-sponsored study demonstrated that participants in the Dade County, Florida drug court program were substantially less likely to be re-arrested than those defendants who did not participate. Preliminary studies of the Washington, D.C., Portland, Oregon, and Chicago drug court programs have also shown lower rates of recidivism.
- **Drug Courts Can Be Tailored to Local Needs.** No single drug court model can effectively break the cycle of substance abuse and crime in every community. Accordingly, the drug court provisions in the crime bill allow local jurisdictions to tailor programs to local needs, yet ensure that certain essential features are included.
- **Drug Courts Are Popular.** Prosecutors, judges, public defenders, law enforcement officials, and treatment specialists from across the country support the concept and implementation of drug courts. It's an idea whose time has come.

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HOUSE APPROPRIATORS TARGETED CRIME FIGHTING PROGRAMS THAT HIT KIDS AND DRUG ENFORCEMENT

March 14, 1995

- ◆ **House takes up rescission bill.** This week the House will consider a rescission bill that cuts millions from essential crime fighting and crime prevention efforts.
- ◆ **Millions eliminated for Drug Courts.** The rescission bill terminates \$28 million in funding for Drug Courts. This will only allow offenders with drug problems to keep spinning through the criminal justice system's revolving door. Drug Courts are proven effective ant-crime and anti-drug tools.
- ◆ **Turning kids away from safe havens and onto the streets.** The bill would rescind \$27 million dollars in funding for the Community Schools Initiative -- which seeks to keep schools open for young people to provide them with a safe and constructive alternative to street corners, alley ways and gang turf.
- ◆ **Don't Go Back.** These programs were enacted by Congress as part of the Violent Crime Control Act of 1994. The Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services have been working together to implement these programs. Grant applications are ready. Thousands of courts, prosecutors and schools all across the country are expecting these crime-fighting funds this year.



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STANDING FIRM:
ADMINISTRATION PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMS
March 10, 1995

- **Ready to fight for prevention programs.** In a meeting today with representatives from groups concerned about crime prevention, Attorney General Janet Reno affirmed Administration support for prevention-related programs in the 1994 Crime Control Act.

"We are committed to preserving these programs, and we are determined to move forward with implementation of the 1994 Crime Act."

Among those who attended the meeting were representatives from crime prevention groups, victims' rights organizations, youth service providers, education and parent-teacher associations, and state and local governmental organizations.

- **Administration action has already saved two prevention programs from extinction.** In recent weeks both the President's Prevention Council and the National Domestic Violence Hotline were rescinded by a House subcommittee. Thanks to swift and coordinated action, both programs were reinstated in full committee.
- **The fight to revive other prevention-related programs continues.** Other House Appropriations rescissions must still be blocked. The funding cut for the Domestic Violence Hotline was part of a larger House rescission bill. House appropriators also voted to eliminate:
 - \$27 million dollars in funding for the Community Schools Initiative, which provides safe haven for young people in crime-ridden neighborhoods; and
 - \$28 million in funding for Drug Courts, which use the coercive power of the courts to force offenders into substance abuse treatment.

The Attorney General, the Secretary of Education, and the Secretary of HHS have protested these cuts in a joint letter to the Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee.

The Administration will continue to voice strong objections to proposed rescissions and the outright repeal of various prevention-related programs authorized by the 1994 Crime

Act. The Attorney General told the group:

"We are already on record with the Congress as strongly opposing the proposed repeal of the Drug Courts initiative and the wholesale elimination of proven prevention programs -- such as afterschool programs -- which are supported by police, prosecutors, educators, and parents because they work."



*Asked
Silverman
to have
Treasury
answer*

January 11, 1995

The Food Group, Ltd.

Mr. Harold Ickes
Deputy Chief of Staff
The White House
VIA FAX: 202-456-1121

85 NEWBURY STREET

BOSTON, MA 02116

Telephone (617) 542-9001

Facsimile (617) 236-7586

*bill
Harold
done*

Dear Harold:

I sincerely enjoyed meeting you at Alan Levanthal's gathering at the Boston Harbor Hotel in December. I was more than delightfully surprised when John Sutton called on your behalf to follow up on our brief conversation. When government becomes personal, things...good things... can happen.

The subject I was discussing was the 45(B) income tax credit. I have explained the issue in detail below.

ISSUE

A major dispute has arisen over the way the Internal Revenue Service is trying to interpret a new income-tax credit for restauranteurs who pay FICA taxes on employee tips.

BACKGROUND

As part of the 1987 Budget Reconciliation Act, Congress enacted a provision requiring employers to pay employer FICA taxes on all employee tips. Until this point, employers paid FICA taxes only on the portion of tips considered "wages" under federal labor laws.

The 1988 change was widely acknowledged to have been budget-driven, included in the tax bill not for tax-policy reasons (the issue of how to tax employers on employee tips had been thoroughly discussed and resolved by Congress years earlier) but to help Congress meet Gramm-Rudman deficit-reduction targets. The National Restaurant Association vigorously opposed the new tax, which meant tens of thousands of dollars in higher taxes every year for restaurant operators.

The National Restaurant Association immediately began urging Congress to repeal the law. Within two years, a majority of Congress - a majority that included both Democrats and Republicans-were co-sponsors of bills to repeal the tax increase.

In 1993, Congress finally provided the restaurant industry with relief. While this did not come in the form of outright repeal - tax committees were reluctant to report legislation that would impact the Social Security Trust Fund - it came in the form of a federal income tax credit that permitted restauranteurs to reduce their federal tax liability by the amount of FICA taxes they had paid on tips above the federal minimum wage.

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This income tax credit has become known as the 45(B) credit, named after the section of the Internal Revenue Code that contains it.

OTHER SIDE EFFECTS OF THE 1988 LAW

Meanwhile, the 1988 law was affecting restaurateurs in unexpected ways. Not only were restaurateurs paying thousands of dollars in higher FICA taxes each year: Starting in 1991, the IRS began using the 1988 FICA-tax-on-tips law as a "club" against restaurateurs.

In IRS districts all over the country, the IRS - citing the 1988 law as its authority - began going to employers with bills for FICA taxes on tips the IRS claims employees earned but never reported. In the vast majority of these cases, the IRS never contacted the employees who failed to report these tips, never collected the employee half of the FICA tax, and never credited the payments to employees' wage history accounts for Social Security purposes.

Capitalizing on operators' vulnerability, the IRS began using FICA audit threats as leverage to get employers directly involved in getting higher tip reports from employers. Over the last year and a half, for example, the IRS has used audit threats to pressure employers to sign agreements under which operators are responsible for making sure at least 75% of their employees report tips at or above certain rates.

THE IRS'S INTERPRETATION

The National Restaurant Association and many members of Congress are taking issue with the way the IRS is trying to interpret the 45(B) credit.

In temporary regulations published in the Federal Register in December 1993, the IRS said restaurateurs can take the 45(B) credit only for the FICA taxes they pay on reported tips. In other words, the IRS is trying to deny the credit to restaurateurs who are forced by the IRS to pay FICA taxes on tips the IRS says employees should have reported in the past but didn't.

This interpretation directly contradicts the statutory language passed by Congress in the 1993 Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, which authorized the 45(B) credit for all "taxes paid" after the law's effective date. There is nothing in the statute itself or any evidence of Congressional intent which supports the IRS's interpretation.

Last year, nearly 100 members of Congress wrote to the Treasury Secretary citing their concerns about what the IRS was doing. "Congressional intent is clearly embodied in the statutory language which provides the credit for FICA taxes paid after December 31, 1993," the letter-writers said. "We strongly urge you to direct the IRS to issue new regulations that would not alter the meaning embodied in the statutory language in any way."

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202 456 6797
THE FOOD GROUP, LTD

CHIEF OF STAFF
FAX NO. 6172367586

P. 04

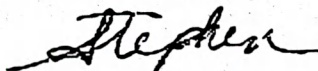
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Despite its blatant disregard of the statute, the IRS has shown no signs of backing away from its interpretation. The National Restaurant Association continues to urge the IRS to withdraw the regulations and let the law speak for itself.

On behalf of my colleagues across the country, I would greatly appreciate the White House's assistance in mitigating this issue.

Warmest regards,



Stephen E. Elmont
Chairman

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 30, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR ANN CASTAGNETTI *Joh*

FROM; HAROLD ICKES *HI*

SUBJECT: Stephen E. Elmont, Chairman, The Food Group, Ltd.

Ann, when I was in Boston on 14 December, I met Stephen Elmont, the Chair of the Food Group, Ltd. (617-859-4848), who told me that he was concerned about regulations that the Treasury Department is considering imposing on restaurants regarding taxing of tips.

He was a little vague on the details. Could you call him to see if he could put something in a one or two page memo so that we can try to track it down and at least find out what the status is.



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

March 9, 1995

Mr. Stephen E. Elmont, Chairman
The Food Group
85 Newbury Street
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Mr. Elmont:

Thank you for your letter to Deputy Chief of Staff Ickes regarding the tax credit provided under section 45B of the Internal Revenue Code. We appreciate your concern and input, and Mr. Ickes has asked that I provide a fuller explanation of our position regarding this provision.

As you know, section 45B provides rules for determining the social security credit allowable under Code section 38 for food and beverage establishments. The credit is equal to the taxpayer's Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) obligation attributable to employee tips in excess of those treated as wages for purposes of satisfying the minimum wage provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

The temporary regulation clarifies that the credit is available only for FICA taxes paid after December 31, 1993, with respect to tips received for services performed after December 31, 1993. The regulation also clarifies that the credit applies only to FICA taxes paid on tips *reported* to the employer by its employees. This provision is clearly supported by the Conference Committee Report to the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993, which states that the credit is applicable to the employer's FICA tax obligation "attributable to *reported* tips" (emphasis added).

Consistent with this Congressional intent, the temporary regulation prevents an employer from claiming the credit for FICA taxes paid pursuant to a section 3121(q) notice and demand following a tips examination by the IRS. We believe that the regulation provides a fair and logical result and provides employers with an appropriate incentive for encouraging employees to report their tips. However, I would like to assure you that Treasury and the IRS will be considering your comments and those of other interested taxpayers. Before finalizing a regulation, it is always our policy to reexamine the relevant statutory provisions and legislative history, and to consider all comments received on the issues.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Leslie B. Samuels
Assistant Secretary (Tax Policy)

cc: Harold Ickes



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO: Jennifer O'Conno	FROM: Dan Reicher
OFFICE: White House Cabinet Affairs (c.)	DATE: 3/9/95
FAX NUMBER: 45 2-65 04	FAX NUMBER: 202/586-7644
OFFICE NUMBER: 456-22	OFFICE NUMBER: 202/586-6210

COMMENTS: Jennifer The first draft I received of the attached was not responsible so I had to send it back. Let me know if this draft fills the bill.

Regards,

Dan Reicher

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER) 7

IF TRANSMITTAL IS IN COMPLETE, PLEASE PHONE THE ABOVE NUMBER.

OFFICE OF CIVILIAN RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY ACT OF 1982 AND ITS AMENDMENTS

- Directed the Department of Energy to develop a system to permanently dispose of the Nation's nuclear waste.
- Required utilities to pay for disposal in advance through a fee.
- Directed characterization of one candidate site for geologic disposal, Yucca Mountain, Nevada.
- The Federal government is assumed to begin operating a repository by 1/31/98; and would accept waste when the repository was available.

CURRENT SITUATION

- Under the current schedule, if the Yucca Mountain site is deemed suitable, a geologic disposal facility will be licensed to receive waste beginning 2010.
- Utilities have paid over \$1 billion in fees but use for waste management has been subject to Federal budget caps.
- The Federal obligation and how to meet it are being debated.
- Secretary O'Leary testified before Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on 3/2/98 regarding the legislative proposals being considered to supplement or amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. She stated that the Administration has no official position on any legislation currently presented. She stated the Program's need for mandatory, deficit-neutral funding; the authority to provide for centralized interim storage; to continue to pursue geologic disposal and to formulate a contingency plan if Yucca Mountain is not suitable.

The legislative proposals under Congressional review are:

Johnston (S. 167): redirect nuclear waste policy to focus on an developing an interim storage facility at Yucca Mountain, Nevada; permanent geologic disposal efforts would continue at a lower priority.

Upton and Towns (H.R. 1020) similar to S.167; additional provisions supporting a more aggressive program for Departmental acceptance of commercial spent fuel in 1998, including penalty payments for failing to do so.

Bryan (S. 429) provide for accepting waste when repository or storage facility becomes available; provides credits against waste fees for utility storage costs caused by delays.

Vucanovich (H.R. 496) prohibit characterizing Yucca Mountain for FY 96 - FY 98; National Academy of Sciences to recommend scientific approach to repository siting; there was acceptance and storage provisions similar to S. 429.

Grams (S. 443) provides for waste acceptance beginning 1/31/98 regardless of facility availability; the Department can site and operate a facility independent of repository schedule; but not in Nevada.

Wellstone (S. 473) prohibits construction of nuclear power reactors until a facility, capable of accommodating high-level waste generated in the foreseeable future, is licensed to provide for permanent disposal; prohibits the production of high-level waste from civilian power reactors that exceeds the capacity and capability of the permanent disposal facility.

BACKGROUND

Waste Accumulations - High-level radioactive waste in the form of spent fuel assemblies has been accumulating at nuclear reactor sites in the U.S. for several decades. The buildup of spent nuclear fuel from reactors in operation will continue to grow over the next several decades. There are 109 operating and 9 shut-down reactors at 73 sites in 34 States that presently store spent fuel on-site. By the year 2033, all of these plants will have completed their initial license periods. The total cumulative discharge from those 118 reactors will be about 85,000 metric tons of initial heavy metal contained in the spent nuclear fuel. Other material that should eventually be disposed of in a repository include defense-related high-level radioactive waste, DOE-owned spent nuclear fuel, naval reactor fuel, and U.S. owned spent nuclear fuel from foreign research reactors. Seven facilities have already exhausted conventional storage space at their nuclear power plants and are providing supplemental dry storage. By the year 2010, 55 facilities are projected to need supplemental storage. Without interim storage or long-term disposal facilities, at-reactor storage, extended for many decades, could become this Nation's waste management strategy by default.

International Implications - The strategy of geologic disposal supports nonproliferation of weapons-usable material via processing; and it has emerged as the international consensus for the isolation of highly radioactive waste. Our ability to influence the commercial trade in plutonium by the international community would be diminished if we appeared to have no credible long-term strategy to manage our own fuel cycle.

Program Status - The Program is 90 percent on target with respect to its schedules, and is operating within its budget. The new approach has made progress by developing a "new approach" accelerating work at Yucca Mountain to determine if the site is suitable, working with utilities for waste acceptance alternatives, streamlining program management, and consolidating contractor operations.

- Yucca Mountain - surface based exploration started in 1991; and, in 1994, work began on excavating the Exploratory Studies Facility, which will consist of a series of underground tunnels and alcoves for investigating the geologic and hydrologic conditions of the site. A Tunnel Boring machine is excavating this "underground laboratory," and is currently 613 feet into the mountain.

- Waste Acceptance, Storage and Transportation - To confront the issue of waste acceptance, the Department is developing the multi-purpose canister to standardize hardware for at-reactor or off-site storage, to provide a transportation fleet, and to serve as part of the waste disposal package. The Department is also working with states on institutional requirements for route selection, scheduling, and emergency preparedness to facilitate orderly transportation of the thousands of tons of spent fuel from reactors across the country to a centralized facility.
- Litigation - Legal action was taken by some of the states, public utility commissions, and nuclear utilities against the Department of Energy to force a decision on whether DOE has a legal obligation to accept spent nuclear fuel in 1998.



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**Full House Appropriations Committee
THINK BEFORE YOU CUT ...
FROM CHILDREN AND CRIME FIGHTING
March 2, 1995**

Today, the full House Appropriations Committee will choose between the interests of law abiding citizens and some of the most vulnerable of our society -- and giving relief to the wealthy. The full House Appropriations Committee meets today to take a final vote on rescissions from funds already promised under 1995 budgets. Thus far, rescissions in House Appropriations Subcommittees have targeted the most vulnerable of our society and much of those monies will likely be used to fund a capital gains tax cut proposal that will aid the wealthy.

**HOUSE APPROPRIATORS HAVE TARGETED VALUABLE CRIME FIGHTING
PROGRAMS THAT HIT KIDS, BATTERED WOMEN AND DRUG ENFORCEMENT:**

- ◆ **Hanging-up on the Domestic Violence Hotline.** A bi-partisan majority of Congress voted last year to create the Hotline -- a simple but necessary tool to reduce violence against women in this country. Last week the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor and Health and Human Services (HHS) voted to rescind \$1 million in funding for the National Domestic Violence Hotline. The Subcommittee's actions sends the message that, once again, women victims must suffer in silence.
- ◆ **Turning kids away from safe havens and onto the streets.** The funding cut for the Hotline came as part of a larger rescission bill, which among other rescissions, terminated \$27 million dollars in funding for the Community Schools Initiative -- which seeks to keep schools open for young people to provide them with a safe and constructive alternative to street corners, alley ways and gang turf.
- ◆ **Millions eliminated for Drug Courts.** The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary voted to terminate \$28 million in funding for Drug Courts. **This will only allow offenders with drug problems to keep spinning through the criminal justice system's revolving door.** Last year Congress made the commitment to this program, which seeks to coerce abstinence. Without Drug Courts, substance abuse offenders will continue to prey repeatedly upon communities as they traipse through a criminal justice system that fails to affect the addictions that drive their damaging behavior.
- ◆ **Punishing vulnerable children by telling them to "fend for themselves."** Last year, a bi-partisan majority of Congress voted to create the Ounce of Prevention Grants and extended a helping hand to children growing-up in difficult environments. The House Appropriators' actions in eliminating \$1.5 million in funds for this valuable program tells these children to "fend for themselves."

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GRASSROOTS OPPOSITION TO GOP CRIME BILLS CONTINUES
March 7, 1995

Recent actions by national organizations reflect their constituents' opposition to the GOP's approach to fighting crime:

- ♦ **The National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) reaffirms its support for the President's efforts to put 100,000 new police officers on America's streets. In a meeting today with Attorney General Reno, the leadership of NAPO--which represents rank-and-file police officers--reaffirmed its support for the President's police hiring program and its opposition to law enforcement block grants. According to Robert T. Scully, NAPO's Executive Director, "NAPO members fought hard for this and we think it is ludicrous to dismantle this important program after 10,000 police officers have been funded."**
- ♦ **The National Association of Counties (NACo) opposes GOP cuts to prevention programs. The Board of Directors of NACo yesterday adopted a resolution calling on the President to veto any new crime measure that does not maintain a balanced approach to funding for crime prevention. NACo opposes the House of Representative's attempt to increase prison construction expenditures at the expense of crime prevention.**
- ♦ **NACo also opposes GOP efforts to impose additional burdens on states seeking to qualify for prison construction funding. In another resolution, NACo directors opposed the House crime bill's requirement that all violent offenders serve 85 percent of their sentences. NACo also opposes the elimination of the current comprehensive planning process which assures that states undertake an integrated approach to management and operation of correctional facilities and programs.**
- ♦ **These actions clearly reflect grassroots opposition to the crime package passed recently by the House of Representatives. Average Americans do not want to turn back in the fight against violent crime.**