

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
DARE EVENT
MOTT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
FLINT, MICHIGAN
OCTOBER 8, 1996

[Acknowledgements: Dale Kildee, Congressman; Guy Hazzard, police officer and DARE Teacher; others TBD]

- It's a pleasure to be here. The President is a strong believer in the importance of investing in drug prevention programs like DARE. The DARE program is successful because it ensures opportunities for children by offering them positive alternatives to drug use.
- The President and I have personally benefitted from the DARE Program. Chelsea participated in the DARE Program in Arkansas and we'll never forget how important that DARE Officer and his message were to her.
- DARE is important because every day it educates thousands of children about the dangers of drug use. The battle against drugs is going to be fought in the family rooms and the classrooms of America. We need DARE and other community-based drug prevention programs like it to win this battle.
- The President has consistently fought to expand and strengthen the Safe and Drug Free Schools program, which is a major source of funding for DARE programs around the country. This year the President won a 19% increase in funding for the program.
- The President is committed to an anti-crime agenda. His Administration's accomplishments include:
 - A falling rate of violent crime four years in a row -- the first time since 1960
 - A 21% drop in the number of reported robberies in Detroit
 - Passing the toughest crime bill ever -- putting 100,000 more police officers on America's streets -- nearly 1,200 in Michigan alone
 - The Assault Weapons Ban
 - The Brady Bill -- 60,000 fugitives, felons and stalkers stopped from buying guns
 - The Brady Bill extension -- prohibits all those convicted of domestic violence from buying handguns
 - Violence Against Women Act -- This month is National Domestic Violence Prevention Month
 - Tougher penalties for criminals -- "Three strikes and you're out"
 - Breaking the cycle of crime and drugs -- drug testing and treatment programs for prisoners and parolees
 - Enhanced penalties for carjacking when sexual assault also takes place
 - A national database to track sexually violent criminals upon their release from prison

- He is also working to keep our children safe by:
 - Expanding the Safe and Drug Free Schools program -- benefitting 40 million students in 97% of America's school districts
 - Encouraging school uniform, curfew and truancy policies
 - Issuing a Presidential Directive enforcing a "Zero Tolerance" guns policy in schools
- In the next four years, the President will continue to fight crime and violence. He has proposed:
 - Tougher sentences for drug dealers and gang members who bring guns to schools
 - A ban on the manufacture of "cop-killer" bullets.
- The President knows that we will only succeed in making our streets safe from violence if we all work together -- individuals, community organizations, teachers, businesses and government -- to give young people opportunities, to demand responsibility and to strengthen our communities.

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DARE PROGRAM

II. BACKGROUND

Your visit to a local DARE program with Congressman Kildee provides an opportunity to highlight the importance of investing in prevention programs like DARE that educate children about positive alternatives to drug use. The DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program is one of the most popular anti-drug programs in the country, used in nearly 75 percent of the nation's school systems. The program is taught by trained police officers, who go into fifth and sixth grade classrooms to educate children about the hazards of drug and alcohol abuse and the dangers of gang violence. The officers use devices like role playing and skits to teach children techniques for confronting peer pressure and avoiding drugs and alcohol.

Launched in 1983 by the Los Angeles police department, the DARE program enjoys widespread support from parents, police officers and teachers around the country. One of the most popular aspects of the program is the relationship that it builds between children and police officers, fostering an early atmosphere of trust and respect. The program is also popular among school districts because it does not impose a significant cost burden -- in general, DARE programs are funded by city governments and local police departments, combined with federal funding from the Safe and Drug-Free Schools program.

DARE Controversy

Recently, a handful of academic researchers have challenged the effectiveness of DARE, claiming that children who go through the program are ultimately no less likely to resist smoking, drinking or drug use than those not enrolled in the program. Several experts who conducted long-term studies of the program have charged the program's popularity is a result of aggressive marketing, and not of any lasting effects on youth drug use. In the face of budgetary cutbacks, several cities have recently announced that they will eliminate local DARE programs.

DARE officials, on the other hand, deny the validity of these studies and point to recent changes and improvements in the DARE program. While the program was originally offered in only the fifth and sixth grades, it has been expanded in many school districts to include classes in eighth grade and high school, to reinforce lessons learned in earlier grades. DARE officials say that this type of reinforcement is crucial to the program's effectiveness, and cite a new study from Ohio State University demonstrating that increased DARE instruction results in a stronger likelihood that children will avoid drugs and alcohol.

As you know, the debate over DARE has been prominently featured in the news recently. A number of newspapers, including the New York Times, have run stories questioning the effectiveness of DARE, and on Monday night, the CBS evening news aired an in-depth analysis of the program (transcript attached).

DARE and the Clinton Administration

As you know, the President strongly supports prevention programs like DARE that give children

positive alternatives to drugs. The President has consistently fought to strengthen and expand the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program, a major source of federal funding for DARE programs around the country. The 1995 Republican budget proposal would have eliminated \$236 million in federal support for the program -- nearly 50% of the program's funding. Despite continued threats to the program, the President won a 19% increase in funding for the program in this year's budget agreement.

Youth Drug Use

As the President pointed out in Sunday night's debate, we have seen significant gains in the fight against drugs in recent years -- the number of Americans between 18 - 34 who are casual drug users is down 13% since 1992; overall illicit drug use is down by almost half since 1985; and adult cocaine and marijuana use is down. Drug use among young people, however has risen, with xx.....

Event

On Tuesday, you and Congressman Kildee will will participate in a roundtable discussion on the DARE program at Mott Elementary School. The discussion -- which will include a police officer, two DARE graduates, and a sixth-grader currently enrolled in the program -- will be moderated by Guy Hazard, a police officer who has taught the DARE program in Flint's schools for seven years. The audience will be comprised of approximately 350 parents, teachers and sixth-grade students from Mott Elementary and Redmond Elementary School, two public schools that serve Flint's predominantly minority, lower- and middle-class neighborhoods. This semester, sixth graders from Redmond Elementary are participating in the DARE program; students from Mott Elementary will participate in the DARE program next semester.

CLINTON GORE '96

President Clinton Making Neighborhoods Safer for America's Families

"We have begun to find a way to reduce crime, forming community partnerships with local police forces to catch criminals and prevent crime. This strategy, called community policing, is working. Violent crime is coming down all across America. Let's stick with a strategy that is working, and keep the crime rate coming down."

President Bill Clinton

President Clinton's tough anti-crime agenda is making our streets safer for our children and our families. Violent crime and murder rates are falling. His Administration is preventing criminals from buying guns, and adding police to our streets. But while overall crime rates are decreasing, more crimes are being committed by juveniles. The President will fight any attempts to roll back our progress. He will continue to add cops to our neighborhoods and take guns, drugs, and gangs off the streets. He is providing leadership that is protecting our families by:

- Signing the toughest and smartest Crime Bill. This historic legislation:
 - Created the COPS program, which is adding 100,000 community police officers in our cities, towns, and neighborhoods -- 44,000 officers have been funded.
 - Banned 19 of the deadliest assault weapons and their copies, while protecting more than 650 legitimate sporting weapons.
 - Provided the death penalty for drug kingpins, murderers of law enforcement officers, and nearly 60 additional categories of violent felons.
 - Increased penalties and imposed a registration requirement for violent sex offenders.
 - Included the Violence Against Women Act, our nation's first effort to reduce violence against women. The Act has already provided \$156 million to help states bolster law enforcement, prosecution, and victims services.
 - Created a nationwide 24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline to provide immediate crisis intervention, counseling, and referrals.
 - Targeted career violent offenders with a "Three-Strikes-and-You're-Out" policy that keeps them behind bars for life.
 - Provided \$7.9 billion to build more prison cells and help states ensure that violent offenders serve their full sentences.
 - Created the Community Schools Program to promote constructive alternatives to crime for young people when they are not in school.
- Fighting for and signing the Brady Bill, which has prevented more than 60,000 fugitives, felons, and other criminals from buying handguns;
- Issuing a Presidential Directive enforcing a "zero tolerance" guns policy in public schools;

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- Signing Megan's Law, legislation to require states to disclose information about released child molesters and sexual violent offenders;
- Granting \$88 million to states to help them automate and update their criminal history record systems to prevent the sale of firearms to prohibited purchasers;
- Providing grants to fight gangs and youth violence through the Youth Gang Initiative Program and COPS/Gangs grants, and to establish a National Gang Tracking Network;
- Providing up to \$1 million to each of 10 urban police departments, through the COPS Youth Firearms Violence Initiative, to enhance community policing and enforcement efforts to address the rise of youth firearms violence;
- Initiating Operation Safe Home, in which federal law enforcement agencies are working with public housing residents and managers to increase the arrest and conviction of violent and drug-related suspects so that public housing can be a safer place to live;
- Supporting school athlete drug testing before the Supreme Court, sending the message to parents and students that drug use will not be tolerated in our schools; and
- Encouraging schools to consider adopting school uniform policies to promote discipline and respect and developing a manual to help schools establish these policies.

Building on Our Progress

While overall crime rates are falling, young people are increasingly the perpetrators -- and victims -- of violent crime. President Clinton is getting tough on juvenile criminals. He has submitted legislation that provides tougher sentences for drug dealers and gang members that carry guns and bring these weapons into schools. He is fighting to give prosecutors the opportunity to prosecute juvenile offenders as adults. The President is providing leadership by:

- Urging Congress to ban the manufacture of deadly "cop-killer" bullets;
- Challenging states to ensure that violent criminals serve at least 85 percent of their sentences;
- Encouraging local housing authorities to implement a "One-Strike-And-You're-Out" program in public housing for those who commit crimes; and
- Calling for an extension of the Brady Bill to prevent those who commit acts of domestic violence from buying guns.

***President Clinton and Vice President Gore
Meeting America's Challenges ★ Protecting Our Values***

Updated September 6, 1996

TAKING BACK MICHIGAN'S STREETS FROM CRIME AND DRUGS

Communities across America are taking back their streets from crime and drugs. After six years of gridlock, President Clinton passed the toughest, smartest Crime Bill ever. Violent crime and murder rates are falling, nearly 20,000 new police are on our streets, tens of thousands of criminals have been stopped from buying guns, and 19 of the deadliest assault weapons and their copies have been banned. President Clinton remains committed to making America safer by continuing to put more cops on the beat and taking guns, drugs and gangs out of our communities.

MAKING AMERICA A SAFER PLACE TO LIVE

THE TOUGHEST CRIME BILL EVER. With the strong support of every major law enforcement organization in the country, President Clinton signed into law the most comprehensive Crime Bill in the nation's history.

- **100,000 NEW POLICE.** The Crime Bill is putting 100,000 new police on our streets ahead of schedule. Already, nearly 20,000 new police are on the beat and more than 44,000 additional officers have been funded.
- **FIGHTING TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.** The first-ever Violence Against Women Act combines tough new penalties with programs to prosecute offenders and help women victims. Introduced nationwide 24-hour domestic violence hotline providing immediate crisis intervention.
- **GROUNDBREAKING RESOURCES HELPING STATES FIGHT CRIME AND DRUGS.** The Crime Bill is providing funding for 100,000 new prison cells, Drug Courts to break the cycle of drugs and crime, Boot Camps to instill discipline for juvenile non-violent offenders, and, for the first time, reimbursement for the cost of incarcerating criminal aliens.

- ★ Thanks to the Brady Law, over 60,000 fugitives, felons and stalkers have been stopped from buying guns.
- ★ The rate of reported violent crimes has fallen four years in a row -- the first time since 1960.
- ★ Among Americans 18-34, casual drug use is down 13% and cocaine use is down 30% since 1992.
- ★ In Detroit, the number of reported robberies fell 21%. In Flint, the number reported murders dropped 29%.

GIVING MICHIGAN THE RESOURCES IT NEEDS TO FIGHT CRIME AND DRUGS

- **1,139 MORE POLICE IN MICHIGAN.** President Clinton's Crime Bill has funded 1,139 new police in communities across Michigan.
- **FIGHTING TO END DOMESTIC ABUSE.** Through Violence Against Women grants, Michigan will utilize \$3.8 million in federal funds by the end of this year to establish more women's shelters and bolster local law enforcement, prosecution and victims' services to better address violence against women.
- **WORKING TO KEEP DRUGS AND VIOLENCE OUT OF MICHIGAN'S SCHOOLS.** Michigan will receive approximately \$17.2 million in FY96 for the Safe & Drug Free Schools Program which invests in school security and drug prevention programs -- benefitting 40 million students in 97% of America's school districts.
- **WORKING TO KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE.** President Clinton is providing a roadmap for schools to adopt effective school uniform and truancy policies and for cities to implement curfew programs to reduce juvenile violence and increase learning and safety.
- **FIRST CRIMINAL ALIEN REIMBURSEMENTS.** Michigan has received \$15.8 million in federal funds for the costs of incarcerating illegal aliens. This is the first time ever the federal government is assisting states with these costs.
- **ALTERNATIVE REHABILITATION FOR NON-VIOLENT OFFENDERS.** The Clinton Administration has awarded 43 grants to 27 states and three territories to plan and build Boots Camps that will provide prosecutors and the courts with a viable sentencing solution for non-violent offenders. The military-style atmosphere instills self-discipline and provides physical conditioning, while creating space in conventional prisons, jails and juvenile correction space for violent offenders. Currently, Michigan is receiving a \$37,500 grant for its Boot Camps program.

(1) "Making our schools safer day"

(2) community people — t. points / factsheet
(bullets)

(3) Rtable - TAFE - isn't it great, blah

(4) Rock stamp - ^{Chicago...}
~~ADMIN~~ instead

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draft / eb

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