



Washington, D.C. 20530

ELIZABETH HYMAN
Chief of Staff
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DATE: 9/19/96

TO: Sabrina Corlette

FAX #: 456-5708 PHONE #: 456-5708

OF PAGES: _____ (INCLUDING COVER)

COMMENTS: _____

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED REMARKS FOR LOS ANGELES COMMISSION
ON ASSAULTS AGAINST WOMEN
SEPTEMBER 23, 1996

Thank you for inviting me to be a part of the Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women's 25th Anniversary Celebration. I only wish that I could be with you at the Paramount Studios in person.

I want to commend you on your important efforts to bring aid and comfort to the countless citizens who have called upon you in times of great distress, anger, and sadness. Through your 24-hour Rape and Battering Hotlines, your support groups, your counseling, medical and legal assistance programs, you have helped rebuild and strengthen the spirits of thousands of women and children.

And I thank you for focusing so much of your time and energy on preventing violence from happening in the first place. Your self-defense and public education programs have empowered ~~so~~ many women and children to protect themselves from violence both at home and in their communities.

Admin
We are all working toward the day when ~~your~~ services ^{such as yours} will no longer be necessary. The President has supported laws ^{such as} the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 that strengthen the rights of victims of domestic and sexual violence and protect our communities from sex offenders. Megan's Law requires states to notify communities of sex offenders living in their neighborhoods. A new national registry of sex offenders will help law enforcement officers track these criminals across state lines.

The President knows we can do more. He is pushing for legislation that would take guns out of the hands of anyone convicted of domestic violence. And he is committed to signing an amendment to the Constitution that will give victims the right to be heard at plea and sentencing proceedings and the right to be notified when their attackers are released or escape from prison.

But ~~the President~~ ^{Government} cannot do it alone. And ~~it~~ takes more than just laws to bring about permanent change. It takes committed citizens like ~~you~~ ^{us} who recognize the needs and problems of your communities and take action. Thank you for giving so much of your time and resources to making our streets, neighborhoods, and homes safer for women and their families.

*and
grass-roots
organizers*

###

Draft

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON

8/22 8 p.m. RADIO ADDRESS ON NATIONAL SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY

August 24, 1996

Good morning. As I speak to you today, America can look back on week of remarkable achievement. Together, we enacted a law to ensure that you can take your health care from job to job, and never be denied coverage if you're sick. Together, we raised the minimum wage, to make it easier for working parents to raise their children. Together, we tore down a failed welfare system, to move millions from welfare to work. And together, we enacted the toughest-ever measures to cut off children's access to tobacco products.

America is on the right track -- offering more opportunity, demanding more responsibility, and building a greater sense of community -- a sense of shared values, and stronger families.

beginning in the fall

Of course, a strong family also means a safe family -- the simple security of knowing that your children can walk home from school, or play in their backyard, without the plague of violence.

We've certainly come a long way, with sweeping anti-crime measures that have helped reduce crime four years in a row. We stood up to the gun lobby to pass the Brady Bill, which has already stopped 60,000 felons, fugitives, and stalkers from buying guns. We're putting 100,000 new police on the beat. And we're giving children something to say yes to -- positive activities and strong role models, to build better futures.

But there are some kinds of crime that are so threatening to our children -- so destructive of our basic values -- that we have to keep pushing, keep working for new and better solutions. At the top of that list are sex offenders. Study after study tell us that they are often repeat offenders. That's why we have to stop sex offenders cold -- to give our children real safety and security.

Since taking office, I have undertaken an aggressive, three-part plan to stop sexual predators before children become the victims. First, our Crime Bill required every state in the nation to keep track of sex offenders. Just this week, a previously-convicted sex offender was arrested in Chicago for molesting a 9-year-old boy -- only because the police had stopped by his home to register him.

Second, I signed Megan's Law, which required states to tell communities when sex offenders are in their midst.

Sixty days ago, I asked the Attorney-General to begin the third and most important step, by drawing up a plan for a national registry of sex offenders -- to track them not just in a single state, but wherever they go, wherever they try to move.

Today, I am pleased to announce that our plan is complete. By this fall, states will be

able to share information about sex offenders with law enforcement all across the country. Our reasoning is simple: deadly criminals don't stay within state lines, so neither should our tools to stop them.

Every time a sex offender is caught, their state will force them to register. Then, the FBI will compile those lists into a national database. Finally, a new computer network will give states information from all other states. A police officer in Cleveland will be able to get information ~~about all known~~^{any} sex offenders in Cleveland -- even if they committed their crimes in New York or Los Angeles.

This national registry sends a simple message to those who would prey on our children: you may run, but you can't hide. The next time you try to sneak up on our children, we'll be watching -- and we will catch you before you strike.

To meet the parents who have had their children stolen from them -- to see how these hateful acts destroy whole families and communities -- is to know that we need more than local solutions to stop sex offenders. We need the resources and resolve of our whole national law enforcement team -- working together, sharing tips and leads, safeguarding our most vulnerable citizens. We must move toward the day when we are no longer numb to acts of violence against children -- when their appearance on the evening news is both shocking and rare.

Right now, we're moving in that direction. We're putting cops on the streets, and taking guns, gangs, drugs, criminals off them. More and more, our children can learn and play and dream without risk of harm -- and that is the only way we can achieve our true potential, as a nation and as a community.

The Administration's Track Record on Protecting Our Communities from Sex Offenders

- In September 1994, the President signed into law the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act (the Wetterling Act) as part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. The Wetterling Act encourages states to enact laws requiring all persons who are convicted of a sexual offense against a minor or of a sexually violent offense to register with law enforcement authorities upon release. To date, a majority of states have established sex offender registries, and all 50 states have enacted laws that require sex offenders to register with authorities.
- In May 1996, the President signed Megan's Law which amended the Wetterling Act to mandate community notification concerning the release of sex offenders when necessary to protect the public.
- The President also signed the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, greatly enhancing rights of victims of sex offenses. Under the Violence Against Women Act, victims of sexual assault now: have the right to address the court at the sentencing of the offender; do not bear any of the out-of-pocket costs associated with a forensic exam; can receive payment for the costs of testing for any diseases that may have been sexually transmitted as a result of their attack; and are entitled to restitution under strengthened restitution provisions. The President has also expressed his support for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution protecting the rights of victims. This amendment will guarantee victims of crime the right, among others, to be heard at plea and sentencing proceedings and to be notified of the release or escape from prison of their attacker.
- The Justice Department continues to assist the states in both enacting and defending their sex offender registration and notification laws. The Department has participated in several cases in state and federal court defending the validity of state registration and notification systems. To date, the Department has filed amicus curiae briefs in cases in New Jersey, New York, Alaska, Connecticut and Washington state. The Department has also provided support to state attorneys and court officers in Illinois, Tennessee, and Massachusetts.
- On June 25, 1996, the President directed the Justice Department to develop within 60 days a plan for a National Sex Offender Registry. In response to the directive, the Justice Department has developed a plan for an interim national registry that will permit law enforcement at every

level to have immediate access to information about all sex offenders nationwide.

- In response to the President's directive, the FBI has expedited its plans for the institution of a National Sex Offender Registry File. The file, which will be part of the redesign of the national criminal justice information systems, is now expected to be operational by mid-1999, several years earlier than its originally anticipated implementation date. The file will replace the interim national sex offender registry and will have state of the art identification techniques, including DNA coding, fingerprint matching and mugshots.

National Sex Offender Registry Talking Points

- The President is committed to protecting our neighborhoods and communities from sex offenders and child molesters, and in preventing these crimes from taking place in the future. As part of his commitment, on June 25, 1996 the President directed the Attorney General to develop within 60 days a plan for a National Sex Offender Registry. Today, the Attorney General has delivered a plan for the immediate establishment of a national registry.
- The plan announced today will be an interim National Sex Offender Registry to serve law enforcement until the permanent National Sex Offender Registry File is in place. In December 1995, the FBI Advisory Policy Board recommended that the FBI create a National Sex Offender Registry File. In response to the President's June 25, 1996 directive, the FBI has expedited the creation of this file and will now have it operational mid-1999, several years earlier than its anticipated implementation date. The permanent FBI National Sex Offender Registry File will have state of the art identification techniques including DNA coding, mugshots and automated fingerprint checks that will be invaluable in the tracking of sex offenders.
- Because the need for a national registry cannot be deferred, the Attorney General will develop an interim National Sex Offender Registry until the FBI's National Sex Offender Registry File is in place.
- The interim National Sex Offender Registry announced today builds upon the work already underway in the fifty states to establish state sex offender registries. As a result of the Jacob Wetterling Act, which was enacted as part of the President's 1994 Crime Act, all 50 states have enacted statutes mandating the creation of state sex offender registries. A majority of states already have these registries in place.
- The interim National Sex Offender Registry takes the important next step to the Jacob Wetterling Act and brings together the separate state registries. The national registry will collect from the states their registry information and will for the first time permit law enforcement to identify quickly and efficiently in a single, national search a registered sex offender in any state in the country.
- The interim National Sex Offender Registry will also help connect the separate state registries and states for the first time will be able to share instantly and electronically their sex offender registry information.

- The interim national registry will have two basic components:

- 1) a centralized database at the FBI where existing criminal history records are flagged to identify whether an individual is a registered sex offender and to indicate where the individual is registered; and
- 2) the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS) communications network that permits states to access and retrieve electronically sex offender registry information from other states.

Law enforcement will use the centralized database at the FBI to identify in a single, national search where an individual is registered, and then proceed through NLETS to instantly access vital information on that individual from the indicated state registry.

- The interim registry is both efficient and cost effective because it combines state and federal efforts to track sex offenders already underway. At little extra cost to the states or federal government, states will be able to communicate sex offender registry information across state lines starting in November. The FBI will be prepared to accept state sex offender information in six months.
- Ultimately, the successful tracking of sex offenders and child molesters, and the prevention of future sex crimes, calls for a commitment from law enforcement at every level to work together and share information. To make the system work, states must fully implement their sex offender registration requirements and ensure that their registries are kept up to date. The strong enforcement of state sex offender registry requirements will help safeguard not only one's local community, but every community across the country to which a sex offender might travel.
- In addition to providing the FBI with the information for a National Sex Offender Registry, states should be encouraged to do the following: 1) issue arrest warrants for those offenders whose addresses cannot be verified or who fail to comply with state registration requirements; 2) require the submission of DNA samples as part of the state sex offender registration process, as this will significantly help in the investigation of rape and serial rape cases where the suspect is unknown; and 3) work together to develop agreements for the interstate sharing and disclosure of sex offender registry information in order to assure public safety.

The National Sex Offender Registry: How It Works in Five Easy Steps

As directed by the President, the Attorney General has developed a plan for a National Sex Offender Registry that will permit law enforcement to determine quickly and efficiently whether an individual is a sex offender in any state in the country. This registry builds upon the Jacob Wetterling Act and Megan's Law, and is an important next step in the President's efforts to protect our neighborhoods and communities from sex offenders and child molesters now and in the future.

The registry announced today is an interim measure. In December 1995, the FBI Advisory Policy Board recommended that the FBI establish a National Sex Offender Registry File. In response to the President's directive, the FBI has expedited the development of this file and will now have it in place by mid-1999, several years earlier than its original implementation date. This file, when fully operational, will be the permanent National Sex Offender Registry and will have state of the art identification techniques such as DNA coding, fingerprint matching and mugshots which will be invaluable in tracking offenders.

Because the need for sex offender registry information cannot be deferred, however, the Justice Department will establish an interim National Sex Offender Registry that builds upon the efforts already underway in the states to establish sex offender registration systems. Through a partnership of the FBI, state law enforcement, and the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System, the interim National Sex Offender Registry will work as follows:

1. **States Send Information to the FBI.** State sex offender registries will forward to the FBI either a standardized FBI Form I-12 or an electronic message to register an individual as a sex offender. The state will provide the sex offender's name, state agency of registry, agency case number, and the start and end date of registration.
2. **FBI Adds Information to Existing Criminal History Record System.** The FBI currently houses automated criminal history records for over 24 million persons. The FBI will add the information supplied by the states to the existing criminal history records of the registered sex offenders. This information will be used to flag the criminal history records of registered sex offenders. The sex offender information submitted by the state will be prominently displayed on the record. The record will have notices at the beginning and end of the record highlighting the individual as a registered sex offender. In addition, the record will display the state agency of registry. Where an offender has moved from one state to another and re-

registered, the criminal history record will list both state registries for law enforcement to contact.

3. **Law Enforcement Performs a Routine Criminal History Check on an Individual and Receives a Record That Includes Sex Offender Information Submitted by the State.** The Interstate Information Index (III) at the FBI provides access to the 24 million criminal history records on line. III is routinely used by law enforcement to obtain a copy of an individual's criminal history record or "rap sheet." With the interim National Sex Offender Registry, these rap sheets will now be flagged for registered sex offenders to indicate the state agency of registry.
4. **Law Enforcement Follows the Lead From the Criminal History Record and Contacts the State Registry.** The FBI criminal history records will serve as an index, pointing law enforcement to the appropriate state registry or registries for further information.
5. **Law Enforcement Uses the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS) To Share Sex Offender Registry Information.** NLETS is a network linking local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies for the purpose of sharing information. Every state is an NLETS member, as are the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Through NLETS, states will be able to electronically search and retrieve vital information from the registry or registries named on the criminal history record, provided that the state registry is sufficiently automated. For those states that are less automated, the search requests and responses could be by telephone, e-mail or regular mail.

LOS ANGELES COMMISSION ON

LACAAW

ASSAULTS AGAINST WOMEN

VIA FACSIMILE (202) 456-7311

June 13, 1996

Ms. Betsy Myers
Director of Women's Initiatives and Outreach
The White House
Washington D.C.

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Thank you for your ongoing support and interest in ending violence against women and children, and in our organization - the Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women (LACAAW). On Saturday, October 5th, 1996, LACAAW will hold our 25th Anniversary Celebration Dinner at Paramount Studios in Hollywood, California. We are writing to ask if you would help us in approaching Mrs. Clinton to be one of our honored guests for the evening.

LACAAW is the third oldest rape crisis agency in the country and the oldest in Southern California. In fact, we are one of the only agencies in our area that concentrates as equally on crisis intervention work as we do on violence prevention work. We are very proud of the work that we have done over the past quarter century, and which we will continue to do in the future. The proceeds of our 25th Anniversary celebration will go to support the programs - such as our two 24-hour bilingual rape and battering hotlines, hospital and legal accompaniment for rape and domestic violence survivors, and our Teen Abuse Prevention Project - that reduce the incidence of sexual assault and domestic violence and provide critical support to victims of violence crimes. 1996 is a milestone year for LACAAW as we are celebrating 25 years of domestic and sexual violence intervention and prevention work.

Mrs. Clinton's participation in this event would be an exciting and meaningful addition. It is no secret that she has been a powerful advocate for victim's and children's rights. With this milestone in our history it is fitting that we seek someone of her stature and commitment to be one of our guests of honor. We want to honor a select group of people - in a "Kennedy Center Honors" type of tribute - who have reached important points in their own lives working with issues of interpersonal violence. Mrs. Clinton's dedication to healthcare and childcare issues are represented in the work that we do every day - violence prevention is healthcare of the most urgent kind. Her accomplishments provide a cogent example of the empowerment of women. We are pleased to announce that Marcia Clark, Deputy D.A. and California Assemblywoman Sheila James Kuehl have already agreed to be two of our guests of honor. We would be thrilled if Mrs. Clinton would accept our invitation.

page 2



Our event is going to be held at Paramount Studios in the heart of Hollywood. Hollywood is one of our major service areas, and the home of our offices, and it is therefore natural for us to mark this important milestone there. The attendees of this event will be a very diverse group - from corporate sponsors, and executives in Hollywood, to state politicians and longtime supporters, to program volunteers who work daily with helping victims of domestic and sexual abuse, to survivors. We cannot tell you what an inspiration the First Lady's presence would be for these people who work as unsung heroes in the field every day, or who are themselves survivors of abuse and rape.

Brief financial, administrative and historical information about LACAAW is contained on the enclosed fact sheet. We will contact you next week, to answer any questions you may have about LACAAW and to discuss the best way to approach Mrs. Clinton about our Anniversary event.

Best regards,

Peggie Reyna
Program Coordinator
Deaf & Disabled Services, LACAAW

Leigh Kaufman
Development/25th Anniversary
Planning, LACAAW

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Draft/sc

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE EVENT
CONNECTICUT COLLEGE
XXX, CT
SEPTEMBER 24, 1996**

[Acknowledgments: xxx xxx, President of Connecticut College;]

Thank you, xxx. I am so happy to be back in Connecticut. I want to thank xxx for inviting me here today.

I have very fond memories of my visit two[ck] years ago to the Coast Guard Academy for the christening of the U.S.S. Columbia, a ship....

Today, I am particularly pleased to share this stage with two [ck] members of Congress who are working hard with the President to keep the American Dream alive for all people who are willing to work for it, to unify and strengthen our community, and to keep America the world's strongest force for peace, freedom and prosperity.

Congresswoman Barbara Kenneally....

And Congressman Sam Gejdenson [GAY-DEN-SEN] has spent his career fighting for working families. He has stood shoulder to shoulder with the President against the efforts of some in Congress to gut Medicare, Medicaid, education and the environment. Sam was also a big supporter of the Family and Medical Leave Act....

When the President came into office four years ago, he promised to follow a simple, but profound strategy: providing opportunity for ll, asking responsibility from all, and bringing all of us together to forge one strong, united American community.

How do we do that?

By helping parents raise strong and healthy children, helping young people and adults get the education and training they need, helping make our streets safer, helping Americans succeed at home and at work, helping protect our environment, and helping maintain our leadership in the world.

First and foremost, we need strong families to build that bridge to the 21st century. And to have strong families, parents must be able to get jobs. They must make decent wages. They must be able to perform well at work as well as fulfill their obligations at home. They must have access to medical care for themselves and their children.

That's why the President has fought so hard to raise the minimum wage. To create new jobs. To help people start new businesses who have the motivation and wherewithal to do so. To give tax breaks to working parents and those seeking higher education and job training. To make sure that insurance companies can't drop health care coverage when a parent switches jobs or loses a job.

And to give mothers and fathers time off from work for the birth of a child or to care for a sick family member. The President would like to expand Family Leave to let parents take their children to the doctor and attend parent-teacher conferences.

The President also proposes to pass a flex-time law that allows employees to take their overtime pay in money or in time off, depending on what's better for their family.

We also need to ensure that the doors of education remain open to all Americans. Our democracy has thrived for 220 years because American children have had the opportunity to go to school to learn the duties of citizenship and acquire the skills they need to make the most of their abilities.

Education is -- pure and simple -- the gateway to opportunity in this country.

[Hope Scholarships, tax deduction for college tuition, Head Start, student loans, G.I. Bill for American workers]

And that's why the President is committed to making sure that every child in America can read by himself or herself by age eight; that every 12-year-old is able to log onto the Internet; that every 18-year-old who is willing to work hard and take responsibility has the chance to fulfill the dream of higher education.

My husband knows that if we are going to preserve the legacy of opportunity for the next generation then we must balance the budget in ways that protect our values and that protect Medicare, Medicaid, education, the environment, the integrity of our pensions, and the strength of our people.

The President believes that we will only cross that bridge to the 21st century if we come together as a people. As Americans. As men and women united in the ideals of hard work, responsibility, opportunity and community.

[Story of visiting Bosnia with Chelsea]

This is what America is all about. By coming together around our common aspirations and concerns, we can rise to any challenge. We can make progress. And we can build that bridge -- and cross it -- into the 21st century.

Thank you. And Godspeed.

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Fact Sheet

LOS ANGELES COMMISSION ON ASSAULTS AGAINST WOMEN

Mission

Our goal is the elimination of sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse and other forms of interpersonal violence against women and children.

Administration and Finance

Founded in 1971, LACAAW is a 501 c(3) private, non-profit organization, governed by a 15-person Board of Directors. The agency is operated by a staff of 14, and more than 200 volunteers who give over 20,000 volunteer hours a year through our services. LACAAW's income - currently approximated at \$675,000 in 1996 - is composed of grants from government agencies and private foundations, contributions from corporate and individual donors, and profits from program participation fees and from fund-raising campaigns.

Services and Beneficiaries

LACAAW operates educational, prevention and crisis intervention programs that provide services to approximately 30,000 individuals annually. Approximately 75% of program participants are women and girls, and nearly 90% of those who receive counseling services are women. LACAAW is a multi-cultural organization, which embraces people of all socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds, teens and children, those who are deaf, homeless, elderly, physically or developmentally disabled and recent immigrants. LACAAW's programs are available in Spanish. Among the programs and projects currently operated by LACAAW are:

Intervention Programs

- ▶ LACAAW's two 24-hour Rape & Battering Hotlines
- ▶ Medical and Legal Accompaniment support for rape and domestic violence survivors
- ▶ Support Groups for Rape, Battering, Incest & Stalking
- ▶ Short Term, One-to-One, In-Person Counseling

Prevention Programs

- ▶ Self-Defense and Women Warrior Training Weekends
- ▶ Personal Security Awareness Trainings (for individuals and large companies)
- ▶ Project TAP (Teen Abuse Prevention) and *In Touch With Teens*, a violence prevention curriculum, provide support and counseling networks and violence prevention education to adolescent girls and boys in middle and high schools throughout Los Angeles

Community Education and Public Information

- ▶ Speakers Bureau
- ▶ Consultation for film, TV, radio and other media
- ▶ A variety of publications, available in both English and Spanish, that raise public awareness and provide support services.

Board of Directors

Rochelle Lindsey (*Co-Chair*), *Attorney-at-Law*, Rose Monteiro (*Co-Chair*), *Professor of Social Work, USC*, Pamela Palmer (*Secretary*), *Latham & Watkins*, Linda Block (*Treasurer*), *Owner, "Johnny Seed"*, Dorothy Barton, *LA County Probation Dept.*, Alpa Chernof, *Paul, Hastings*, Barbara Harris, *Editor-in-chief, "Shape" Magazine*, Coral Hawthorne, *Television producer*, Nathalie Hoffman, *Attorney-at-Law*, Tina Kerrigan, *Development Consultant*, Virginia Lincoln, *Litton Industries*, Juliet Markowitz, *Macklin, Tatro*, Julie Mermelstein, *Private therapist*, Elaine Tumonis, *LA Deputy Attorney General's Office*.

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HRC VIDEO REQUEST FORM

DATE TO BE RECORDED 9/23/91

YES ☒ NO ☐ APPROVED BY: HRC PS MW MV /CONFIRMED

YES

ORGANIZATION	LACAAW Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women
DATE OF EVENT	October 5
LOCATION	Hollywood, CA
EVENT	25th anniversary Celebration Dinner *HRC to be honored
WHITE HOUSE STAFF CONTACT	Betsy Myers
CONTACTS	Leigh Kaufman 213-462-1281
BILL TO	c/o LACAAW 6043 Hollywood Blvd, Ste 200 LA, CA 90028 Attn: Leigh Kaufman
SEND TO	SAME
SEND VIA	REGULAR MAIL _____ FED EX ☒ ACCT # <u>1403-2567-8</u> SATURDAY DELIVERY _____ AIRBORNE EX _____ ACCT # <u>1</u> PICK UP _____ CONTACT _____ PHONE # _____
FORMAT	VHS _____ BETA _____ BETA CAM _____ BETA CAM SP _____ 3/4" ☒ OTHER _____
NOTES	1/25 Holly talked to Leigh. She will get back to me w/ approval from organization + contact/billing/forward info. <u>OK</u>

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

Holly-
Bernaldo
Patti
June 26, 1996

___ACCEPT

___REGRET

___PENDING

TO: Patty Solis-Doyle

FROM: Betsy Myers *BM* *Oct 5, 1996*

REQUEST: For the First Lady to be honored at the 25th Anniversary Celebration Dinner for the Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women (LACAAW).

PURPOSE: To highlight the First Lady's commitment to ending violence against women and children. To honor the First Lady for her advocacy for victim's and children's rights.

BACKGROUND: LACAAW is the third oldest rape crisis agency in the country. LACAAW concentrates equally on crisis intervention and violence prevention. The proceeds from the dinner will go to support 24-hour bilingual rape and battering hotlines, hospital and legal accompaniment for rape and domestic violence survivors, and a Teen Abuse Prevention Project.

DURATION: To accommodate FLOTUS's schedule.

LOCATION: Paramount Studios, Hollywood, CA.

PARTICIPANTS: The First Lady
Confirmed honorees: Marcia Clark, Deputy D.A.
California Assemblywoman Sheila James Kuehl

OUTLINE OF EVENTS: VIP cocktail 6-7 pm
Dinner 7 pm *Appx: 400-500 ppeople to attend*
8 pm presentation of guests of honor, with FLOTUS first.

REMARKS REQUIRED: Speech writers to prepare brief remarks for the First Lady.

MEDIA COVERAGE: TBD

RECOMMENDED BY: Betsy Myers

CONTACT: Betsy Myers

ORIGIN OF THIS PROPOSAL: Staff generated.

Holly
over a
video.
Patti

Fax

To Patti

Transmission

Date: JULY 9, 1996

To: PATTI DOYLE

Fax Number: (202) 456-5840

From: LEIGH KAUFMAN

Our Phone: (213) 462-1281

Our Fax: (213) 462-8434

No. of pages including cover page: 5

Message:



Los Angeles Commission on
Assaults Against Women
LACAAW

Please call if you experience any transmission problems.



VIA FACSIMILE (202) 456-7311

June 13, 1996

Ms. Betsy Myers
Director of Women's Initiatives and Outreach
The White House
Washington D.C.

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Mrs. Clinton's participation in this event would be an exciting and meaningful addition. It is no secret that she has been a powerful advocate for victim's and children's rights. With this milestone in our history it is fitting that we seek someone of her stature and commitment to be one of our guests of honor. We want to honor a select group of people - in a "Kennedy Center Honors" type of tribute - who have reached important points in their own lives working with issues of interpersonal violence. Mrs. Clinton's dedication to healthcare and childcare issues are represented in the work that we do every day - violence prevention is healthcare of the most urgent kind. Her accomplishments provide a cogent example of the empowerment of women. We are pleased to announce that Marcia Clark, Deputy D.A. and California Assemblywoman Sheila James Kuehl have already agreed to be two of our guests of honor. We would be thrilled if Mrs. Clinton would accept our invitation.

page 2



Our event is going to be held at Paramount Studios in the heart of Hollywood. Hollywood is one of our major service areas, and the home of our offices, and it is therefore natural for us to mark this important milestone there. The attendees of this event will be a very diverse group - from corporate sponsors, and executives in Hollywood, to state politicians and longtime supporters, to program volunteers who work daily with helping victims of domestic and sexual abuse, to survivors. We cannot tell you what an inspiration the First Lady's presence would be for these people who work as unsung heroes in the field every day, or who are themselves survivors of abuse and rape.

Brief financial, administrative and historical information about LACAAW is contained on the enclosed fact sheet. We will contact you next week, to answer any questions you may have about LACAAW and to discuss the best way to approach Mrs. Clinton about our Anniversary event.

Best regards,

Peggie Reyna
Program Coordinator
Deaf & Disabled Services, LACAAW

Leigh Kaufman
Development/25th Anniversary
Planning, LACAAW

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Fax Transmission

Date: 13 JUNE 1996

To: BETSY MYERS

Fax Number: (202) 456-7311

From: PEGGIE REYNA & LEIGH KAUFMAN

Our Phone: (213) 462-1281

Our Fax: (213) 462-8434

No. of pages including cover page: 3

Message:



Los Angeles Commission on
Assaults Against Women
LACAAW

Please call if you experience any transmission problems.

VIA FACSIMILE (202) 456-5340

July 9, 1996

Mrs. Patti Doyle, Director of Scheduling
Office of the First Lady
The White House
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear Patti,

Per your conversation yesterday with Charles Ledley, attached please find a copy of the letter of invitation to First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton to be our guest of honor at the Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women's 25th Anniversary Celebration. The event is to be held on October 5th, 1996 at Paramount Studios in Hollywood, California. This letter was initially sent through Betsy Myers in the White House Women's Office. I have also enclosed brief historical, administrative and financial information on LACAAW for your perusal.

LACAAW has a long relationship with the White House Office of Women's Outreach - one of our staff members is on the Professional Advisory Board to the new National Domestic Violence Hotline (launched in February at the The White House) and was instrumental in helping with the TDD (Telephone Device for the Deaf) implementation of the hotline.

Mrs. Clinton's participation in our event would be a wonderful and meaningful addition. It is no secret that she has been a powerful advocate for victim's and children's rights. With this milestone (a quarter of a century of violence prevention and intervention work) in our history it is fitting that we seek someone of her stature and commitment to be one of our guests of honor. Mrs. Clinton's dedication to healthcare and childcare issues are represented in the work that we do every day - violence prevention is healthcare of the most urgent kind. Her accomplishments provide a cogent example of the empowerment of women. We are pleased to announce that Marcia Clark, Deputy D.A. and California Assemblywoman Sheila James Kuehl have already agreed to be two of our guests of honor. We would be thrilled if Mrs. Clinton would accept our invitation.

The copy of the attached letter underlines some of the specifics of the event. As I indicated to Betsy Myers' office, the evening will begin at 6pm with a VIP reception with our honored guests, followed at 7pm by dinner and our evening program at 8pm. We could at this early date arrange the evening around Mrs. Clinton's scheduling needs and would be happy to do so. We would be very excited if she could join us for any or all of this very special evening in LACAAW's history.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to call me for further information at (213) 462-1281.

Sincerely,

Leigh Kaufman
Leigh Kaufman
Development Director, LACAAW



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REMARKS OF THE FIRST LADY
BENEFIT LUNCHEON OF MOTHERS AGAINST VIOLENCE IN AMERICA
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON
JUNE 24, 1996

It's always a pleasure to be in Seattle, but even more so for an occasion such as this one.

Back in 1994, I met with my friend Pam Eakes, along with several founding members of Mothers Against Violence in America and mothers whose children were victims of crime. I came away from that meeting so encouraged. Here were women who, despite their heavy hearts, were determined to create a world in which others would not suffer at the hand of senseless and often random acts. Unselfishly, courageously and intelligently they looked beyond their personal suffering for the greater good of us all. Today, in just three years, MAVIA [Mah-vee-ah] is a grassroots leader creating partnerships of peace among families, communities, law enforcement, businesses, schools and local government agencies around the nation.

We know that innovative partnerships can yield some of the most effective strategies for reducing crime and violence. Many of you are aware of Seattle's Partners against Youth Gun Violence. Fondly known as "Cops and Docs," it teaches middle school children about the trauma of gunshot wounds and their dangers. I can't help but think that these kinds of programs have contributed to the 41 percent drop in incidents involving firearms in Washington public schools.

These encouraging statistics are not surprising because Washington has a history of leading the rest of the nation with innovative efforts to reduce crime and violence. Perhaps there is something in the coffee you love so much. Or perhaps it is because you are blessed with outstanding leaders like Patty Murray, Alene Moris, Pam Eakes, Police Chief Norm Stamper, and the young people we recognize here today.

I wish -- I just wish -- every child in America could grow up today with the sense of personal security that I, and many of you, had when we were kids.

I was raised in a typical middle class suburb of Chicago. My brothers and I rode our bikes everywhere -- to the library, to the movie theater, to the shops, to restaurants. Sometimes we would leave at 9 in the morning and come back at 6, just in time for dinner. Our parents seldom had to worry about us. If they couldn't find us, they'd call a neighbor who likely knew where we

were.

Not that we were under the illusion that the world was entirely safe. We were under strict instructions never to get in a stranger's car. Remembering this admonition, my brother Hugh once declined a ride from a policeman in his patrol car who wanted to drive him home one day.

By the time my daughter was growing up, that sense of security was beginning to vanish. I remember one warm spring afternoon when Chelsea was about nine, she and a friend were riding their bikes around the governor's mansion in Little Rock. They came inside to ask if they could bike to the public library ten blocks away. I had made many trips to my local library at their age, unaccompanied and unafraid. Tears welled up in my eyes as I told my daughter no. I just didn't feel it was safe. So I put down what I was doing and gave them a ride.

I'm not suggesting that we can recreate the past. We can't. But we can build a society in which values -- civility, decency, respect for human life and individuality -- prevail again. And we also can do something about social problems that are the root of so many violent crimes.

Earlier today, I was in Nashville with the President for the annual family conference hosted by Vice President and Mrs. Gore. Over the past few years, the conference has helped political leaders, policy makers, advocates and everyday citizens think of new strategies for strengthening families. And one particular focus has been the negative influences of the mass media, an issue that Tipper Gore has been a leader on for almost two decades.

I think this subject has great relevance to all of you in this room. Since the 1950's, a steady stream of articles, books, and studies have documented the harm television does to children. The American Psychological Association's Commission on Violence and Youth concluded that "viewing violence increases violence" and "prolonged viewing of media violence can lead to emotional desensitization toward violence."

Television is a fact of life. With hundreds of channels available 24 hours a day, our children are just one click of the remote control button away from images that of violence, gratuitous sex, and a glorification of dysfunctional behavior.

That is why I commend MAVIA's efforts to discourage violent programming and messages through your "Speak-Up" resource handbook for parents and last year's conference on media violence.

On this issue, the President is behind you 100 percent. Earlier this year, he met with executives from the media and entertainment industry and announced a breakthrough agreement to develop a voluntary ratings system that, along with the V-Chip, will help parents protect their children from violence and adult content on TV.

More recently, he announced that he is inviting the leaders of the television networks and the nation's pre-eminent children's programming experts to come to the White House to discuss ways to improve the quality and quantity of children's programming. And, we are hopeful that the FCC will soon agree to a proposed rule requiring every television station to air three hours of children's programming per week.

Clearly, it is up to parents to exercise more responsibility when it comes to what their children watch on television. But as parents we must also demand that the media executives who produce and broadcast violent programming take more responsibility themselves.

As far as I'm concerned, shows like the "Mighty Morphin Power Rangers" have no place on any listing of children's shows. There is no excuse for a program that depicts hundreds of acts of violence in each episode and teaches children that the best -- in fact the only -- way to resolve conflict is through violence. As one expert said of the "Mighty Morphin Power Rangers," the show is "devoid of any enriching value." It is one of the most violent programs on television today.

Even a 10-year-old boy who participated in a roundtable we had last year about television violence told me that his playmates "just pretend they are Mighty Morphin Power Rangers the X-Men and then they'll just go around pretending they're killing each other or such things and think nothing of it."

Now I'm not against businesses making a profit. And I'm not against freedom of creative expression. But at some point, media executives need to ask themselves whether they are subverting values for the bottom line. You can still make money without harming children. And it is time for our media executives to take greater responsibility and show more accountability for the enormous power they wield in our children's lives.

Although we remember today the lives lost and damaged by crime, we must recognize how far we've come -- and how much we have accomplished in reducing crime and assisting crime victims.

First and foremost, the crime rate has been down for the past three years.

Second, crime victims' rights are no longer a novel idea. Victim Assistance programs, which were few in number in the late 1960's and generally served rape victims and battered women, now number in the thousands and serve all types of crime victims.

Twenty years ago there were few victim compensation programs. Today, every state has a program to help reimburse victims for mental health, medical, funeral and other expenses. Today we have a Crime Victims Fund -- money from federal criminal offenders -- which has provided over \$1 billion to crime victims programs in the past decade and \$5.4 million to Washington in this fiscal year.

But in a sea of statistics the one that encourages me the most is this one: since the passage of the Brady Bill, 60,000 felons, fugitives and stalkers have not been able to buy handguns. It proves that we can do something about the unacceptable level of crime and violence in our communities.

The President has sought to make our streets safer, to strengthen our families and communities, and to stem the tide of violence: The Brady Bill, the Assault Weapons Ban, the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act, the Violence Against Women Act, the Safe and Drug-Free School Act, the Domestic Violence Hotline, the Anti-Terrorism Bill, and the one-strike crime initiative, to return the rule of law to public housing.

He has proposed the National Gang Tracking Network and Anti-Gang and Youth Violence Control Act to make the juvenile justice system tougher and smarter and to help our young people stay drug-free and away from guns and gangs.

And last month, the President signed Megan's Law. There is no greater right than a parent's right to raise a child in safety and love. With the signing of Megan's Law, every state in the country will be required to tell a community when a dangerous sexual predator enters its midst. Building on that, the President has asked the Attorney General to come up with a plan that will enable police officers in every state to share information and track sex offenders nationwide.

Many of these laws and initiatives were the result of effective anti-crime advocates -- survivors of violent crime who were able to turn their pain and anger into power and action, much like Mothers Against Violence in America.

You are making a difference. You are helping bring peace and security to millions of families across our country. And we are eternally grateful for your efforts.

Thank you all very much. And godspeed.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT APPEALS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT
CIVIL REMEDY DECISION

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The Justice Department announced today that it intends to appeal a July 26 federal district court decision invalidating, as unconstitutional, the civil rights provision of the Violence Against Women Act.

On July 26, 1996, Judge Jackson L. Kiser, Chief U.S. District Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Virginia, [Roanoke Division,] ruled that the provision was unconstitutional in the case of Brzonkala v. Virginia Polytechnic and State University, et al. Today's appeal will be heard in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

Bonnie J. Campbell, Director of the Justice Department's Violence Against Women Office, noted that the Virginia ruling was in direct contrast to a June 19 federal district court decision in Connecticut, which upheld the Violence Against Women Act civil rights remedy.

The Violence Against Women Act was passed by a bipartisan Congressional majority and signed into law as part of President Clinton's 1994 Crime Act. It provides remedies and resources to fight violence against women, and its civil rights provision allows victims of domestic violence and sexual assault to sue for civil damages.

Campbell noted that Judge Kiser's decision has not affected the implementation of the Act.

In 1996, the Justice Department has distributed more than \$100 million in STOP Violence Against Women Grants to train police, hire new prosecutors, provide assistance to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, and other purposes. In addition, in June, \$46 million was awarded to 336 communities under the Community Oriented Policing Services' (COPS) Community Policing to Combat Domestic Violence grant program. Twenty federal cases have been filed under the Act's criminal provisions and more than 40,000 calls have been received by the National Domestic Violence Hotline created by the Act.

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**DOJ IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT:
SAFEGUARDS, RIGHTS AND REMEDIES FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT
October 31, 1995**

Introduction

Enacted as part of the 1994 Crime Act, the Violence Against Women Act was landmark legislation – combining tough law enforcement strategies with important safeguards for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. In its first year, the Act and related Crime Act provisions have proven extremely effective in our effort to curb domestic violence and provide protection and peace of mind for women and their families concerned about violent sex offenders. The Department has adopted an aggressive strategy for fighting violence against women – working in close coordination with state and local law enforcement and other federal agencies.

Federal action on this front comes at a critical time. A recently released Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics report, based on the National Crime Victimization Survey, confirms that violence against women in America persists:

- In 1992 and 1993, women age 12 or older annually sustained almost 5 million violent victimizations.
- Nearly 75% of all lone-offender violence against women was perpetrated by offenders whom the victims knew.
- In 29% of all violence against women by a lone offender, the perpetrator was an intimate – a husband, ex-husband, boyfriend or ex-boyfriend.
- Women were about 6 times more likely than men to experience violence committed by an intimate.
- Women annually reported, to interviewers, about 500,000 rapes and sexual assaults. Friends or acquaintances of the victims committed over half of these rapes or sexual assaults. Strangers were responsible for about 1 in 5.
- Women of all races and Hispanic and non-Hispanic women were about equally vulnerable to violence by an intimate.
- Women age 19 to 29 and women in families with incomes below \$10,000 were more likely than other women to be victims of violence by an intimate.
- Female victims of violence by an intimate were more often injured by the violence than females victimized by a stranger.

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The Violence Against Women Act

The Violence Against Women Act contains a number of new offenses and harsh penalties for sex offenders and domestic abusers. The Act doubles the maximum term of imprisonment for repeat sex offenders and authorizes severe federal sentences for domestic abusers who travel interstate. Initial guidance has been issued to U.S. Attorneys about these new provisions.

Federal Sex Crimes and Victims' Rights

With regard to significant provisions in the Act concerning federal sex crimes, including sexual exploitation and other abuse of children:

- restitution is mandated;
- the victim's past sexual behavior or alleged sexual predisposition is not admissible in civil or criminal proceedings involving sexual misconduct;
- the death penalty may now be imposed for causing the death of a person during the commission of a sexual abuse offense;
- a prior conviction of sexual assault or child molestation is an aggravating factor in determining whether the death penalty is justified;
- the victim of a sex abuse crime has the right to make a statement or present information at the sentencing hearing in relation to the offender's sentence;

Similar Crimes Evidence in Sex Offense Cases

The 1994 Crime Act included general rules of admissibility in federal sexual assault and child molestation cases for evidence that the defendant has committed other similar offenses. The new evidence rules for federal sexual assault offense cases went into effect on July 10, 1995.

Sexually Transmitted Disease Testing for Victims of Federal Sex Offenses

- Under the Act, victims of sexual assault in federal sex offense cases can now receive free testing for a number of sexually transmitted diseases including HIV.
- The Department of Justice has finalized reimbursement and referral procedures through U.S. Attorney's offices. [Please see attached Financial Management Policies and Procedures.]

HIV Testing of Defendants

- The Act also provides state and federal victims of sexual assault with a right of action to pursue court-ordered HIV testing of their assailant.
- To date, we are aware of several testing orders issued under this provision. On August 30th, U.S. District Judge Rudolph Randa in the Eastern District of Wisconsin issued an order to compel HIV testing of a federal defendant. We also understand that the Manhattan District Attorney's Office was involved in a case this past summer in which a state victim of sexual assault obtained court-ordered testing of her assailant.
- The Department is most concerned about the recent legal challenge to this defendant testing provision in New York courts. As some of you may know, the constitutionality and application of this provision to state defendants was challenged in the Eastern District in a rape case brought by the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office. In the Matter of the Application of Jane Doe.
- In that case, U.S. District Judge Nickerson considered a state defendant's argument that the provision violated his Fourth Amendment rights and is otherwise constitutionally invalid under the recent Supreme Court decision in United States v. Lopez, 115 S.Ct. 1624 (1995).
- After a September 27th hearing on the Fourth Amendment issues, Judge Nickerson ordered the defendant to submit to testing. The defense moved for expedited review in the Second Circuit, a temporary stay was issued, and arguments on the motion to stay were heard by a panel of the Second Circuit on October 3, 1995. The Second Circuit ultimately lifted the stay, ordering the defendant to submit to testing, and rejected an expedited appeal.
- The defendant was tested on October 5, 1995. He has since filed a regular appeal which is proceeding in the Second Circuit on a standard briefing schedule.
- Preserving the right of state victims of sexual assault to obtain court-ordered testing is important. Possible involvement by the Department in this case is under consideration.
- The 1995 Attorney General Guidelines for Victim and Witness Assistance, issued in April, direct federal prosecutors to advise federal victims of sexual assault about the option of defendant testing under §40503(b) and the conditions under which it applies.

Violence Against Women Act Grants to States

- The Violence Against Women Act provides for close collaboration between the federal and state governments through a bold new funding initiative – the S*T*O*P Violence Against Women Grant Program. S*T*O*P stands for Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors – the four components of any successful effort to change the way the criminal justice system handles these crimes.
- By design, the S*T*O*P grant program promotes a coordinated approach. It provides incentives for states to pool the expertise and resources of law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, and victims' advocates. S*T*O*P fosters a multi-disciplinary approach to violence against women on a state level by allocating part of the grant funding to law enforcement, part to prosecution, and part to nonprofit, nongovernmental victim service providers.
- For this year, Congress authorized and appropriated \$26 million for the S*T*O*P grant program as a down-payment to states. By the beginning of August, all 50 states and six territories had been awarded \$426,000 in FY 1995 funds. Funding in the future will be based on population.
- These grants may be used to develop and enhance victim service programs; to improve police training and increase the number of police officers in the community; to expand the efforts of law enforcement agencies to target violent crimes against women; and to develop more effective policies, protocols, and services to prevent violent crime against women.
- As a condition to receiving grants, states must certify that they will incur full out-of-pocket costs of forensic medical examinations for victims of sexual assault. They must also certify that within two years, victims of sexual assault will bear no costs associated with the filing of criminal charges or protection orders.

Jacob Wetterling Guidelines

- The Department of Justice is successfully implementing a number of provisions designed to stop sex offenders before they strike. The Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act, enacted as part of the 1994 Crime Act, provides states with a financial incentive to adopt effective registration systems for convicted child molesters and other persons convicted of sexually violent crimes. Community notification is allowed but not required.
- The Department published proposed guidelines implementing the Jacob Wetterling Act at 60 FR 18613 on April 12, 1995. The comment period ends on October 30, 1995 and we expect to issue final guidelines in early January.

see info on sex offender registry



DATE:

9/18/96

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A sharp drop in number of rapes

Victims' groups: Study not realistic

By Kevin Johnson
and Lori Sharn
USA TODAY

As silently as many women have suffered the devastation of rape, there has been a quiet accumulation of evidence suggesting a dramatic decline in the crime in recent years.

Preliminary estimates released Tuesday by the Justice Department show a 9.1% drop in violent crime overall. But nowhere is the fall more striking than in the category of rape/sexual assault. The study shows an 18% decline in 1995 and a 41.8% reduction since 1992.

The department's National Crime Victimization Survey is regarded among criminologists as a reliable source of information on crime victimization.

The survey is separate from the FBI's Uniform Crime Report, which collects information on crimes reported to police and other law enforcement officials. The Bureau of Justice Statistics study is based on a national survey of about 100,000 people. As such, it is believed to be a more accurate measure of crimes, many of which go unreported.

The FBI crime report also shows a drop in rapes since 1992, although the decline is not nearly as steep.

Justice Department officials emphasize that the new numbers are only preliminary. But at the same time authorities describe the study as compelling evidence affirming the success of law enforcement, the courts and a stiffening of societal attitudes.

"The message has gotten out," said federal appeals court Judge Richard Posner, who has written about existing state laws addressing sex crimes, including rape. "The general influence of women as judges and prosecutors also is more apparent. No longer are you seeing people take a casual approach to this crime."

But most victim's rights groups weren't ready to celebrate the study's findings.

They say the report represents a false sense of reality and fails to take into account an estimated 84% of women

who do not report being sexual assaulted.

"I have to believe that this study is not reflective of what's going on in this country," said National Victim Center spokeswoman Diane Alexander. "We would be seeing rape crisis

centers closing left and right. And we certainly aren't seeing that."

Scott Berkowitz of the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network acknowledged that the Bureau of Justice Statistics survey is among the best and most consistent measures of crime victimization. But he also said that the majority of the 606 crisis centers affiliated with his network have shown an increased demand for services in the past year.

"That doesn't necessarily contradict the crime statistics, but it makes us cautious before we declare we're winning," Berkowitz said.

Linda Vance, a counselor in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, was surprised to check her statistics and find a drop in the number of sexual assault victims who

called for the first time — from 274 in 1994 to 251 in 1995.

"I don't have any explanation for it. It seems like we are busier than ever with calls," Vance said. "I do know that date rape, acquaintance rape is

an increasing proportion of those numbers."

Searching for possible theories, Berkowitz said the survey findings might be due in part to longer prison sentences and to society's get-tough attitude on crime.

However, a separate Justice Department study has shown little change in the numbers of those serving prison time for rape and in the lengths of their sentences.

For example, between 1988 and 1992 (the last year national statistics are available) the number of those sentenced to prison for rape actually declined by 1% and the average prison term dropped from 183 months in 1988 to 164 months in 1992.

Justice officials, however, defended the new report, saying the survey method was actually redesigned in 1992 to elicit more detailed accounts from crime victims and their experiences.

In the category of sex crimes and domestic violence, the Justice Department said it took special care to ensure a "better measure" by developing "enhanced questions on rape, sexual assault ... to get a better estimate of these crimes that are difficult to measure."

Criminologists offered an array of possible explanations for the decline, including a demographic shift between 1981 and 1994 that resulted in fewer 18 to 25 year olds. Mark Cohen of Vanderbilt University said that age group accounts for most perpetrators of violent crime.

Crime experts expressed general surprise, more at the rate of decline than for the overall reduction.

"It really is stunning," said Gerald Robin of the University of New Haven. "I have to believe that this is good evidence of a substantial reduction. I think you have to attribute this to a better survey method."

THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT: SEXUAL ASSAULT

TALKING POINTS

- The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) gives significant attention to sexual assault, as well as domestic violence. Though events covered in the media propelled domestic violence to the forefront shortly after the Violence Against Women Office was established, we have maintained an equal focus on the two issues.
- The VAWA is designed to help victims of sexual assault through provisions such as the civil remedy, reimbursement of the cost of testing for sexually transmitted diseases, and, as a result of the STOP program, victims of sexual assault in all 50 states and 6 territories do not bear any out-of-pocket costs associated with a forensic exam.
- The VAWA is also designed to assist prosecutors in prosecuting sexual assault cases. New rules were added to the Federal Rules of Evidence which provide a more reliable basis of admission by allowing evidence of other sexual offenses committed by the defendant to be admitted and considered on a common sense basis, including consideration of this evidence as tending to show a disposition of the defendant to commit the sexual offense with which he is charged. The National Stalker and Domestic Violence Reduction provision authorized a program to assist states in entering data on stalking and domestic violence into state, local and national data-bases.
- Under the VAWA, research and evaluation were also committed to further understanding of sexual assault and stalking. Research has been completed for the first annual report on the incidence of stalking and domestic violence and evaluation of the effectiveness of state anti-stalking efforts and legislation. The Confidentiality of Communications between Sexual Assault or Domestic Violence Victims and Their Counselors studies and evaluates confidentiality of communications between victims and their counselors and develops model legislation that provides the maximum protection possible for the confidentiality of such communications within applicable constitutional limits.

SUMMARY

The Violence Against Women Act is designed to assist victims of sexual assault and stalking, as well as victims of domestic violence. It also benefits prosecutors as they prosecute these cases. Research and evaluation is included as well to aid in a better understanding of the problems and how the judicial system handles such cases. Additionally, it is a requirement of the VAWA, for information to be compiled about community treatment programs for sex offenders, and to ensure that relevant information is provided to sex offender prior to release from prison.

The Department of Justice is very committed to combatting sexual assault and stalking and to serving the victims of such crimes. Our commitment to this issue extends beyond the scope of the VAWA through the Jacob Wetterling Act, the design and use of CODIS, other research and evaluation, the S.T.O.P grant program, the National Criminal History Improvement Program, and the activities of the Advisory Council on Violence Against Women.

ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND STALKING

PAYMENT OF COST OF TESTING FOR SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

Information to be provided by EOUSA.

THE CIVIL REMEDY

Congress, when it enacted VAWA's civil rights provision, responded to the fact that women, more so than men, have historically been denied unbiased and equal protection of the laws in the state criminal and civil justice systems when seeking redress for their injuries resulting from violent crime. VAWA's civil rights provision assists women in obtaining appropriate relief in either state or federal court, and grants them the ability to enforce their right to be free from gender-motivated crime.

Two lawsuits ~~have been~~ brought thus far under VAWA's civil rights provision, 42 U.S.C. § 13981. Christy Brzonkala v. Virginia Polytechnic and State University, et al. W.D. Va. (filed on Dec. 27, 1995); Jane Doe v. John Doe (D.Conn.) (filed on Dec. 22, 1995). Defendants in both lawsuits have challenged Congress' authority to enact this statute under either the Commerce Clause or the Fourteenth Amendment. The United States has intervened in both cases to defend the constitutionality of the statute. [Please see section on civil prosecutions.]

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STATES PAY FOR FORENSIC EXAMS

The Violence Against Women Act, through the S.T.O.P. grant program, mandates that states and Indian tribes must incur the full out-of-pocket costs of forensic medical examinations for victims of sexual assault. As a result of this provision, victims of sexual assault in all 50 states and 6 territories do not bear any out-of-pocket costs associated with a forensic exam. Eight states or territories changed their legislation to come into compliance with the Act's mandates and four additional states made regulatory changes.

ASSISTANCE TO PROSECUTORS IN CASES OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

EVIDENCE IN SEX OFFENSE CASES

The 1994 Crime Act enacted Rules 413-415 of the Federal Rules of Evidence. These rules broaden the admissibility of evidence in sexual assault and child molestation cases that the defendant has committed offenses of the same type on other occasions. Convictions recently have been obtained in two cases in New Mexico -- one involving a rape offense and the other involving child molestation -- in which evidence of other offenses was admitted under the new rules (United States v. Calvin Dean Peters, United States v. David Kee Mann). The Department has assisted in the enactment of a similar evidentiary rule in California (§ 1108 of the California Evidence Code), which went into effect on January 1, 1996. Arizona has also recently enacted similar legislation.

The new rules are being used regularly in federal sexual assault and child molestation prosecutions, where evidence of the defendant's commission of other sexual offenses is offered. Guidance materials and model briefs have been widely distributed to the U.S. Attorneys' offices, and additional advice and assistance is being provided by Main Justice components as requested.

NATIONAL STALKER AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REDUCTION AND NCHIP

The National Stalker and Domestic Violence Reduction provision (Stalker Reduction), Section 40602 of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), authorized a program to assist States in entering data on stalking and domestic violence into local, State, and national data-bases. The Act emphasizes the importance of ensuring that data on convictions for these crimes are included in databases being developed with Federal funds.

Section 40606 of VAWA authorized technical assistance and training in furtherance of the purposes of the Stalker Reduction provision. This section also allows for the evaluation of programs that receive funds under this provision.

The BJS National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) assists states in improving their criminal history records. The NCHIP Program is an umbrella program that implements the Stalker Reduction provision of VAWA in addition to the grant programs established in the Brady Act and the National Child Protection Act (NCPA).

An appropriations of \$25 million was made in FY96 for grants under the Brady Act and NCPA. An appropriation of \$1.5 million was made in FY 1996 for Stalker Reduction.

Up to \$6.5 million of the funds appropriated in FY 1996 for the NCHIP Program will be used to support the following activities authorized under NCPA and the Stalker Reduction legislation:

- Improving processes for entering data regarding stalking and domestic violence into local, State, and national crime information data bases;

- Capturing domestic violence and/or stalking protection orders;
- Flagging of child and domestic abuse records and crimes against children, the elderly and the disabled;
- Incorporating serious misdemeanor offenses against children, the elderly and the disabled into existing criminal history records; and
- Offsetting the cost to volunteers for background checks, including development and implementation of technological and procedural advances.

Section 40602(b) of the Violent Crime Control Act states that in order to be eligible to receive a grant under the Stalker Reduction provision, a State shall certify that it has or intends to establish a program that enters into the NCIC the following records:

- warrants for the arrest of persons violating protection orders intended to protect victims from stalking or domestic violence;
- arrests or convictions of persons violating protection or domestic violence orders; and
- protection orders for the protection of persons from stalking or domestic violence.

BJS is coordinating the Stalker Reduction portion of NCHIP with the Violence Against Women Grant Office (VAWGO) at OJP and the Violence Against Women Act office (VAWA) in the Department of Justice.

The FY 96 NCHIP Program Announcement, which describes funding for Stalker Reduction, is under review and will be made available as soon as cleared. Consistent with the goals of Stalker Reduction, BJS plans to assist states by developing standardized national definitions for domestic violence measurements.

CODIS

The final guidelines implementing the Jacob Wetterling Act encourage states to collect DNA samples from convicted sex offenders and to participate in CODIS. CODIS (for Combined DNA Index System) is the FBI's program of technical assistance to state and local crime laboratories that allows them to store and match DNA records from convicted offenders and crime scene evidence.

CODIS permits DNA examiners in crime laboratories to exchange forensic DNA data on an intrastate level, and will enable states to exchange DNA records among themselves through the national CODIS system. Thus, collection of DNA samples and participation in CODIS greatly enhance a state's capacity to investigate and solve crimes involving biological evidence, especially serial and stranger rapes.

There are approximately 300 state and local crime laboratories in the United States, and almost one-third currently perform DNA testing in forensic casework. To date, CODIS has been installed in 46 crime laboratories in 27 states and the District of Columbia. The FBI provides CODIS software, in addition to user support and training, free of charge, to state and local crime laboratories for performing forensic DNA analysis.

The Department is continuing its efforts to increase state awareness about CODIS. In addition, funds to increase state participation in CODIS will become available through a new NIJ-administered "DNA Laboratory Improvement Grants (CODIS)" program. This program is being funded by \$8 million in FBI funds that will be transferred to NIJ. Under the new CODIS program, 37 applications will be recommended to the Director of NIJ for funding. Funds will be used to improve the DNA analysis capabilities of state and local crime laboratories. After these laboratories have been upgraded, states can decide whether to participate in CODIS.

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND STALKING

REPORT TO CONGRESS ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, STALKING AND ANTI-STALKING LEGISLATION

The Attorney General is required to submit an annual report to Congress providing information concerning the incidence of stalking and domestic violence, and the effectiveness of State antistalking efforts and legislation. This data collection effort builds on ongoing research done by the staff of the Office of Justice Programs with respect to this issue. The report has been submitted to Congress by the Attorney General.

The study found that little hard data exists on numbers of stalkers and victims involving intimates, but that domestic violence experts and advocates believe that up to 80 percent of stalking cases occur in a domestic violence context.

NIJ is currently conducting research on the experiences of "ordinary" former intimate stalking victims, in order to identify: the evolution and patterns of stalking behavior; the psychological, financial, and behavioral effects of stalking on victims; the effectiveness of legal mechanisms for protecting victims; and the factors related to subsequent violence in stalking cases.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN SEXUAL ASSAULT OR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS AND THEIR COUNSELORS

This provision directs the Attorney General to study and evaluate the manner in which states have taken steps to protect the confidentiality of communications between sexual assault or domestic violence victims and their counselors, and to develop model legislation that provides the maximum protection possible for the confidentiality of such communications within applicable constitutional limits. The report has been completed and submitted to Congress. [Please see the section on the report.]

SEX OFFENDER TREATMENT PROGRAMS

Section 40154 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 requires the Attorney General to compile information about community treatment programs for sex offenders, and to ensure that relevant information is provided to sex offenders prior to release from Federal prison.

The Bureau of Prisons initiated a program to implement this provision on April 4, 1995. The Bureau is coordinating its efforts with the two premier sex offender treatment program information clearinghouses in the United States -- The Safer Society Program and The Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers. Once Bureau staff determine where a sex offender is to be released, they contact these clearinghouses to identify appropriate local sex offender programs. In turn, information about each treatment program, including the name, address, phone number, and treatment information, is provided to the sex offender prior to his or her release. Bureau staff also contact the United States Probation Office (USPO) as a community resource for treatment information. The Bureau provides the USPO a copy of the information given to the inmate to help ensure that sex offenders follow-up with community-based treatment.

The Bureau will monitor the quality of information being provided to sex offenders, and will coordinate efforts with the United States Probation Office to ensure that released sex offenders are benefiting from post-release treatment.

STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN GRANT PROGRAM

States and territories are being encouraged to use their FY 96 STOP funds to develop innovative programs related to **sexual assault and stalking**. Both a letter to all governors announcing the availability of STOP 96 funds and the 96 STOP application kits ~~will~~ contain this language.

THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

On July 13, 1995, Attorney General Reno and HHS Secretary Shalala established the Advisory Council on Violence Against Women. Sexual assault was a focus of a presentation at the first meeting. From the outset, the Advisory Council as a whole has agreed that sexual assault issues should be considered equally with domestic violence issues. There are several members of the Advisory Council who have significant experience working with victims of rape and sexual assault.

At the second meeting in January, 1996, each of the eight subgroups committed to addressing sexual assault in their efforts. [Please see Advisory Council section for eight subgroups.] Several recommendations related to these issues are being implemented. Several examples follow.

- drafted**
- The *Colleges and Universities* subgroup is ~~drafting~~ ^{drafted} a letter from the Attorney General and Secretary Shalala which ~~will be sent to~~ ^{was sent to} the Deans of Students of all colleges and universities. The letter will encourage them to sponsor programs on date rape and to provide resources for victims of such crime.
 - The subgroup on *Sports* has organized a group of representatives from professional sports leagues to discuss a common strategy to address violence against women. The Women's Pro Golf Association is part of this working group and is undertaking a program to encourage self-esteem in young girls.

- The subgroup on *Primary and Secondary Education* will work with the Department of Health and Human Services to develop model curricula for school children about violence. The Department of Health and Human Services received funding in FY 1996 for the project. Included in the model curricula will be information about nurturing the self-esteem of young girls.

- The subgroup on *Media and Entertainment* is developing a survey to elicit "best practices" for effective, positive industry responses to violence against women. Included in the survey will be questions about the portrayal of victims and perpetrators of rape and sexual assault.

CONFIDENTIALITY TALKING POINTS

A successful prosecution depends on the cooperation of the crime victim. Yet, in many cases of sexual assault and domestic violence, a woman who has been the victim of a crime often finds herself victimized a second time when her case goes to court. This is particularly true when the victim receives counseling from an individual who is not a licensed psychologist or psychotherapist, and thus, lacks the testimonial privilege afforded to professionally licensed counselors in most states.

In far too many cases, defense attorneys subpoena counseling records and call counselors as witnesses. The attorneys use the records to shift the court's focus from the crime to the victim's thoughts and comments regarding the emotionally devastating incident. Often, sexual assault victims and battered women face the threat that their most intimate feelings will be disclosed in open court and become a matter of public record.

Sexual assault and domestic violence victims must be able to communicate freely with their counselors, secure in the knowledge that the private thoughts and feelings they reveal during therapy or counseling will not be publicized and scrutinized as a result of reporting the crime. Without assurances of confidentiality, sexual assault and domestic violence victims will be reluctant to contact rape crisis centers or battered women's shelters. Moreover, without the therapeutic benefits of counseling, victims may be reluctant to report crimes and aid in their prosecution.

Pursuant to Section 40153 of the Violence Against Women Act, the Justice Department has studied the ways that states have protected the communications made by sexual assault and domestic violence victims to their counselors and will be issuing a report to Congress.

Over half of the fifty states have enacted legislation addressing the confidentiality of communications between sexual assault and domestic violence victims and their counselors. The state statutes differ in the degree to which confidential communications are protected from disclosure. Some statutes provide a totally absolute privilege where disclosure is not permitted under any circumstances, others provide a semi-absolute privilege where disclosure may be permitted only under specified circumstances when disclosure serves the public interest, and still others provide a qualified privilege where disclosure is permitted after certain requirements are met or balancing tests are employed. State courts have reached different conclusions about the constitutionality of statutes providing totally absolute or semi-absolute privileges.

The U.S. Supreme Court has recently granted certiorari in Jaffee v. Redmond, a case involving the issue of a therapy privilege. At issue was whether conversations between a policewoman who sought counseling after she killed a suspect and a clinical social worker should be confidential and protected from use at trial. The Department is watching this case for any effect it may have on state testimonial privilege statutes.