

December 13, 1993

*file
crime +
violence*

POINTS FOR PRESIDENT'S ANTIVIOLENCE PROGRAM
(Peter Edelman and Phil Heymann)

1. Enact the crime bill (especially community policing)
2. Next steps on guns (whatever the President decides to propose)
3. Media (President announces he is inviting leaders of all the media -- networks, cable, filmmakers, record companies, video toys -- to White House for meeting to discuss what they can do. This obviously needs careful honing of list of requests and knowledge of how they are going to respond.)
4. Neighborhood and community-wide antiviolence coalitions (These are absolutely key to the President's call to take our cities back block by block and neighborhood by neighborhood. They are developing on their own in many communities. We have worked with Denver and Omaha, but seven cities in Texas have action plans for crime prevention connected to broad-based coalition building, and cities like San Diego and Seattle have done their own city-wide task forces. Fort Worth says it has reduced crime in all categories by 25 to 30 percent by the totality of its activities. Could say U.S. Attorneys will lead federal team to draw on federal expertise to help in any city that wants it. Could also propose modest federal cash assistance on a formula basis to states and major cities as "glue" to start up and staff the coalitions. Major message point here: everyone has to take responsibility.)
5. Drug and alcohol treatment (This goes here because drugs and alcohol are so closely interwoven with so much of the violence. There will be a new hard-core drug and alcohol abuser treatment initiative in the FY 95 budget and there is a significant criminal justice drug treatment portion of the crime bill.)
6. Federal law enforcement activities to prosecute and assist local prosecution of violent crime:
 - At local level, define the problem, inventory federal and local prosecution and investigative resources, and develop joint anti-violence strategy. Use integrated force of federal investigators (FBI, DEA, and Customs) to work with local law enforcement.
 - Design federal role as part of the locally determined strategy, based on special advantages of the various federal tools available to assist.
 - Coordinate and share intelligence among federal and local law enforcement agencies.
 - Create new Violent Crime Section in Criminal Division to support training, help in the field, facilitate coordination and share intelligence and ideas.
7. Safe schools (Enact the Safe Schools Act and the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act portion of the Elementary and

Secondary Act reauthorization)

8. Million Mentors Initiative (Get a million mentors out there with young people -- there are perhaps 150,000 to 200,000 now by rough estimates, so this is a reasonable aim. This is prototypical reinventing government. Doing good mentorship programs is neither simple nor free. It requires careful organization to recruit, screen, train, supervise, monitor, support, and provide logistical assistance for mentors. Could propose small grant program to states to distribute as they think most wise. Leverage would be multiplied many times over, because the heart of the effort would be private action.)

9. Turn schools into community centers and enact "Ounce of Prevention" program in crime bill (Would enable nonprofit organizations, colleges, and others to work with schools within neighborhoods to reach "at risk" youth with after-school, evening, and summer academic enrichment and recreation, with lots of adult role models to create meaningful adult relationships for kids who so often lack them, and organized activities to connect youth to labor market. Call for enactment of Ounce of Prevention (Dodd) and Bradley-Danforth-Domenici amendments in crime bill to do these things. Major message point here: There is a tendency to send the message that all youth or all youth in certain categories are threats. All youth have strengths and we need to build on them even as we punish those who engage in violence. Need to treat youth as assets, not collections of problems.)

10. Massive public education

- re guns as dangerous consumer products
- re "time out" or "squash it" to appeal to kids to settle disputes nonviolently
- re real men don't beat women
- re underage drinking

(fund Centers for Disease Control to work with private sector to develop messages)

11. Use national service to get full-time volunteers into violence reduction and prevention activities (Call on everyone involved at grass-roots and on up to make this a priority in implementation of the program.)

12. Get prosecutors and police and social service people to cooperate in each community to implement tough domestic violence arrest and prosecution protocols and safe places for battered women and children to go (Enact Violence Against Women Act provisions in crime bill. Message point: there is a continuity of violence. What children see and experience at home reflects itself all too often in their later behavior.)

13. New hate crimes legislation

14. Strengthen families and parenting skills (Implement recently enacted Family Preservation legislation)

15. Promote jobs and opportunity and hope for young people (This is a missing piece at present, especially for young men, since we will concentrate some effort on young women via welfare reform -- we need some kind of youth employment initiative as part of Job Training Partnership Act reorientation, concentration of resources within national service, or connected to Bill Galston's zero to three year old initiative. Bob Reich tells me he has a \$5 billion idea to revive the CCC -- not bad if we could find the money.)

16. Cut red tape for localities, develop improved on-line computerized information about federal resources, new resource guides and how-to manuals about promising activities to reduce violence.

NOTE: Martin Luther King's birthday would be a good time to do something or things to dramatize all of the above -- possibly a speech or lead a march against violence or go to Lincoln Memorial or meet with kids and talk about Dr. King or some combination.

- 10 subcomm. reports 25 pages
- 1 week set of recommendations
- 30 page summary of vehicle manual & computerized form
- Consumer friendly available
- 10 min. state of the Union
- prevention + law enforcement