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2015-0275-S

rc2045

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 15, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON SCHOOL SAFETY

The East Room

1:28 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Your kindness is interfering with my determination to stay on schedule. (Laughter.) But thank you very much. I want to thank Secretary Riley and Attorney General Reno for their devotion and consistent work on this matter. I thank the Vice President. He and Hillary and I are delighted to have all of you here at the White House today, and the many, many people all across America who are joining us, thanks to the technological revolution.

I thank the members of Congress who are here. And, Governor, thank you for coming -- and the mayors and the other members of the administration, and all the distinguished citizens who are here. Our good friend, Edward James Olmos, thank you for being here.

I saw a survey, a public opinion survey a few months ago that asked the American people what they thought the most important story of the first six months of 1998 was, and dwarfing everything else was the concern our people had for the children who were killed in their schools. And I think that your presence here and the number of people who are involved all across America, the quality of the panelists and, indeed, the courage of many of them -- the mother of one of the children killed at Jonesboro, Arkansas, in my home state, was on the morning panel with Hillary -- this is truly a moving thing. And it's a very important thing for our country.

You know, when I leave here -- and I hope I don't have to leave before this panel is over, but I think all of you know that we have been able to put together a conference for several days, a meeting between the Prime Minister of Israel and the Chairman of the PLO in our attempts to make the next big step toward peace in the Middle East. And I got to thinking about it on the way over here today, as I was walking over from the Oval Office, and all the things I'm trying to get these people to lay down and get over and give up, so they can go on with their children's future, so that we can stop innocent children from being killed in the place in the world that is the home of the world's three great monotheistic religions.

It's all a part of our attempt not to give up on anybody and not to permit hatred or anger to destroy even one child's life anywhere. And if we're going to do that elsewhere in the world, to try to be a force for good, then we have to be as good as we can here at home. And all of you are trying to help us achieve that, and I'm very, very grateful to you.

Because this is the only chance I'll have to do it today, and because all of you care so much about education, I'd like to just take a moment to talk about where these budget negotiations are on Capitol Hill. They're about to concluded, I hope -- they've certainly gone on long enough. But we're not quite there yet. However, even though there are still points outstanding, I believe we'll succeed. And as the Vice President said, one thing we know

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already, we know that now this budget will reflect a major commitment to education and to the future of our children.

I am very pleased it will make the first installment on our plan to hire 100,000 new teachers. (Applause.) You heard the Vice President's catalogue of the class size issue, but the Secretary of Education tells me that we haven't fully grasped it because, unlike the baby boom, we think that this increase in our children will go on more or less indefinitely, and we've got a lot of very fine teachers in the classroom who will be retiring in the next few years. So this is a huge challenge for us.

The United States has never before done anything like this. And there were a lot of people who honestly thought I was wrong to fight for this or they disagreed with me, but it seems to me that we had enough experience when we put 100,000 police on the street. I was told the United States had never done anything like that before. We didn't have anything to do with telling the cities where the police should go, but the results have been pretty satisfactory. And everywhere I go, someone mentions it to me.

If it worked there and we have crime at a 25-year low, how much more important is it to put the children in the classroom? And this will make a major down payment toward our goal of an average class size of 18 in the early grades -- very different from what has been reported.

And I should also say that when the Attorney General and the Secretary of Education went out across the country in the wake of all of these school shootings, and they met with educators and they met with people talking about how we can prevent these things from happening in the first place, one of the things that they were told was, get us small classes in the early grades so that we can get to know these children, find out the ones who obviously have got some serious problems, and try to get them the help they need before their lives and others' are irrevocably changed. So this is a very, very good day for the United States.

There were some other very important educational initiatives that will be fully supported -- our child literacy drive, to make sure every child can read independently by the end of the 3rd grade; our college mentoring drive to help lower-income students prepare for college and to be able to tell every one of them what kind of financial aid they'll get if they stay in school and learn their lessons and stay out of trouble.

It increases support for Head Start, expands the number of innovative charter schools. There are now 1,000 of those schools in America; there was one when I became President, and there will be 3,000 before we're done in 2000.

We will provide for half a million summer jobs for our young people, a program that many had sought to eliminate. It will provide for after-school programs for a quarter million young people. And I think we all know how important that is.

I'm very, very grateful for the strong support I have received from the members of my party in the Congress to turn away attempts to actually cut funds from our public schools and instead to renew our historic commitment to them, to more and better-trained teachers, to smaller classes, to hooking up all those classrooms to the Internet by the year 2000, for extra support for children who need it, for accountability and choice.

This is what I mean by putting partisanship behind progress, by putting people ahead of politics. And I am grateful to all those in both parties who are responsible for pulling this agreement together.

There's still a lot to be done. A lot of these teachers we'll hire will have to hold class in trailers or hallways, or crowded or crumbling classrooms. I proposed in the State of the Union a targeted tax cut for school modernization that was fully paid for, wouldn't take a dime from the surplus, won't create a single new federal bureaucracy, but it will lower the cost of building these buildings. It could mean as much as 300 new schools in Florida alone next year.

If our children are learning in trailers and schools with broken windows and where the wiring won't even permit them to be hooked up to computers, then we're not getting them ready for the 21st century. So I do want to say, while I am profoundly grateful for the 100,000 teachers, I am determined to see that we finish the job next year in the next Congress. (Applause.)

Now, I also want to thank the First Lady for her role in this conference. We've been at this a long time. In 1983, when I was governor of our state, I asked Hillary to chair a commission on school standards, and one of the things that we fought hardest for, that was very controversial at the time, was to have a class size limit of 20 in the early grades. And 15 years ago, it was a hard fight, and we got it. And I haven't checked the numbers yet, but I bet, given the growth in population in our schools, they're being swamped and hard-pressed to meet it. And we really believe that making this a national goal and sticking with it will pay major, major benefits to our children all across the country.

Let me also say what I've already said a little bit of. The American people -- if I had been polled, I would have been right there with them. I think that all of us were shocked by the violence we saw in Springfield and Paducah and Jonesboro and Edinboro and Pearl. I think we're still disturbed when we see the sights of metal detectors in school doorways or see gangs of young people who are on the streets when they ought to be in the halls of their schools.

We know that there are still some schools where children are afraid to go to school. And doing something about school violence, therefore, is very important, but also we have to understand the nature, the magnitude of the problem. Why do some teenagers from some troubled backgrounds pick up guns and open fire on their classmates? Why do some teenagers who don't appear to have trouble at home do the same thing? What is at the bottom of this and what can we really do?

You know, I have to say this -- and I'm not blaming anybody because I've done it myself, so I will posit the fact that I have done this -- but when people are in elected office and they hear about a problem like this, and they know the people they're doing their best to represent are afraid, the first impulse is always to say, well, if we just punish them a little harder and a little faster and kept them a little longer, everything would be all right. Now, the truth is that some people are so far gone and what they have done is so heinous that that is the appropriate thing to do. But I have never met a police officer in my life who believed that we could punish our way out of our social problems without other appropriate actions -- not one time. And I think we're all here because we believe in a good society we would stop more bad things from happening in the first place.

The report that's being released today tells us that the vast majority of our schools are safe, that the majority of our children are learning in peace and security. But it also tells us that in too many schools students feel unsafe. Even if they're not, if they feel unsafe it's going to have a huge detrimental impact on their ability to learn and grow and relate to their fellow students in an appropriate way.

In too many schools, there is still too much disrespect for authority and still too much intolerance of other students from different backgrounds. Our schools, all of them, must be sanctuaries of safety and civility and respect.

Now, here are some things that I think we can do to help you meet the challenge. First, in the schools with the biggest violence problems, security has to be the top priority. Today, I am pleased to announce a new \$65-million initiative to help schools hire and train 2,000 new community police and school resource officers to work closely with principals and teachers and parents and the students, themselves, to develop antiviolence and antidrug plans, based on the actual needs of individual schools. Community policing has helped to make our streets safe; it can work for our schools, too.

I'm also very pleased that Congressman Jim Maloney of Connecticut has sponsored a bill to help schools use the funds available for hiring the community police officers to hire officers to work with the schools. This bill was passed by the House and Senate and it will get up here to me in a day or two and I'll look forward to signing it into law.

Second, we have to help schools recognize the early warning signs of violence and to respond to violence when it does strike. Today, I want to tell you that soon I will be sending to Congress a plan to create a School Emergency Response to Violence, the SERV Program, that will work just as FEMA does when it responds to natural disasters. Project SERV will travel to where the trouble is and help communities respond quickly to school violence, from helping schools to meet increased security needs, to providing emergency and longer-term mental health crisis counseling for students, faculty and their families.

Now, let me just say a word here of appreciation to somebody who is not here, to Tipper Gore, who, once she became 50, fell victim to the Vice President and my propensity for leg injuries -- (laughter) -- but, you know, more than any other person in America since we've been here in the White House, she has tried to elevate the importance of proper mental health care and the fundamental dignity of it. And I think that we have got to, all of us, keep working until we remove any last vestige of stigma that attaches to getting treatment for children who have troubling mental problems. We know that most of them, the vast majority of them, can be treated successfully. And we know that it is not a cause for shame or denial among families. And we have to keep working on that. And all of you, I ask you to join Tipper Gore and others who understand this and try to make that a part of our approach to this issue as well.

Third, we can't stop the prevention efforts at the schoolhouse door. As I said, the budget agreement we reached today will double or more the after-school programs that keep young people safe after the bell rings. But if young people leave the safe school and enter an unsafe community, they're in trouble.

Today we want to announce two new steps to help them meet that challenge. Our Safe Schools-Safe Communities initiative will help 10 targeted communities develop plans to reduce youth violence and drug use in and out of school -- not only more police, but after-school programs, mentoring, counseling, conflict resolution, mental health services, and more. We wanted to put together in at least 10 places that don't have it now, a truly comprehensive approach.

I'm also pleased to announce that in response to constructive criticism and suggestions from many members of Congress and educators and community leaders across this country, we're going

to overhaul our Safe and Drug-Free Schools program, which we have dramatically increased in the last few years, to require schools who get the funds to establish tough, but fair discipline rules; to put in place proven drug prevention strategies; to issue yearly school safety and drug use report cards to measure their own progress. These methods have worked so well in cities like Boston, they can work around the country, and it will guarantee that the money that's being spent will actually achieve the results that it's been appropriated to achieve.

Fourth, we have to expect more from young people themselves. Given the facts, the resources, the encouragement, almost all of them will do the right thing. This year we launched a huge media campaign to tell young people that drugs are wrong, illegal and can kill you. Now we have to tell them they, too, have responsibilities to prevent youth violence, to help their fellow students who are violence prone, to report trouble signs they see and try to help kids get the help they need.

I am pleased that MTV is going to work with us to launch a new campaign to encourage people to become mentors -- young people -- to help their peers resolve their conflicts peacefully. And, again, I'm very grateful and I'd like for all of you to join me in thanking MTV for their willingness to invest in this important endeavor. (Applause.)

Lastly -- I've spoken a little longer than I meant to because I wanted to really hear the panelists, but I return to the theme on which I began and what I will do when I leave here in working for the peace process in the Middle East. We have got to do more to teach our young people to have tolerance and respect for one another; to understand the rich and only superficial dichotomy that the more we appreciate each other's diversity, the more we reaffirm the fundamental core values and existence we have in common.

The recent death of young Matthew Shepard in Wyoming makes it all too clear to us that violence still can be motivated by prejudice and hatred. Yes, we do need a new hate crimes law. And I have directed the Education Department Civil Office to step up its enforcement to stop discrimination and harassment against students. But, again, ultimately, we have to be reconciled to one another. We have to believe in one another's fundamental humanity and equal right to be here and to become whatever they can become.

And I hope that all of us -- the young people of this country, because our school population is more diverse than ever before, and because to some extent they are unburdened by some of the problems that their parents and grandparents grew up with, can go either way with this issue. If they become the victims of a kind of a current climate of prejudice and bigotry and a sense of opposition and isolation, because of our increasing diversity it could wreak total havoc in this country, in a way that we can't even imagine and even couldn't have imagined in the old days of the civil rights years. But if they do what they will do left to their own better selves, then the increasing diversity of America is something that will guarantee us renewed strength, unparalleled opportunities in the 21st century world.

So I don't think we should forget that, either. In the end, the human heart still counts for quite a great deal, and we ought to bring out the best in all the ones we can.

Now, I would like to start the program -- and I'm going to sit down to do it -- and I'd like to begin with Mr. Kent, Jamonn Kent, who is the Superintendent of the Springfield, Oregon, public schools, that I had the honor the visit after the terrible incident there. And because we're running a little late, I'm going to do something a little bit unconventional. I'm going to call on the all

the panelists to make their remarks and then open for questions, starting with Mr. Kent. (Applause.)

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THE PRESIDENT: I don't want to violate my own rule, so I won't ask a question, but I do want to highlight one thing he said, because if it resonates with your experience, then we need your feedback to the Attorney General and to the Secretary of Education, ultimately to the Congress.

We now have a national policy of zero tolerance for guns in schools. Last year, I believe the number of -- the Secretary of Education can correct me if I make a mistake -- last year, I believe there were 6,000 children who were found -- students who were found with guns. Guns were taken, and they were sent home. This actually happened in Oregon to this young man right before he came back the next day and killed the kids.

So the question is what is -- we have to find the constitutional fix here, and then the schools have to have the resources so that you don't just take a gun and expel somebody because there's obviously something going on inside the child that is just as important as the physical manifestation of having the gun. So that was the one thing that they've really done in Springfield, is to sort of spark a nationwide reassessment of what we ought to do with the children besides just send them home.

And they've proposed a period of 72 hours or some sort of period of evaluation, and we're trying to work out the details of it. But if any of you have any thoughts about this, I would ask you to give it to us, because that's a very clear issue that was raised in the Springfield case, that I must confess until I went and talked to them had never occurred to me before.

I'd like to now call on Commissioner Paul Evans, the Police Commissioner from Boston who led Boston's innovative operation Cease-fire. I spent a half a day up there with the Mayor and the Commissioner and others several months ago. And many of you know that Boston went for over two years without having a single child under 18 killed by a gun. That's astonishing. (Applause.)

And so I would like for Commissioner Evans to make whatever remarks he'd like to make on this subject.

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THE PRESIDENT: I would like to make one brief observation about what the Commissioner said, because I have spent a great deal of time in Boston -- and I don't want to single them out in derogation of the astonishing efforts that have been made elsewhere, many of which have already been featured. But the thing that strikes me -- it struck me when I spent a day up there and I met with -- the Mayor's got a nun who represents him, who has this youth council for the city. The city has its own youth council, like others have the city council. But the thing that struck me about Boston is they do things that seem obvious when you hear about them, but a lot of people don't do it. The systematic contact that they have in a personal, one-to-one way, with a huge percentage of the young people in their cities is quite astonishing.

And if somebody asked me, in a sentence, why have they been so successful, I would say they mobilize in a systematic way a consistent contact with a huge percentage of the young people. The idea of, you know, well, we hear we're going to have a gang problem in middle school, why don't we go interview the customers. You know, if you were running a business that's exactly what you'd do. But I

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think they deserve a lot of appreciation, but also a lot of modeling for that.

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THE PRESIDENT: I have two brief things to say. First of all, don't you feel better knowing that there are people like her in the classrooms of America? (Applause.)

And second, I want to thank you for what you said about school uniforms. When Secretary Riley and I set out to promote school uniforms around the country, there were some here in Washington who derided this as one of those "little ideas" that we were constantly harping on. It may be a little idea, but I have never been to a school that had them that didn't think it made a huge difference in the lives of the children there. And so I thank you for giving a boost to that endeavor.

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THE PRESIDENT: First of all, I want to apologize to all of you, and in particular to Mayor Corradini, who made a terrific presentation, according to the First Lady. I got a call -- we just completed our agreement on the budget and the negotiations -- (applause.) In a half hour or so, for the members of the press, we'll have a statement about that.

But let me say, first, I think about Congressman Etheridge, it is -- one of the things that we desperately -- that we need so much in Congress -- Congress works better when there are people in the Congress who have all kinds of different experiences that are relevant. It's an incredible gift that we have a member of the House of Representatives that was actually a state superintendent of public instruction. And the influence he can have on other members and the role he can play in the years ahead I think is virtually limitless just because of the life he lived before he came there. And I'm very grateful for what he said today and for what he's done.

I would also like to thank Mayor Corradini for the report, for the recommendations and for the Best Practices booklet. I think that we need -- every single challenge we've got in this country, we'd be a lot better off if everybody who was working on it issued a Best Practices book, because one of my pet theories is that everybody solved every problem somewhere, but we're not very good at playing copycat when we ought to. So I thank her for that.

The only other thing I want to say, and then I want to turn it over to the Vice President and let him ask a question, is that the mayors recommended new youth counselors, and Bob talked about other kinds of support personnel on security issues. One of the things that we had to fight hardest for in 1983, that Hillary convinced me we ought to do 15 years ago, was to require every elementary school to have a counselor. But 15 years later, it looks like a pretty good decision.

And I think we have to -- with people who have to pay for these things, with the taxpayers and others who may not deal with it, we need to let them know that a well-trained counselor dealing with the kind of challenges these children face is a terrific investment. And I appreciate the recommendation of the mayors and I like forward to following up on them.

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THE PRESIDENT: I would have an elementary school that would have classes between 15 and 20 in the early grades. I would

have a maximum number of kids in the school of about 300. I would have -- and about 1,000 for the high school. I would have the support personnel, I'd have all the teachers trained, and I'd have a parent coordinator that had huge numbers of the parents coming in and out of the schools all the time.

And then I'd try to figure out how to make young people like Liberty the rule rather than the exception. That is -- I was sitting here when she was telling her story -- I was thinking about she got to the Boys and Girls Club, and that's a good thing, but there's a whole bunch of kids that live in the place where she does that didn't get there, and that's not a good thing. And so I think that would mean you'd either have comprehensive before- and after-school programs and summer school programs for the kids on-site, or there would be some system by which the school, in effect, connected every child to responsible adult community groups of some kind that Professor Earles says works so well.

I think those are the things that I would -- I basically believe you've got to have problem-solving mechanisms, but I think the prevention approach is by far the best approach. And I think almost all -- so that's what I would do.

In the high schools, it's more complicated. I'd also have a uniform policy. I think they're very important. I'd be in a community that had a strong antitruancy policy. If I had a violence problem, I'd have a curfew. I'd be interconnected with all of the churches and synagogues and other faith institutions. I would have the school bringing people in in a systematic way, and I would be connected with the police department that would do what the Commissioner explained that they tried to do in Boston.

But I think -- in the high schools, I think that, as I said, I'd make sure that we had programs that would keep every child who needed it, give them all an opportunity to be in the school.

Let me just say one other thing that I think is worth saying. It may have been put on the table while I was out briefly. But twice -- if you read what the mayors say here, twice, they say, they talk about the importance of the arts programs, the music programs, the physical education programs -- not the kids that are on the athletic teams, the other things. I have seen school after school after school all across this country, because of the financial burdens on the schools, have to abandon these programs. And I think it is terrible.

I think that -- basically, all of these people are saying you've got to treat the whole child here, deal with the whole child, deal with the family situation, deal with the community situation. And I just wanted to put in a little plug for that. I think that there are a lot of ways to learn in this life, a lot of ways to communicate in this life, and a lot of ways for people to find greater peace and connection. And I think it's been a terrible setback to American education that so many schools have had to abandon their art programs, their music programs and their physical education programs for the non-team athletes. Anything we can do to advance that I think would also be positive. (Applause.)

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THE PRESIDENT: Let me say, I wish we could stay here another hour, but we have another panel. We don't want to deprive them of the opportunity to make their contributions and to be heard. Perhaps at the end of that, you could have a more free-flowing question and answer session.

But again, let me thank all of you. And let me ask you to join me in thanking all of our remarkable panelists for their contributions. Thank you. (Applause.)

END

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I'm very, very grateful for the strong support I have received from the members of my party in the Congress to turn away attempts to actually cut funds from our public schools and instead to renew our historic commitment to them, to more and better-trained teachers, to smaller classes, to hooking up all those classrooms to the Internet by the year 2000, for extra support for children who need it, for accountability and choice.

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Now, I also want to thank the First Lady for her role in this conference. We've been at this a long time. In 1983, when I was governor of our state, I asked Hillary to chair a commission on school standards, and one of the things that we fought hardest for, that was very controversial at the time, was to have a class size limit of 20 in the early grades. And 15 years ago, it was a hard fight, and we got it. And I haven't checked the numbers yet, but I bet, given the growth in population in our schools, they're being swamped and hard-pressed to meet it. And we really believe that making this a national goal and sticking with it will pay major, major benefits to our children all across the country.

Let me also say what I've already said a little bit of. The American people -- if I had been polled, I would have been right there with them. I think that all of us were shocked by the violence we saw in Springfield and Paducah and Jonesboro and Edinboro and Pearl. I think we're still disturbed when we see the sights of metal detectors in school doorways or see gangs of young people who are on the streets when they ought to be in the halls of their schools.

We know that there are still some schools where children are afraid to go to school. And doing something about school violence, therefore, is very important, but also we have to understand the nature, the magnitude of the problem. Why do some teenagers from some troubled backgrounds pick up guns and open fire on their classmates? Why do some teenagers who don't appear to have trouble at home do the same thing? What is at the bottom of this and what can we really do?

You know, I have to say this -- and I'm not blaming anybody because I've done it myself, so I will posit the fact that I have done this -- but when people are in elected office and they hear about a problem like this, and they know the people they're doing their best to represent are afraid, the first impulse is always to say, well, if we just punish them a little harder and a little faster and kept them a little longer, everything would be all right. Now, the truth is that some people are so far gone and what they have done is so heinous that that is the appropriate thing to do. But I have never met a police officer in my life who believed that we could punish our way out of our social problems without other appropriate actions -- not one time. And I think we're all here because we believe in a good society we would stop more bad things from happening in the first place.

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Now, here are some things that I think we can do to help you meet the challenge. First, in the schools with the biggest violence problems, security has to be the top priority. Today, I am pleased to announce a new \$65-million initiative to help schools hire and train 2,000 new community police and school resource officers to work closely with principals and teachers and parents and the students, themselves, to develop antiviolence and antidrug plans, based on the actual needs of individual schools. Community policing has helped to make our streets safe; it can work for our schools, too.

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Third, we can't stop the prevention efforts at the schoolhouse door. As I said, the budget agreement we reached today will double or more the after-school programs that keep young people safe after the bell rings. But if young people leave the safe school and enter an unsafe community, they're in trouble.

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to overhaul our Safe and Drug-Free Schools program, which we have dramatically increased in the last few years, to require schools who get the funds to establish tough, but fair discipline rules; to put in place proven drug prevention strategies; to issue yearly school safety and drug use report cards to measure their own progress. These methods have worked so well in cities like Boston, they can work around the country, and it will guarantee that the money that's being spent will actually achieve the results that it's been appropriated to achieve.

Fourth, we have to expect more from young people themselves. Given the facts, the resources, the encouragement, almost all of them will do the right thing. This year we launched a huge media campaign to tell young people that drugs are wrong, illegal and can kill you. Now we have to tell them they, too, have responsibilities to prevent youth violence, to help their fellow students who are violence prone, to report trouble signs they see and try to help kids get the help they need.

I am pleased that MTV is going to work with us to launch a new campaign to encourage people to become mentors -- young people -- to help their peers resolve their conflicts peacefully. And, again, I'm very grateful and I'd like for all of you to join me in thanking MTV for their willingness to invest in this important endeavor. (Applause.)

Lastly -- I've spoken a little longer than I meant to because I wanted to really hear the panelists, but I return to the theme on which I began and what I will do when I leave here in working for the peace process in the Middle East. We have got to do more to teach our young people to have tolerance and respect for one another; to understand the rich and only superficial dichotomy that the more we appreciate each other's diversity, the more we reaffirm the fundamental core values and existence we have in common.

The recent death of young Matthew Shepard in Wyoming makes it all too clear to us that violence still can be motivated by prejudice and hatred. Yes, we do need a new hate crimes law. And I have directed the Education Department Civil Office to step up its enforcement to stop discrimination and harassment against students. But, again, ultimately, we have to be reconciled to one another. We have to believe in one another's fundamental humanity and equal right to be here and to become whatever they can become.

And I hope that all of us -- the young people of this country, because our school population is more diverse than ever before, and because to some extent they are unburdened by some of the problems that their parents and grandparents grew up with, can go either way with this issue. If they become the victims of a kind of a current climate of prejudice and bigotry and a sense of opposition and isolation, because of our increasing diversity it could wreak total havoc in this country, in a way that we can't even imagine and even couldn't have imagined in the old days of the civil rights years. But if they do what they will do left to their own better selves, then the increasing diversity of America is something that will guarantee us renewed strength, unparalleled opportunities in the 21st century world.

So I don't think we should forget that, either. In the end, the human heart still counts for quite a great deal, and we ought to bring out the best in all the ones we can.

Now, I would like to start the program -- and I'm going to sit down to do it -- and I'd like to begin with Mr. Kent, Jamonn Kent, who is the Superintendent of the Springfield, Oregon, public schools, that I had the honor the visit after the terrible incident there. And because we're running a little late, I'm going to do something a little bit unconventional. I'm going to call on the all

the panelists to make their remarks and then open for questions, starting with Mr. Kent. (Applause.)

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THE PRESIDENT: I don't want to violate my own rule, so I won't ask a question, but I do want to highlight one thing he said, because if it resonates with your experience, then we need your feedback to the Attorney General and to the Secretary of Education, ultimately to the Congress.

We now have a national policy of zero tolerance for guns in schools. Last year, I believe the number of -- the Secretary of Education can correct me if I make a mistake -- last year, I believe there were 6,000 children who were found -- students who were found with guns. Guns were taken, and they were sent home. This actually happened in Oregon to this young man right before he came back the next day and killed the kids.

So the question is what is -- we have to find the constitutional fix here, and then the schools have to have the resources so that you don't just take a gun and expel somebody because there's obviously something going on inside the child that is just as important as the physical manifestation of having the gun. So that was the one thing that they've really done in Springfield, is to sort of spark a nationwide reassessment of what we ought to do with the children besides just send them home.

And they've proposed a period of 72 hours or some sort of period of evaluation, and we're trying to work out the details of it. But if any of you have any thoughts about this, I would ask you to give it to us, because that's a very clear issue that was raised in the Springfield case, that I must confess until I went and talked to them had never occurred to me before.

I'd like to now call on Commissioner Paul Evans, the Police Commissioner from Boston who led Boston's innovative operation Cease-fire. I spent a half a day up there with the Mayor and the Commissioner and others several months ago. And many of you know that Boston went for over two years without having a single child under 18 killed by a gun. That's astonishing. (Applause.)

And so I would like for Commissioner Evans to make whatever remarks he'd like to make on this subject.

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THE PRESIDENT: I would like to make one brief observation about what the Commissioner said, because I have spent a great deal of time in Boston -- and I don't want to single them out in derogation of the astonishing efforts that have been made elsewhere, many of which have already been featured. But the thing that strikes me -- it struck me when I spent a day up there and I met with -- the Mayor's got a nun who represents him, who has this youth council for the city. The city has its own youth council, like others have the city council. But the thing that struck me about Boston is they do things that seem obvious when you hear about them, but a lot of people don't do it. The systematic contact that they have in a personal, one-to-one way, with a huge percentage of the young people in their cities is quite astonishing.

And if somebody asked me, in a sentence, why have they been so successful, I would say they mobilize in a systematic way a consistent contact with a huge percentage of the young people. The idea of, you know, well, we hear we're going to have a gang problem in middle school, why don't we go interview the customers. You know, if you were running a business that's exactly what you'd do. But I

think they deserve a lot of appreciation, but also a lot of modeling for that.

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THE PRESIDENT: I have two brief things to say. First of all, don't you feel better knowing that there are people like her in the classrooms of America? (Applause.)

And second, I want to thank you for what you said about school uniforms. When Secretary Riley and I set out to promote school uniforms around the country, there were some here in Washington who derided this as one of those "little ideas" that we were constantly harping on. It may be a little idea, but I have never been to a school that had them that didn't think it made a huge difference in the lives of the children there. And so I thank you for giving a boost to that endeavor.

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THE PRESIDENT: First of all, I want to apologize to all of you, and in particular to Mayor Corradini, who made a terrific presentation, according to the First Lady. I got a call -- we just completed our agreement on the budget and the negotiations -- (applause.) In a half hour or so, for the members of the press, we'll have a statement about that.

But let me say, first, I think about Congressman Etheridge, it is -- one of the things that we desperately -- that we need so much in Congress -- Congress works better when there are people in the Congress who have all kinds of different experiences that are relevant. It's an incredible gift that we have a member of the House of Representatives that was actually a state superintendent of public instruction. And the influence he can have on other members and the role he can play in the years ahead I think is virtually limitless just because of the life he lived before he came there. And I'm very grateful for what he said today and for what he's done.

I would also like to thank Mayor Corradini for the report, for the recommendations and for the Best Practices booklet. I think that we need -- every single challenge we've got in this country, we'd be a lot better off if everybody who was working on it issued a Best Practices book, because one of my pet theories is that everybody solved every problem somewhere, but we're not very good at playing copycat when we ought to. So I thank her for that.

The only other thing I want to say, and then I want to turn it over to the Vice President and let him ask a question, is that the mayors recommended new youth counselors, and Bob talked about other kinds of support personnel on security issues. One of the things that we had to fight hardest for in 1983, that Hillary convinced me we ought to do 15 years ago, was to require every elementary school to have a counselor. But 15 years later, it looks like a pretty good decision.

And I think we have to -- with people who have to pay for these things, with the taxpayers and others who may not deal with it, we need to let them know that a well-trained counselor dealing with the kind of challenges these children face is a terrific investment. And I appreciate the recommendation of the mayors and I like forward to following up on them.

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THE PRESIDENT: I would have an elementary school that would have classes between 15 and 20 in the early grades. I would

have a maximum number of kids in the school of about 300. I would have -- and about 1,000 for the high school. I would have the support personnel, I'd have all the teachers trained, and I'd have a parent coordinator that had huge numbers of the parents coming in and out of the schools all the time.

And then I'd try to figure out how to make young people like Liberty the rule rather than the exception. That is -- I was sitting here when she was telling her story -- I was thinking about she got to the Boys and Girls Club, and that's a good thing, but there's a whole bunch of kids that live in the place where she does that didn't get there, and that's not a good thing. And so I think that would mean you'd either have comprehensive before- and after-school programs and summer school programs for the kids on-site, or there would be some system by which the school, in effect, connected every child to responsible adult community groups of some kind that Professor Earles says works so well.

I think those are the things that I would -- I basically believe you've got to have problem-solving mechanisms, but I think the prevention approach is by far the best approach. And I think almost all -- so that's what I would do.

In the high schools, it's more complicated. I'd also have a uniform policy. I think they're very important. I'd be in a community that had a strong antitruancy policy. If I had a violence problem, I'd have a curfew. I'd be interconnected with all of the churches and synagogues and other faith institutions. I would have the school bringing people in in a systematic way, and I would be connected with the police department that would do what the Commissioner explained that they tried to do in Boston.

But I think -- in the high schools, I think that, as I said, I'd make sure that we had programs that would keep every child who needed it, give them all an opportunity to be in the school.

Let me just say one other thing that I think is worth saying. It may have been put on the table while I was out briefly. But twice -- if you read what the mayors say here, twice, they say, they talk about the importance of the arts programs, the music programs, the physical education programs -- not the kids that are on the athletic teams, the other things. I have seen school after school after school all across this country, because of the financial burdens on the schools, have to abandon these programs. And I think it is terrible.

I think that -- basically, all of these people are saying you've got to treat the whole child here, deal with the whole child, deal with the family situation, deal with the community situation. And I just wanted to put in a little plug for that. I think that there are a lot of ways to learn in this life, a lot of ways to communicate in this life, and a lot of ways for people to find greater peace and connection. And I think it's been a terrible setback to American education that so many schools have had to abandon their art programs, their music programs and their physical education programs for the non-team athletes. Anything we can do to advance that I think would also be positive. (Applause.)

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THE PRESIDENT: Let me say, I wish we could stay here another hour, but we have another panel. We don't want to deprive them of the opportunity to make their contributions and to be heard. Perhaps at the end of that, you could have a more free-flowing question and answer session.

But again, let me thank all of you. And let me ask you to join me in thanking all of our remarkable panelists for their contributions. Thank you. (Applause.)

END

3:00 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 15, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON SCHOOL SAFETY

The East Room

1:28 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Your kindness is interfering with my determination to stay on schedule. (Laughter.) But thank you very much. I want to thank Secretary Riley and Attorney General Reno for their devotion and consistent work on this matter. I thank the Vice President. He and Hillary and I are delighted to have all of you here at the White House today, and the many, many people all across America who are joining us, thanks to the technological revolution.

I thank the members of Congress who are here. And, Governor, thank you for coming -- and the mayors and the other members of the administration, and all the distinguished citizens who are here. Our good friend, Edward James Olmos, thank you for being here.

I saw a survey, a public opinion survey a few months ago that asked the American people what they thought the most important story of the first six months of 1998 was, and dwarfing everything else was the concern our people had for the children who were killed in their schools. And I think that your presence here and the number of people who are involved all across America, the quality of the panelists and, indeed, the courage of many of them -- the mother of one of the children killed at Jonesboro, Arkansas, in my home state, was on the morning panel with Hillary -- this is truly a moving thing. And it's a very important thing for our country.

You know, when I leave here -- and I hope I don't have to leave before this panel is over, but I think all of you know that we have been able to put together a conference for several days, a meeting between the Prime Minister of Israel and the Chairman of the PLO in our attempts to make the next big step toward peace in the Middle East. And I got to thinking about it on the way over here today, as I was walking over from the Oval Office, and all the things I'm trying to get these people to lay down and get over and give up, so they can go on with their children's future, so that we can stop innocent children from being killed in the place in the world that is the home of the world's three great monotheistic religions.

It's all a part of our attempt not to give up on anybody and not to permit hatred or anger to destroy even one child's life anywhere. And if we're going to do that elsewhere in the world, to try to be a force for good, then we have to be as good as we can here at home. And all of you are trying to help us achieve that, and I'm very, very grateful to you.

Because this is the only chance I'll have to do it today, and because all of you care so much about education, I'd like to just take a moment to talk about where these budget negotiations are on Capitol Hill. They're about to be concluded, I hope -- they've certainly gone on long enough. But we're not quite there yet. However, even though there are still points outstanding, I believe we'll succeed. And as the Vice President said, one thing we know

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already, we know that now this budget will reflect a major commitment to education and to the future of our children.

I am very pleased it will make the first installment on our plan to hire 100,000 new teachers. (Applause.) You heard the Vice President's catalogue of the class size issue, but the Secretary of Education tells me that we haven't fully grasped it because, unlike the baby boom, we think that this increase in our children will go on more or less indefinitely, and we've got a lot of very fine teachers in the classroom who will be retiring in the next few years. So this is a huge challenge for us.

The United States has never before done anything like this. And there were a lot of people who honestly thought I was wrong to fight for this or they disagreed with me, but it seems to me that we had enough experience when we put 100,000 police on the street. I was told the United States had never done anything like that before. We didn't have anything to do with telling the cities where the police should go, but the results have been pretty satisfactory. And everywhere I go, someone mentions it to me.

If it worked there and we have crime at a 25-year low, how much more important is it to put the children in the classroom? And this will make a major down payment toward our goal of an average class size of 18 in the early grades -- very different from what has been reported.

And I should also say that when the Attorney General and the Secretary of Education went out across the country in the wake of all of these school shootings, and they met with educators and they met with people talking about how we can prevent these things from happening in the first place, one of the things that they were told was, get us small classes in the early grades so that we can get to know these children, find out the ones who obviously have got some serious problems, and try to get them the help they need before their lives and others' are irrevocably changed. So this is a very, very good day for the United States.

There were some other very important educational initiatives that will be fully supported -- our child literacy drive, to make sure every child can read independently by the end of the 3rd grade; our college mentoring drive to help lower-income students prepare for college and to be able to tell every one of them what kind of financial aid they'll get if they stay in school and learn their lessons and stay out of trouble.

It increases support for Head Start, expands the number of innovative charter schools. There are now 1,000 of those schools in America; there was one when I became President, and there will be 3,000 before we're done in 2000.

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You know, I have to say this -- and I'm not blaming anybody because I've done it myself, so I will posit the fact that I have done this -- but when people are in elected office and they hear about a problem like this, and they know the people they're doing their best to represent are afraid, the first impulse is always to say, well, if we just punish them a little harder and a little faster and kept them a little longer, everything would be all right. Now, the truth is that some people are so far gone and what they have done is so heinous that that is the appropriate thing to do. But I have never met a police officer in my life who believed that we could punish our way out of our social problems without other appropriate actions -- not one time. And I think we're all here because we believe in a good society we would stop more bad things from happening in the first place.

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I'm also pleased to announce that in response to constructive criticism and suggestions from many members of Congress and educators and community leaders across this country, we're going

to overhaul our Safe and Drug-Free Schools program, which we have dramatically increased in the last few years, to require schools who get the funds to establish tough, but fair discipline rules; to put in place proven drug prevention strategies; to issue yearly school safety and drug use report cards to measure their own progress. These methods have worked so well in cities like Boston, they can work around the country, and it will guarantee that the money that's being spent will actually achieve the results that it's been appropriated to achieve.

Fourth, we have to expect more from young people themselves. Given the facts, the resources, the encouragement, almost all of them will do the right thing. This year we launched a huge media campaign to tell young people that drugs are wrong, illegal and can kill you. Now we have to tell them they, too, have responsibilities to prevent youth violence, to help their fellow students who are violence prone, to report trouble signs they see and try to help kids get the help they need.

I am pleased that MTV is going to work with us to launch a new campaign to encourage people to become mentors -- young people -- to help their peers resolve their conflicts peacefully. And, again, I'm very grateful and I'd like for all of you to join me in thanking MTV for their willingness to invest in this important endeavor. (Applause.)

Lastly -- I've spoken a little longer than I meant to because I wanted to really hear the panelists, but I return to the theme on which I began and what I will do when I leave here in working for the peace process in the Middle East. We have got to do more to teach our young people to have tolerance and respect for one another; to understand the rich and only superficial dichotomy that the more we appreciate each other's diversity, the more we reaffirm the fundamental core values and existence we have in common.

The recent death of young Matthew Shepard in Wyoming makes it all too clear to us that violence still can be motivated by prejudice and hatred. Yes, we do need a new hate crimes law. And I have directed the Education Department Civil Office to step up its enforcement to stop discrimination and harassment against students. But, again, ultimately, we have to be reconciled to one another. We have to believe in one another's fundamental humanity and equal right to be here and to become whatever they can become.

And I hope that all of us -- the young people of this country, because our school population is more diverse than ever before, and because to some extent they are unburdened by some of the problems that their parents and grandparents grew up with, can go either way with this issue. If they become the victims of a kind of a current climate of prejudice and bigotry and a sense of opposition and isolation, because of our increasing diversity it could wreak total havoc in this country, in a way that we can't even imagine and even couldn't have imagined in the old days of the civil rights years. But if they do what they will do left to their own better selves, then the increasing diversity of America is something that will guarantee us renewed strength, unparalleled opportunities in the 21st century world.

So I don't think we should forget that, either. In the end, the human heart still counts for quite a great deal, and we ought to bring out the best in all the ones we can.

Now, I would like to start the program -- and I'm going to sit down to do it -- and I'd like to begin with Mr. Kent, Jamonn Kent, who is the Superintendent of the Springfield, Oregon, public schools, that I had the honor the visit after the terrible incident there. And because we're running a little late, I'm going to do something a little bit unconventional. I'm going to call on the all

the panelists to make their remarks and then open for questions, starting with Mr. Kent. (Applause.)

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THE PRESIDENT: I don't want to violate my own rule, so I won't ask a question, but I do want to highlight one thing he said, because if it resonates with your experience, then we need your feedback to the Attorney General and to the Secretary of Education, ultimately to the Congress.

We now have a national policy of zero tolerance for guns in schools. Last year, I believe the number of -- the Secretary of Education can correct me if I make a mistake -- last year, I believe there were 6,000 children who were found -- students who were found with guns. Guns were taken, and they were sent home. This actually happened in Oregon to this young man right before he came back the next day and killed the kids.

So the question is what is -- we have to find the constitutional fix here, and then the schools have to have the resources so that you don't just take a gun and expel somebody because there's obviously something going on inside the child that is just as important as the physical manifestation of having the gun. So that was the one thing that they've really done in Springfield, is to sort of spark a nationwide reassessment of what we ought to do with the children besides just send them home.

And they've proposed a period of 72 hours or some sort of period of evaluation, and we're trying to work out the details of it. But if any of you have any thoughts about this, I would ask you to give it to us, because that's a very clear issue that was raised in the Springfield case, that I must confess until I went and talked to them had never occurred to me before.

I'd like to now call on Commissioner Paul Evans, the Police Commissioner from Boston who led Boston's innovative operation Cease-fire. I spent a half a day up there with the Mayor and the Commissioner and others several months ago. And many of you know that Boston went for over two years without having a single child under 18 killed by a gun. That's astonishing. (Applause.)

And so I would like for Commissioner Evans to make whatever remarks he'd like to make on this subject.

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THE PRESIDENT: I would like to make one brief observation about what the Commissioner said, because I have spent a great deal of time in Boston -- and I don't want to single them out in derogation of the astonishing efforts that have been made elsewhere, many of which have already been featured. But the thing that strikes me -- it struck me when I spent a day up there and I met with -- the Mayor's got a nun who represents him, who has this youth council for the city. The city has its own youth council, like others have the city council. But the thing that struck me about Boston is they do things that seem obvious when you hear about them, but a lot of people don't do it. The systematic contact that they have in a personal, one-to-one way, with a huge percentage of the young people in their cities is quite astonishing.

And if somebody asked me, in a sentence, why have they been so successful, I would say they mobilize in a systematic way a consistent contact with a huge percentage of the young people. The idea of, you know, well, we hear we're going to have a gang problem in middle school, why don't we go interview the customers. You know, if you were running a business that's exactly what you'd do. But I

think they deserve a lot of appreciation, but also a lot of modeling for that.

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THE PRESIDENT: I have two brief things to say. First of all, don't you feel better knowing that there are people like her in the classrooms of America? (Applause.)

And second, I want to thank you for what you said about school uniforms. When Secretary Riley and I set out to promote school uniforms around the country, there were some here in Washington who derided this as one of those "little ideas" that we were constantly harping on. It may be a little idea, but I have never been to a school that had them that didn't think it made a huge difference in the lives of the children there. And so I thank you for giving a boost to that endeavor.

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THE PRESIDENT: First of all, I want to apologize to all of you, and in particular to Mayor Corradini, who made a terrific presentation, according to the First Lady. I got a call -- we just completed our agreement on the budget and the negotiations -- (applause.) In a half hour or so, for the members of the press, we'll have a statement about that.

But let me say, first, I think about Congressman Etheridge, it is -- one of the things that we desperately -- that we need so much in Congress -- Congress works better when there are people in the Congress who have all kinds of different experiences that are relevant. It's an incredible gift that we have a member of the House of Representatives that was actually a state superintendent of public instruction. And the influence he can have on other members and the role he can play in the years ahead I think is virtually limitless just because of the life he lived before he came there. And I'm very grateful for what he said today and for what he's done.

I would also like to thank Mayor Corradini for the report, for the recommendations and for the Best Practices booklet. I think that we need -- every single challenge we've got in this country, we'd be a lot better off if everybody who was working on it issued a Best Practices book, because one of my pet theories is that everybody solved every problem somewhere, but we're not very good at playing copycat when we ought to. So I thank her for that.

The only other thing I want to say, and then I want to turn it over to the Vice President and let him ask a question, is that the mayors recommended new youth counselors, and Bob talked about other kinds of support personnel on security issues. One of the things that we had to fight hardest for in 1983, that Hillary convinced me we ought to do 15 years ago, was to require every elementary school to have a counselor. But 15 years later, it looks like a pretty good decision.

And I think we have to -- with people who have to pay for these things, with the taxpayers and others who may not deal with it, we need to let them know that a well-trained counselor dealing with the kind of challenges these children face is a terrific investment. And I appreciate the recommendation of the mayors and I like forward to following up on them.

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THE PRESIDENT: I would have an elementary school that would have classes between 15 and 20 in the early grades. I would

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have a maximum number of kids in the school of about 300. I would have -- and about 1,000 for the high school. I would have the support personnel, I'd have all the teachers trained, and I'd have a parent coordinator that had huge numbers of the parents coming in and out of the schools all the time.

And then I'd try to figure out how to make young people like Liberty the rule rather than the exception. That is -- I was sitting here when she was telling her story -- I was thinking about she got to the Boys and Girls Club, and that's a good thing, but there's a whole bunch of kids that live in the place where she does that didn't get there, and that's not a good thing. And so I think that would mean you'd either have comprehensive before- and after-school programs and summer school programs for the kids on-site, or there would be some system by which the school, in effect, connected every child to responsible adult community groups of some kind that Professor Earles says works so well.

I think those are the things that I would -- I basically believe you've got to have problem-solving mechanisms, but I think the prevention approach is by far the best approach. And I think almost all -- so that's what I would do.

In the high schools, it's more complicated. I'd also have a uniform policy. I think they're very important. I'd be in a community that had a strong antitruancy policy. If I had a violence problem, I'd have a curfew. I'd be interconnected with all of the churches and synagogues and other faith institutions. I would have the school bringing people in in a systematic way, and I would be connected with the police department that would do what the Commissioner explained that they tried to do in Boston.

But I think -- in the high schools, I think that, as I said, I'd make sure that we had programs that would keep every child who needed it, give them all an opportunity to be in the school.

Let me just say one other thing that I think is worth saying. It may have been put on the table while I was out briefly. But twice -- if you read what the mayors say here, twice, they say, they talk about the importance of the arts programs, the music programs, the physical education programs -- not the kids that are on the athletic teams, the other things. I have seen school after school after school all across this country, because of the financial burdens on the schools, have to abandon these programs. And I think it is terrible.

I think that -- basically, all of these people are saying you've got to treat the whole child here, deal with the whole child, deal with the family situation, deal with the community situation. And I just wanted to put in a little plug for that. I think that there are a lot of ways to learn in this life, a lot of ways to communicate in this life, and a lot of ways for people to find greater peace and connection. And I think it's been a terrible setback to American education that so many schools have had to abandon their art programs, their music programs and their physical education programs for the non-team athletes. Anything we can do to advance that I think would also be positive. (Applause.)

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THE PRESIDENT: Let me say, I wish we could stay here another hour, but we have another panel. We don't want to deprive them of the opportunity to make their contributions and to be heard. Perhaps at the end of that, you could have a more free-flowing question and answer session.

But again, let me thank all of you. And let me ask you to join me in thanking all of our remarkable panelists for their contributions. Thank you. (Applause.)

END

3:00 P.M. EDT

The White House Conference on School Safety

October 15, 1998

Questions and Answers (Internal)

GENERAL CONFERENCE QUESTIONS

Question: Why are you hosting a White House Conference on School Safety?

Answer: Although schools are among the safest places for America's young people, we know that violent crime continues to plague a number of our schools. The recent school shooting tragedies are a stark reminder of this. We know that the problems children face in school often reflect the problems of their communities: drugs, gangs, and guns. Fortunately, we also know a lot about the causes of youth violence and school violence, as well as what works to prevent it. The President is convening the White House Conference on School Safety so that we can share with people around the country the wealth of information we have. Well over 600 satellite sites will be participating in this Conference; they will listen to, and learn from, students, parents, teachers, law enforcement and other experts about why school violence happens and what works to prevent it.

Question: What is happening at the Conference?

Answer: The White House Conference on School Safety will work toward finding solutions to this challenge: *How do schools, families and communities work together to make sure that every child is safe in every school and community in America?* The President, Vice President and First Lady will explore solutions to this challenge with the Attorney General, the Secretary of Education, elected officials, students, parents, teachers, law enforcement and other experts.

The day-long event in the East Room of the White House includes morning workshops and panel discussions. The opening panel will set-up the day by examining the problem and the causes of school and youth violence. The second panel will turn towards solutions, with the President making a number of policy announcements. The third and final panel will explore best practices and model safety strategies that have been shown to reduce school and youth violence.

Question: What has the President done on the issue of school safety?

Answer: Throughout his Presidency, President Clinton has worked to strengthen America's schools, communities and families, by giving Americans the tools they need to fulfill their responsibilities and giving children the ability to reach their full potential in a safe and healthy environment. To that end, President Clinton and this Administration have worked to promote school safety, prevent youth violence and encourage learning. The President is working to make our schools safer and drug-free with programs like School-Based Partnerships which helps to forge or strengthen partnerships between local law enforcement and schools to focus on school crime, drug use and discipline problem or the zero tolerance for guns in schools policy which requires the expulsion of students for bringing firearms to schools. Last month, the President released the *Early Warning, Timely Response: A Guide to Safe Schools*. This guide provides schools and communities with information on how to identify the early warning signs and take action steps to prevent and respond to school violence. And the President's comprehensive Anti-Gang and Youth Violence Strategy is a full-scale assault on juvenile crime in America. These are just a few examples.

Question: Are America's schools unsafe?

Answer: America's schools are quite safe. While we need to work to make them safer, we know that for the most part our schools are safer than the communities in which they are located. Data from the Annual Report on School Safety indicates that 43 percent of schools reported NO incidents of crime, and 90 percent of schools reported NO incidents of serious violent crime.

But even though schools are generally safe, no school or community is immune from senseless violence, as last school year's tragedies reminded us. And although students are safer sitting in a classroom than walking down the street, serious crime problems persist, gang presence in schools doubled between 1989 and 1995, thousands of kids bring guns to school, and discipline remains the #1 problem in the classroom. We will be addressing these issues in the Conference.

Question: If America's schools are, for the most part, so safe, why did these recent tragedies occur?

Answer: The recent tragedies in Pearl, Paducah, Jonesboro, Springfield, Oregon are extremely rare (less than one percent of homicides among this age group occurs in a school setting). Nevertheless, they are truly tragic incidents that we hope never happen again. We may never understand why a young man

would walk into a school and shoot his fellow students and teachers -- perhaps because of media influences, availability of guns, insufficient mental health counseling. While we need to better understand why these incidents occurred, it is more important that we ensure they don't happen again. Much of what is happening at this conference will help schools and communities in that regard.

Question: Whose responsibility is it to create safer schools and communities?

Answer: We cannot make schools truly safe unless we make the communities -- of which those schools are a part -- safe as well. And we cannot make schools and communities safe unless students, parents, teachers, law enforcement, government agencies, businesses and elected officials join together to develop community-wide and comprehensive responses to the unique issues that face every school and community. Fundamentally, creating safe schools and communities is a local issue; but we at the Federal level stand ready to offer our assistance and partnership.

Question: How did you select these individuals who are panelists?

Answer: We received many recommendations and worked to make sure that the panels represent a good cross-section of America, as well as perspectives from individuals who have a lot of firsthand experience with school safety and youth violence in general. The panelists include noted experts in their fields, participants from communities affected by the recent school shootings, a student, educators and other stakeholders. We are looking forward to thoughtful discussions which focus not only on the problems and challenges with respect to school safety -- but primarily on the solutions.

Question: The panels do not appear to be very bipartisan. Why not?

Answer: School and youth safety aren't partisan issues. Our panelists are a good cross-section of America -- actually, of the 16 or so panelists (excluding principals), only two are elected officials, one is a member of Congress and the other is a mayor. And this Administration encourages participation from both sides of the aisle on these important issues.

Question: What is the First Lady's role at this Conference? Why is the First Lady playing such a large role in this conference? What does she know about this issue?

Answer: The First Lady will chair the opening panel which will set-up the day by examining the problem and the causes of school and youth violence and she will participate in the second panel which will turn towards solutions. Lastly, the First Lady will chair the third and final panel which will explore best practices and model safety strategies that have been shown to reduce school and youth violence.

Throughout her career, the First Lady has worked on issues affecting children and families. And one of the very first projects she worked on as a young attorney at the Children's Defense Fund 25 years ago was a study of what happens to juveniles incarcerated with adults. She found that children placed in adult prisons experience unspeakable horrors, and in fact, as a result of this research, Congress acted in 1974 to separate juveniles from adults in prison. Since then Mrs. Clinton has worked on a number of initiatives, including home visitation, mentoring programs, and early education programs, that reduce juvenile delinquency, crime rates, teen birth rates, and other signs that children are at risk.

Question: What is the purpose of the morning breakout sessions? Who is participating in these sessions?

Answer: The morning break-out sessions are critical opportunities for the Conference's participants to brainstorm, to share ideas with Attorney General Reno, Education Secretary Riley, other senior members of the Administration and with each other. Each of the break-out sessions will focus on a different element of creating safe learning environments. We will examine (i) education and safety, (ii) school, community and law enforcement partnerships, (iii) root causes of youth violence, and (iv) early warning signs, mental health interventions and crisis response.

QUESTIONS ON NEW PROPOSALS

Question: What did the President announce today?

Answer: The President will announce a series of new initiatives that address many of the problems identified in the Annual Report on School Crime and Safety. Specifically, he will propose:

(1) A New Federal Response for Violent Deaths in Schools. President Clinton will propose a \$12 million School Emergency Response to

Violence -- or Project SERV -- to help schools and local communities respond to school-related violent deaths, such as those that occurred last year in Jonesboro, Arkansas; Paducah, Kentucky; Pearl, Mississippi; and Springfield, Oregon. Developed with input from local officials and educators in these and other communities, Project SERV will enable the federal government to assist local communities in much the same way FEMA assists in response to natural disasters.

(2) Targeted Resources for Schools with Serious Crime Problems. To help give the estimated 10% of schools with serious crime problems the tools they need to put the security of our children first, the President will announce a new \$65 million initiative to hire up to 2,000 community police and School Resource Officers to work in schools -- and to train police, educators and other members of the community to help recognize the early warning signs of violence.

(3) Reforms to Help Make All Schools Safe, Disciplined and Drug-Free. President Clinton will announce his plan for a significant overhaul of the nearly \$600 million Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Program. Under the President's proposal, schools will be required to adopt rigorous, comprehensive school safety plans that include: tough, but fair, discipline policies; safe passage to and from schools; effective drug and violence policies and programs; annual school safety and drug use report cards; links to after school programs; efforts to involve parents; and crisis management plans.

(4) A Community-Wide Response to School Safety and Youth Violence. To help communities throughout the country promote a coordinated, comprehensive response to school safety, the President will launch a new Safe Schools -- Safe Communities initiative designed to help 10 cities develop and implement community-wide school safety plans. A minimum of \$25 million in discretionary grants from the Departments of Education, Justice and Health and Human Services -- or \$1-3 million per site -- will be made available for this initiative.

The President will announce a partnership with MTV to engage youth in solutions to violence. He will announce that MTV, beginning in 1999, will launch a year-long media campaign -- "Fight For Your Rights: Take A Stand Against Youth Violence" -- designed to give young adults a voice in the national debate on school and youth violence. Working with the Departments of Education and Justice, and the National Endowment for the Arts, MTV will distribute a Youth Action Guide that aims to engage youth in mentoring and other positive solutions to violence. The guide will be made available

through a 1-800 number at the Justice Department and through MTV.

Question: Are you announcing any new funding for these programs?

Answer: The \$65 million for the community police in schools initiative and \$25 million for the Safe Schools-Safe Communities demonstration project would be funded through our FY 99 appropriations. We have identified funds that we could use within those appropriations bills -- none of which have been at issue during budget discussions. So, once Congress finally enacts these spending measures, we can begin to fund our initiatives. We expect to transmit legislation to Congress for our proposal to create a new emergency federal response to violent school deaths (Project SERV), and will include the \$12 million to pay for it in our FY 2000 budget.

Community Police Officers for Schools

Question: What does your community police for schools initiative accomplish?

Answer: To help give the estimated 10% of schools with serious crime problems the tools they need to put the security of our children first, the President will announce a new \$65 million initiative to hire approximately 2,000 community police and School Resource Officers to work in schools -- and to train police, educators and other members of the community to help recognize the early warning signs of violence.

The initiative, administered through the Justice Department's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), offers \$60 million to help communities hire school resource officers to combat school violence. This initiative offers an incentive for local law enforcement agencies -- in the form of waiving a local matching requirement -- to build working relationships with schools to use community policing efforts to prevent and combat school violence. In addition, the President's Initiative will dedicate \$5 million through the Regional Community Policing Institutes to communities to help train school resource officers, and to train educators and other members of the community to recognize the early warning signs of school violence.

Question: Who is eligible to participate in the COPS initiative?

Answer: Any local law enforcement agency utilizing officers as part of a comprehensive community policing strategy to combat crime in and around schools may apply for the program through the COPS Office.

Question: What is a school resource officer?

Answer: School resource officers are sworn, fully trained officers assigned to work in a school. The presence of a school resource officer helps provide a school with a sense of security and order, as well as strong link to their local police department. From teaching substance abuse prevention, to mentoring troubled kids, to intervening with potentially violent situations between students, school resource officers across the country are combine the functions of law enforcement and education, and helping to improve school environments.

Question: What is the need for the COPS initiative?

Answer: School related crime and disorder is a serious concern in communities of all sizes across the nation. Many communities are discovering that school resource officers are making a difference in the battle to provide our children with a safe learning environment. The President's initiative will help even more communities that are interested to use these officers in creating their own solutions to school safety and violence.

Safe and Drug-Free Schools Reform

Question: Are you proposing increased funding for the Safe and Drug-Free schools program?

Answer: This proposal outlines the broad framework and requirements for federal support of state and local drug and/or violence prevention and reduction efforts. While this plan does anticipate some level of increased funding, it also will provide more targeting of resources to provide stronger support to school districts for comprehensive approaches for the reduction of drugs and violence in schools. Discussions are currently underway to establish budget proposals for all programs in the President's FY 2000 budget.

Question: This program has been criticized for wasting funds because school districts have have spent them on programs that would not appear to have any impact on reducing drug use and violence. How is this proposal going to prevent the misuse of funds?

Answer: A key element of our proposal to overhaul the Safe and Drug-Free Schools program is to strengthen accountability for school districts receiving federal funds. These districts will have to develop a plan based on their actual crime, drug and discipline problems -- and spend funds on activities that have shown to be effective in creating drug-free and safe school environments. These plans must also provide for the publication of an annual report card to the public on school-related crime and drug incidents. Moreover, this proposal will strengthen the capacity of states to provide technical assistance and training to local districts to ensure that their drug and violence prevention and reduction approaches are effective.

Comprehensive Safe School-Safe Communities Initiative

Question: Where will funds for the Coordinated Grants Program come from?

Answer: Funds for the Coordinated Grants Program will come from three agencies: Department of Justice, Education Department and the Department of Health and Human Services. Various programs within these three agencies will contribute funds for this effort. For example, the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention will contribute a portion of funds from their Juvenile Mentoring Program and its Gang Free Schools and Communities - Community Based Gang Intervention Program for this effort; the Justice Department will contribute funds from its COPS Initiative; the Department of Education will contribute a portion of their Safe and Drug Free Schools National Program funds; and the Department of Health and Human Services will contribute funds from its Family Strengthening Program. Further, a portion of the funds appropriated for expansion of Boys and Girls Clubs will be linked to this effort.

A minimum of \$25 million in discretionary grants from FY1999 will be made available for this initiative, and more funding may ultimately be dedicated to it dependent upon final FY 99 appropriations outcomes.

New Federal Response to Violent Deaths in Schools

Question: What types of incidents will this initiative respond to?

Answer: While details concerning the types of incidents which the Federal Government will respond to have not yet been decided, it has been determined that the Federal Government will at a minimum respond to incidents such as those experienced last school year in Paducah, Kentucky; Pearl, Mississippi; Jonesboro, Arkansas; and Springfield, Oregon. Prior to making a final determination as to other types of incidents that will be

responded to, the Federal Government will seek the advice of educators, victims, law enforcement officials, victim service advocates, parents, mental health workers and emergency service personnel.

QUESTIONS ON RELATED LEGISLATION

Question: Why hasn't this Administration pushed harder for juvenile crime legislation?

Answer: This Administration has pushed aggressively for powerful juvenile crime legislation -- legislation which strikes the right balance between accountability and prevention for America's youth. All the way back in February 1997, this Administration submitted to the Congress the "Anti-Gang and Youth Violence Act of 1997"--a vital part of the Administration's strategy to mount a full-scale assault on juvenile crime in America. While we have sought to work with Congress to pass meaningful legislation, we don't believe we should accept bad juvenile crime legislation which lacks resources for prosecutors and courts and provisions to crack down on kids and guns -- simply for the sake of claiming success. We are disappointed that the Congress has been unable to pass legislation that could help to stem juvenile crime and improve the safety of our communities.

SHOOTING-RELATED QUESTIONS

Question: The kids involved in the Jonesboro case were only 11 and 13 years-old-- neither of whom could be charged as adults for this horrible tragedy. Doesn't this seem to suggest that we should have a national age floor to be able to prosecute juveniles as adults?

Answer: Current federal law generally allows for the prosecution of 15 year-old juveniles as adults for certain drug and gun crimes, and in limited cases, even 13 year-olds can be tried as adults in federal court. We passed these lower ages as part of the 1994 Crime Bill. In addition, our juvenile crime legislation would give greater flexibility for federal prosecutors to prosecute juveniles as adults, and would expand the list of crimes which allow for such prosecution to include certain violent felonies and drug offenses. We believe that these are sufficiently tough provisions.

Question: Guns played a tragic role in these shootings. Is this Administration doing enough to keep guns out of the hands of children? What more can be done to avoid these tragedies?

Answer: Our first priority, must be to do everything we can to help communities save young lives and prevent juvenile crime and violence from happening in the first place. And the truth is: we already know that tough, targeted deterrence and better prevention will do this. For example, in Boston, Federal, state and local law enforcement --and the entire criminal justice system, police, prosecutors, probation officers and courts --worked together to deliver a tough, targeted message on gun violence. The result: the gangs were literally disarmed, and no juvenile was killed with a firearm for a 2 ½ year period. The President's juvenile crime legislation combines this type of tough, targeted enforcement --with schools that are open later and on weekends, when most violent youth crime occurs --so we can prevent youth crime and violence before it happens.

But we can also do more to make sure that we help keep illegal guns out of the hands of children. We should raise penalties for juveniles who possess handguns, and for adults who illegally transfer handguns to juveniles. We should extend the Brady Law, so that young people who commit serious and violent offenses can't purchase handguns as soon as they become adults. And we should continue to crack down on illegal gun markets, by increasing penalties for straw purchases and for gang-related firearms offenses.

Question: Can we stop these senseless acts from happening? Do they just happen?

Answer: We can create safer environments for learning and we can prevent many crimes from occurring. This is not an easy task but it is one that can be done. One of the cornerstones of any strategy to create safer schools and safer communities is getting the entire community --including parents, students, teachers, mental health service providers, clergy, law enforcement--involved in designing programs and policies that meet the need of the school and the community.

In August, the President released a booklet called, "Early Warning Timely Response-- A Guide to Safe Schools", which provides teachers, principals, and parents with information on how to identify the early warning signs of violence, and actions steps to prevent and respond to school violence. The Annual Report on School Safety, released yesterday, also provides some tips for parents, students, businesses, etc. on what they can do to create safer schools and communities and provides examples of proven strategies and models.

Question: In most of these instances, including in Springfield with Kip Kinkel, the mental health of these boys seems to be in question. If mental illness is the root cause, can we prevent these random acts from happening?

Answer: The Administration has been working very hard to help schools -- and others who interact with children -- to identify those students who are in need of assistance to improve the linkages between mental health services and schools. The President recently released a guide on the early warning signs of violence which provides teachers, administrators, and parents with guidance on how to identify students who are in need of mental health services. We believe the guide will help schools identify those students who are in need of mental health services earlier, so they can receive the help they need.

But there's another answer, too, and it goes to the heart of why a child's cry for help often goes unheeded. The simple fact is that mental illness is still a very scary idea that many believe shouldn't be talked about or acted upon. Through the work of Mrs. Gore and HHS' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), we have been working to educate the Nation to the realities of mental health problems and to break through the stigma that, for too long, has stood between a person in need of care and the impetus to seek that care.

Question: Most people feel that mental health services are not adequately funded. Are these services being funded at appropriate levels both locally and at the Federal level? If not, why not?

Answer: Funding -- whether at the federal or state level -- is but one of the issues that has affected the range and availability of mental health services. Since the late 1960s, when large numbers of people were released from state institutions, community mental health systems have been called upon to provide the bulk of mental health services. Until recently, the stigma of mental illnesses has separated mental health care not only from other types health care, but also from the capacity to link with schools, social service agencies, employment programs, and other supportive services. Today, the health of these collaborations is increasingly robust -- but variably so, across the country. The challenge that we are meeting today has been to both leverage our resources and to build partnerships with the broad range of mental health constituencies at the national, state, and local levels to improve their systems of care for people of all ages with mental health problems.

THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON SCHOOL SAFETY

October 15, 1998

- **The White House Conference on School Safety.** Although schools are generally safer today than they were just a few years ago -- and statistics show that students are safer sitting in a classroom than walking down a street -- there is still much more that we can do to improve school safety and security. In particular, the multiple shootings that took place in schools in Pearl, MS, Paducah, KY, Jonesboro, AK, and Springfield, OR, serve as painful reminders that no community is immune from senseless violence -- and that all communities must do their best to prevent such tragedies from ever occurring. The White House Conference on School Safety provides an opportunity for Americans to learn more about how they can make their own schools and communities safer.
- **The First Annual Report on School Safety.** At the conference, the President will discuss the findings of first Annual Report on School Safety -- a report intended to give parents, principals and policy makers an accurate, yearly snapshot of the school crime, as well as to provide information on what practical steps they can take to make their schools safer.

Major Findings of the Report:

Students less likely to be victimized but more likely to feel unsafe. Although the number of multiple homicide events at schools has increased since 1993 (from 2 to 6 -- and with 4 times as many victims), the overall school crime rate has actually dropped (from 164 crimes per 1,000 students in 1993 to about 128 such crimes in 1996). However, the percentage of students reporting that they felt unsafe at or on their way to school has increased.

Most schools safer than community at large. While the overall level of school and non-school crime is about the same (about 3 million crimes in each setting), students are more than twice as likely to experience serious violent crime while out of school. And the very worst violent victimizations -- murders and suicides -- rarely occur in or near schools. Fewer than 1% of the 7,357 thousand children who were murdered in 1992-93 -- or 63 -- were killed at school.

Serious crime and violence concentrated in a small percentage of schools. Only about 10% of public schools report serious or violent crimes to their local police departments. Nearly half -- or 47% -- of schools report less serious or non-violent crimes to police, and 43% report absolutely no crimes at all.

Violence more likely in larger, urban schools and with older students. One third of large schools (1,000+ students) report serious violent crimes to police, compared with less than one tenth of small schools. Also urban schools are twice as likely as rural schools to report serious violent crimes, and middle and high schools are 4 times more likely than elementary schools to report such crimes.

Fist fights and theft the most common crimes. Overall, physical attacks and fights without weapons are the crimes most often reported to police by middle and high schools. Theft is the most common school crime overall. In 1996, less than 10% of crimes against students were of a serious or violent nature.

Other Important Findings:

Fewer weapons in schools. About 6% of high school seniors -- less than in recent years -- are carrying firearms and other weapons to schools. Also, the percentage of seniors intentionally injured -- with or without weapons -- has not changed significantly over the past 20 years.

Gang presence nearly doubled. Between 1989 and 1995, the percentage of students reporting the presence of street gangs in their schools increased from 15% to 28% -- including large increases at urban, suburban and rural schools.

Violence and drugs linked. Students who reported being the victims of violent crimes at schools were more likely to report the availability of drugs at school. The presence of gangs and guns is also related to school crime and the victimization of students.

Teachers often crime victims. On average, 3% of teachers are the victims of violent crimes, and nearly 5% are the victims of theft at school.

- **The President's Call to Action.** During a panel discussion with a group of recognized school safety advocates and youth violence experts, the President will announce a series of new initiatives that address many of the problems identified in the Annual Report on School Safety. Specifically, he will propose:

(1) A New Federal Response for Violent Deaths in Schools. President Clinton will propose a \$12 million School Emergency Response to Violence -- or Project SERV -- to help schools and local communities respond to school-related violent deaths, such as those that occurred last year in Jonesboro, Arkansas; Paducah, Kentucky; Pearl, Mississippi; and Springfield, Oregon. Developed with input from local officials and educators in these and other communities, Project SERV will enable the federal government to assist local communities in much the same way FEMA assists in response to natural disasters.

(2) Targeted Resources for Schools with Serious Crime Problems. To help give the estimated 10% of schools with serious crime problems the tools they need to put the security of our children first, the President will announce a new \$65 million initiative to hire up to 2,000 community police and School Resource Officers to work in schools -- and to train police, educators and other members of the community to help recognize the early warning signs of violence.

(3) Reforms to Help Make All Schools Safe, Disciplined and Drug-Free.

President Clinton will announce his plan for a significant overhaul of the nearly \$600 million Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Program. Under the President's proposal, schools will be required to adopt rigorous, comprehensive school safety plans that include: tough, but fair, discipline policies; safe passage to and from schools; effective drug and violence policies and programs; annual school safety and drug use report cards; links to after school programs; efforts to involve parents; and crisis management plans.

(4) A Community-Wide Response to School Safety and Youth Violence. To help communities throughout the country promote a coordinated, comprehensive response to school safety, the President will launch a new Safe Schools -- Safe Communities initiative designed to help 10 cities develop and implement community-wide school safety plans. A minimum of \$25 million in discretionary grants from the Departments of Education, Justice and Health and Human Services -- or \$1-3 million per site -- will be made available for this initiative.

The President will announce a partnership with MTV to engage youth in solutions to violence. He will announce that MTV, beginning in 1999, will launch a year-long media campaign -- "Fight For Your Rights: Take A Stand Against Youth Violence" -- designed to give young adults a voice in the national debate on school and youth violence. Working with the Departments of Education and Justice, and the National Endowment for the Arts, MTV will distribute a Youth Action Guide that aims to engage youth in mentoring and other positive solutions to violence. The guide will be made available through a 1-800 number at the Justice Department and through MTV.

Promoting a Community-Wide Response to School Safety and Youth Violence

To help communities throughout the country promote a coordinated, comprehensive response to school and youth violence, the President will launch a new Safe Schools --Safe Communities initiative designed to help cities develop and implement community-wide school safety plans. He will also kick-off a partnership between the federal government and MTV to engage youth in solutions to violence.

The Safe Schools --Safe Communities Initiative

- **A Community-Wide Response.** Parents, principals, police and others should work together to prevent school crime and violence from ever taking hold in their communities. To help promote such coordinated, community-wide responses throughout the country, the President will launch "Safe Schools --Safe Communities." Under this initiative, 10 cities will be eligible for at least \$25 million in discretionary grants from the Departments of Education, Justice and Health and Human Services to develop and implement strategies with the following components:
 - ✓ *Formal school safety policies*, including zero tolerance for guns and drugs, discipline, school uniforms, and truancy prevention;
 - ✓ *School security measures*, such as metal detectors and police patrol of schools;
 - ✓ *Assessment and interventions for troubled youth*, such as mental health counselors and alternative schools;
 - ✓ *Prevention*, including mentoring for students; and
 - ✓ *After school programming* for children and youth
- **One-Stop Shopping.** Under this initiative, communities adopting a comprehensive approach to school safety will no longer have to seek federal support for their efforts in a piece-meal fashion. Instead, eligible applicants will benefit from "one stop shopping" --or a single application, through which a series of federal grants targeting youth violence can be accessed. Each site will be eligible for up to \$3 million, depending on the size and needs of the community.

Getting Youth Involved in the Community Response

- **MTV Partnership.** The President will announce a partnership with MTV to engage youth in solutions to violence. He will announce that MTV, beginning in 1999, will launch a year-long media campaign --"Fight For Your Rights: Take A Stand Against Youth Violence" --designed to give young adults a voice in the national debate on school and youth violence.
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Putting Security First for Schools with Serious Crime

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Up to 2,000 Community Police Officers for Schools

While students are less likely to be a crime victim at school than in previous years, serious crime continues to plague many larger and urban schools --and more students now feel unsafe at or on their way to school.

- Building on the President's successful Community Policing Initiative. To help address the needs of these schools, the President will announce the availability of \$60 million from his COPS Program to hire new community police and School Resource Officers to work in schools with serious crime problems. These new funds will help communities to expand their community policing efforts to include school crime problems as part of their overall community policing strategies. Generally, local police departments will receive up to \$125,000 per officer for three years --with no local match required.
- New training resources. Additionally, this new initiative will dedicate \$5 million --through the COPS Office's Regional Community Policing Institutes --to train new police officers, and to train educators and other community members to help recognize the early warning signs of school violence.

A record of building partnerships between law enforcement and schools

- Forging School-Based Partnerships Between Schools and Law Enforcement. In September 1998, the President announced \$16.4 million in grants to 155 law enforcement agencies to fund new School-Based Partnerships grants through the Department of Justice. These grants will be used by policing agencies to work with schools and community-based organizations to address crime in and around schools. This initiative emphasizes using community policing principles and problem-solving methods to address the causes of school-related crime. The grants will help strengthen partnerships between local law enforcement and schools, and help them to focus on school crime, drug use and discipline problems.
- Meeting the President's Pledge of 100,000 More Police. Last week, the Justice Department's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) announced \$27.4 million in grants for 151 policing agencies across the country to hire 428 officers --bringing the total number of officers funded under the President's COPS Initiative to over 88,500 --keeping the COPS Initiative ahead of schedule and under budget.

Creating Safe, Disciplined, and Drug-Free Schools

Many of our nation's schools report difficulties with maintaining order and discipline. In the 1996-97 school year, 41% of public schools reported moderate discipline problems and 16% reported serious discipline problems. Among the most common discipline problems reported were tardiness, truancy, fist fights, and student drug, alcohol and tobacco use. Moreover, schools that had more serious discipline problems were more likely to report crime or violence. That is why the President will outline a proposal to overhaul and strengthen the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program to ensure that students have safe, disciplined and drug-free environments for learning.

Revamping Safe and Drug-Free Schools. President Clinton will announce his plan for the overhaul of the nearly \$600 million Safe and Drug-Free Schools program to provide more effective prevention programs for the reduction of drugs and violence in schools, more accountability for results, and better targeting to those schools that need the most assistance.

- Increasing funding for effective plans and strengthening accountability. Under the proposal, federal funds will provide support to school districts with demonstrated need and a commitment to adopt a rigorous, comprehensive approach to drug and violence reduction and prevention.
- Creating incentives to develop comprehensive and results-oriented plans. Districts will be expected to use relevant drug and violence data to develop a comprehensive plan --in consultation with parents, teachers, students, law enforcement officials, mental health providers and other members of the community -- to do the following:

Adopt and enforce, clear and fair discipline policies, such as zero tolerance policies for guns and drugs, school uniforms, and closed campus policies, and parent notification and involvement.

Secure schools and pathways through implementing measures such as metal detectors, and formal agreements with law enforcement or safety officials to patrol school grounds and pathways to school.

Provide effective anti-drug and violence prevention programs, including programs that teach responsible decision-making, mentoring, mediation, or other activities aimed at changing behaviors. Funded activities must demonstrate effectiveness in helping to create a drug-free and safe learning environment.

Collect data and report to the public results by providing annual report cards on the number and type of school-related drug and/or violence incidents.

Assess and intervene for troubled youth through procedures to identify students for evaluation and counseling; training for teachers and staff; and providing linkages between district officials, mental health, and other community professionals where appropriate.

Connect to after-school activities for youth to extend the school day and/or develop links to other after-school programming, and help provide children with meaningful connections to responsible adults in the community.

Develop plan for crisis management, such as a shooting on school grounds or drug overdoses. The plan will also address assistance for victims, contacts with parents, law enforcement, counseling, and communication with the media.

Taking on Bullying. Bullying often interferes with learning, and when perpetrators go unpunished, a climate of student fear can take over. Youths who are victimized by bullies occasionally take drastic measures --which can lead to violent behavior or weapons-carrying.

- Bullying common among youth. Bullying among children is generally defined as intentional, repeated hurtful acts, words, or other behavior, such as threats or name calling. It may be physical, verbal, emotional or sexual in nature. In one study of junior high and high school students, 88% of students reported having watched bullying and 76% reported being a victim of bullying at school.
- New manual to combat bullying. Today, the Education Department will release a manual to combat bullying. The manual contains innovative strategies, and resources to help teachers, school staff, students, parents and other community members to prevent and intervene with bullying problems before they escalate into violent outbreaks.

Encouraging School Uniform Policies. School uniform policies, combined with other prevention efforts, have shown promise in helping to reduce violence while promoting discipline and respect in school. Because of this, the Clinton Administration has encouraged schools to consider adopting school uniform policies by sharing with every school district a school uniforms manual prepared by the Department of Education in consultation with local communities and the Department of Justice.

- Major crime reduction in Long Beach schools reported. Recently, the Long Beach, California Unified School District --the first large urban school district in the United States to require school uniforms --released data showing a 91% drop in K-8 school crime since implementing their policy in September 1994, including a 92% decline in weapons/look-alikes; 91% fewer robberies; and 62% less drugs.
- More schools adopting uniform policies. Since President Clinton announced his support for school uniforms in 1996, a growing number of schools have adopted policies including: New York City, Dade County, San Antonio, Houston, Chicago, and Boston.

Project SERV: School Emergency Response to Violence

President Clinton will propose a \$12 million School Emergency Response to Violence --or Project SERV --to help schools and local communities respond to school-related violent deaths, such as those that occurred last year in Jonesboro, Arkansas; Paducah, Kentucky; Pearl, Mississippi; and Springfield, Oregon. Developed with input from local officials and educators in these and other communities, Project SERV will enable the federal government to assist local communities in much the same way FEMA assists in response to natural disasters.

Project SERV: Helping Communities Respond to School Shootings. To help communities respond to rare but tragic school-related violent incidents, Project SERV will provide communities with resources to respond to immediate crisis need; to provide increased security and ongoing counseling; and to help state and local officials plan for, prevent against and respond to similar tragedies. The mission of Project SERV will be to:

Provide Immediate Assistance for Emergency Response. As soon as a school-related violent or traumatic incident occurs, the federal government will be able to provide the affected community with immediate assistance, through:

- **A \$12 million Emergency Response Fund** to help communities meet urgent and unplanned needs, such as additional security personnel, emergency mental health crisis counseling, and longer-term counseling to students, faculty, and their families.
- **Crisis Response Experts** trained by the Departments of Education, Justice, Health and Human Services, and the Federal Emergency Management Administration, who can help local officials identify and respond to community needs, help in developing a plan to address those needs, and assist in locating necessary financial and human resources.

Establish Coordinated Federal Response to School Crises. Officials from the Departments of Education, Justice, HHS and from FEMA worked together to help communities impacted by this year's shootings. These agencies will continue to work together as part of Project SERV, and improve ongoing federal crisis response efforts.

Strengthen the Ability of States and Communities to Respond to School Crises. Project SERV will work to strengthen the ability of each state's emergency management, education, community mental health and law enforcement agency to prevent and respond to school crises.

Support Research and Evaluation. To help communities deal with future school-related crises, Project SERV will support research and evaluation on effective ways to prevent and respond to the consequences of school-related homicides and other such incidents.

Building An Effective Partnership with Local Communities and States. In the aftermath of the school shootings, the Departments of Education, Justice and HHS worked closely with officials from Pearl, Paducah, Jonesboro, and Springfield by providing crisis response teams, victim assistance, and funds for added security and immediate counseling for students, teachers and families. Following up on these tragic events, White House and agency officials reviewed these efforts and in September met with officials and educators from each community. As a result, we learned that communities could benefit from longer term, coordinated and comprehensive federal assistance. The President's plan is a direct response to these lessons and will be refined through continued consultation with these and other communities.

PROMOTING SCHOOL SAFETY, PREVENTING YOUTH VIOLENCE AND ENCOURAGING LEARNING

--The Clinton Administration Record --

MAKING OUR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES SAFER AND DRUG-FREE

Forging School-Based Partnerships Between Schools and Law Enforcement. Under the new School-Based Partnerships grant program, the Clinton Administration released \$16.4 million in grants to 155 law enforcement agencies in September. The School-Based Partnerships grants will be used by policing agencies to work with schools and community-based organizations to address crime at and around schools. This initiative emphasizes using principles of community policing and problem-solving methods to address the causes of school-related crime. The grants will help forge or strengthen partnerships between local law enforcement and schools to focus on school crime, drug use and discipline problems.

Helping Teachers and Principals Respond to the Early Warning Signs of Troubled Youth. President Clinton directed the Secretary of Education and the Attorney General to develop a guide to help teachers and principals identify and respond to the early warning signs of troubled youth that can lead to school violence. In August 1998, the Departments of Justice and Education released *Early Warning, Timely Response: A Guide to Safe Schools*. This guide provides schools and communities with information on how to identify the early warning signs and take action steps to prevent and respond to school violence. Every school in the nation received a copy of the guide.

Issuing the First Annual Report on School Safety. In December 1997, President Clinton called for an Annual Report on School Safety, which will be released on October 15, 1998. The report will include: an analysis of all existing national school crime data and an overview of state and local crime reporting; examples of schools and strategies that are successfully reducing school violence, drug use and class disruption; actions that parents can take locally to combat school crime; and resources available to schools and communities to help create safe, disciplined and drug-free schools.

Strengthening and Expanding the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act. In 1994, President Clinton expanded the Drug-Free Schools Act into the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act, making violence prevention a key part of this program. The Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program provides support for violence and drug prevention programs to 97% of the nation's school districts. Schools use these funds to keep violence, drugs and alcohol away from students and out of schools. The President's FY99 budget expands the Safe and Drug-Free Schools program by \$50 million to fund 1,300 Drug and Violence Prevention Coordinators that will help junior high and middle schools across the country develop and implement effective strategies to keep our kids safe and away from drugs.

Enforcing Zero Tolerance for Guns and Other Weapons in Schools. In October 1994, President Clinton signed into law the Gun-Free Schools Act, requiring states to have in effect a law requiring local education agencies (LEAs) to expel students who bring guns to school. The President issued a Presidential Directive later that month to enforce "zero tolerance" for guns in schools, a policy requiring the expulsion of students who bring guns to schools. In school year 1996-97, the U.S. Department of Education estimates that, under zero tolerance policies, 6,093 students were expelled from public schools for bringing a firearm to school.

Supporting Civic, Community and Faith-Based Organizations. Recognizing the important role that civic, community and faith-based organizations can play in reducing crime, the Administration launched a new Values-Based Violence Prevention Initiative to make \$2.2 million in grants available to 16 community-based collaboratives, including religiously-affiliated organizations, that target youth violence, gangs, truancy, and other juvenile problems by promoting common-sense values and responsibility.

Providing Safe After-School Opportunities for Up to Half a Million Children a Year. Last year (FY98), the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program was expanded by \$40 million. This funding will enable 315 rural and urban schools in 36 states to provide school-based after-school programs, including on weekends and during the summer. This year, the President proposed a major expansion of this program to provide safe and educational after-school opportunities for up to 500,000 school-age children in rural and urban communities across the country. In addition, the Education Department released a report in June 1998, titled *Safe and Smart: Making the After-School Hours Work for Kids*. This report shows that after-school programs can lower juvenile crime and improve academic performance. *Safe and Smart* was sent to every school district in the country.

Cracking Down on Truancy. Truancy prevention initiatives have been shown to keep more children in school and dramatically reduce daytime crime. The Education Department issued a guidebook to the 15,000 school districts nationwide which outlines the central characteristics of a comprehensive truancy prevention policy and highlights model initiatives in cities and towns across the country. Since then, the Education Department has provided grants to local school districts to develop innovative truancy prevention programs of the kind described in the guidebook.

Encouraging Schools to Adopt School Uniform Policies. School uniforms have been found to be a promising strategy to reduce violence while promoting discipline and respect in school. Because of this, the Clinton Administration has encouraged schools to consider adopting school uniform policies by sharing with every school district a school uniforms manual prepared by the Department of Education in consultation with local communities and the Department of Justice. Since the President highlighted school uniforms, a growing number of schools have adopted these policies including: New York City, Dade County, San Antonio, Houston, Chicago and Boston.

Supporting Curfews at the Local Level. Community curfews are designed to help keep children out of harm's way and enhance community safety. Because of their success, President Clinton has encouraged communities to adopt curfew policies. A 1997 survey by the U.S. Conference of Mayors has shown that 276 of 347 cities surveyed -- or 80 percent -- had youth curfew laws, up from 70 percent in 1995.

Developed a Comprehensive Anti-Gang and Youth Violence Strategy. President Clinton has proposed a comprehensive strategy to (1) target gangs and violent youths by hiring new prosecutors and probation officers, and expanding anti-gang task forces and the use of racketeering statutes (i.e., RICO) for gang-related offenses; (2) crack down on kids and guns by prohibiting violent juveniles from buying guns and increasing penalties for selling handguns to youths; and (3) keep kids off the streets and out of trouble by expanding after-school programs and promoting anti-truancy initiatives and youth curfews.

Keeping Guns Out of the Hands of Children. A number of laws and initiatives are keeping guns out of the hands of children and away from criminals. For instance, since the Brady Law's enactment, 250,000 felons, fugitives and stalkers have been denied handguns, and the 1994 Crime Bill banned 19 of the deadliest assault weapons and their copies -- keeping assault weapons off America's streets. The Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (YCGII) is cracking down on the illegal gun markets that supply firearms to juveniles and criminals in 27 target cities. The YCGII has already traced more than 93,000 guns, providing law enforcement with crucial investigative leads about illegal gun trafficking. The Administration's FY99 budget proposal contains an expansion of YCGII. In addition to these programs, President Clinton signed a directive to every federal agency, requiring child safety locking devices with every handgun issued to federal law enforcement officers. And, in an historic agreement, eight major gun manufacturers have voluntarily agreed to provide child safety locking devices with all their handguns, helping to protect our children.

Encouraging Conflict Resolution. The Departments of Education and Justice have developed and distributed 40,000 conflict resolution guides to schools and community organizations, providing guidance on how to develop effective conflict resolution programs; Education and Justice are training community officials and educators on these conflict resolution measures.

Targeting Young People with a National Anti-Drug Media Campaign. In July 1998, President Clinton launched the national expansion of the Anti-Drug Media Campaign first proposed in last year's drug strategy and budget. The 5-year, \$2 billion campaign is designed to let teens know -- when they turn on the television, listen to the radio, or surf the 'Net -- that drugs are dangerous, wrong and can kill you.

Building and Strengthening 14,000 Community Anti-Drug Coalitions. In 1997, President Clinton signed into law the bipartisan Drug-Free Communities Support Program. Over the next five years this program will provide \$143.5 million to help community coalitions rid their streets of drugs -- the coalitions are made up of young people, parents, media, law enforcement, religious and other civic organizations and school officials. Under this program, the President recently announced new Federal assistance to enhance grassroots efforts in 93 communities in 46 states to prevent youth drug abuse. This assistance will fund the work of broad-based community coalitions to target young people's use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

STRENGTHENING SCHOOLS, PROMOTING DISCIPLINE AND SUPPORTING LEARNING

Working Toward Smaller Classes with Well-Prepared Teachers. President Clinton has proposed helping school districts reduce class size in grades 1-3 to a nationwide average of 18 students by helping them to hire an additional 100,000 well-prepared teachers. This initiative will help children learn to read well in the early grades by giving them more individualized attention, will help teachers get the training and preparation they need to succeed and help educators maintain discipline and order which fosters a better learning environment.

Providing Early Education to More Children with Head Start and Early Head Start. Since 1993, the Clinton Administration has expanded Head Start by 57 percent, from \$2.8 billion in FY93 to \$4.4 billion in FY98. Now, 830,000 children are enrolled in Head Start, 200,000 more today than in 1992. In addition, the landmark Head Start Act Amendments of 1994 established the Early Head Start program, which expands Head Start to low-income families with children under three and to pregnant women. Under the President's budget, by 1999 nearly 50,000 infants, toddlers and their families will be served by Early Head Start. Studies have shown that investments made during the early stages of life reduce tendencies towards violence later in adulthood. Additionally, early investments also ensure that children are ready to learn when they enter school.

Replacing Crumbling Schools with Safer Ones. The proposed School Modernization Initiative will, if enacted, provide communities with interest-free bonds to help renovate, modernize and build over 5,000 schools nationwide.

Teaching Every Child to Read by the Third Grade. More than 1,000 colleges have committed work-study students to tutor children in reading, and thousands of AmeriCorps members and senior volunteers are organizing volunteer reading campaigns. In addition, a proposed early literacy bill, such as the America Reads Initiative, will provide more tutors after school, improve the teaching of reading in our schools, and help parents help their children learn to read.

Striving for Excellence with National Education Standards. Seeking high national standards for all students, the President has proposed a first-ever national test in 4th grade reading and 8th grade math. **Goals 2000** is helping States to establish voluntary standards of excellence and to plan and implement steps to raise educational achievement. In addition, the **Title I program** is helping more than 10 million disadvantaged students reach high academic standards by giving them extra help with basic and advanced skills.

Expanding Choice and Accountability in Public Schools. The number of public charter schools has increased from only one charter school in the nation in 1993 to more than 1,000 charter schools this year, providing greater choices in public education to families across the nation. The Administration has also called for an end to social promotion, aggressive intervention in failing schools, and higher standards for students, teachers and schools.

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Strengthening and Expanding the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act. In 1994, President Clinton expanded the Drug-Free Schools Act into the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act, making violence prevention a key part of this program. The Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program provides support for violence and drug prevention programs to 97% of the nation's school districts. Schools use these funds to keep violence, drugs and alcohol away from students and out of schools. The President's FY99 budget expands the Safe and Drug-Free Schools program by \$50 million to fund 1,300 Drug and Violence Prevention Coordinators that will help junior high and middle schools across the country develop and implement effective strategies to keep our kids safe and away from drugs.

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STRENGTHENING SCHOOLS, PROMOTING DISCIPLINE AND SUPPORTING LEARNING

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Striving for Excellence with National Education Standards. Seeking high national standards for all students, the President has proposed a first-ever national test in 4th grade reading and 8th grade math. **Goals 2000** is helping States to establish voluntary standards of excellence and to plan and implement steps to raise educational achievement. In addition, the **Title I program** is helping more than 10 million disadvantaged students reach high academic standards by giving them extra help with basic and advanced skills.

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PROMOTING SCHOOL SAFETY, PREVENTING YOUTH VIOLENCE AND ENCOURAGING LEARNING

--The Clinton Administration Record --

MAKING OUR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES SAFER AND DRUG-FREE

Forging School-Based Partnerships Between Schools and Law Enforcement. Under the new School-Based Partnerships grant program, the Clinton Administration released \$16.4 million in grants to 155 law enforcement agencies in September. The School-Based Partnerships grants will be used by policing agencies to work with schools and community-based organizations to address crime at and around schools. This initiative emphasizes using principles of community policing and problem-solving methods to address the causes of school-related crime. The grants will help forge or strengthen partnerships between local law enforcement and schools to focus on school crime, drug use and discipline problems.

Helping Teachers and Principals Respond to the Early Warning Signs of Troubled Youth. President Clinton directed the Secretary of Education and the Attorney General to develop a guide to help teachers and principals identify and respond to the early warning signs of troubled youth that can lead to school violence. In August 1998, the Departments of Justice and Education released *Early Warning, Timely Response: A Guide to Safe Schools*. This guide provides schools and communities with information on how to identify the early warning signs and take action steps to prevent and respond to school violence. Every school in the nation received a copy of the guide.

Issuing the First Annual Report on School Safety. In December 1997, President Clinton called for an Annual Report on School Safety, which will be released on October 15, 1998. The report will include: an analysis of all existing national school crime data and an overview of state and local crime reporting; examples of schools and strategies that are successfully reducing school violence, drug use and class disruption; actions that parents can take locally to combat school crime; and resources available to schools and communities to help create safe, disciplined and drug-free schools.

Strengthening and Expanding the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act. In 1994, President Clinton expanded the Drug-Free Schools Act into the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act, making violence prevention a key part of this program. The Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program provides support for violence and drug prevention programs to 97% of the nation's school districts. Schools use these funds to keep violence, drugs and alcohol away from students and out of schools. The President's FY99 budget expands the Safe and Drug-Free Schools program by \$50 million to fund 1,300 Drug and Violence Prevention Coordinators that will help junior high and middle schools across the country develop and implement effective strategies to keep our kids safe and away from drugs.

Enforcing Zero Tolerance for Guns and Other Weapons in Schools. In October 1994, President Clinton signed into law the Gun-Free Schools Act, requiring states to have in effect a law requiring local education agencies (LEAs) to expel students who bring guns to school. The President issued a Presidential Directive later that month to enforce "zero tolerance" for guns in schools, a policy requiring the expulsion of students who bring guns to schools. In school year 1996-97, the U.S. Department of Education estimates that, under zero tolerance policies, 6,093 students were expelled from public schools for bringing a firearm to school.

Supporting Civic, Community and Faith-Based Organizations. Recognizing the important role that civic, community and faith-based organizations can play in reducing crime, the Administration launched a new Values-Based Violence Prevention Initiative to make \$2.2 million in grants available to 16 community-based collaboratives, including religiously-affiliated organizations, that target youth violence, gangs, truancy, and other juvenile problems by promoting common-sense values and responsibility.

Providing Safe After-School Opportunities for Up to Half a Million Children a Year. Last year (FY98), the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program was expanded by \$40 million. This funding will enable 315 rural and urban schools in 36 states to provide school-based after-school programs, including on weekends and during the summer. This year, the President proposed a major expansion of this program to provide safe and educational after-school opportunities for up to 500,000 school-age children in rural and urban communities across the country. In addition, the Education Department released a report in June 1998, titled *Safe and Smart: Making the After-School Hours Work for Kids*. This report shows that after-school programs can lower juvenile crime and improve academic performance. *Safe and Smart* was sent to every school district in the country.

Cracking Down on Truancy. Truancy prevention initiatives have been shown to keep more children in school and dramatically reduce daytime crime. The Education Department issued a guidebook to the 15,000 school districts nationwide which outlines the central characteristics of a comprehensive truancy prevention policy and highlights model initiatives in cities and towns across the country. Since then, the Education Department has provided grants to local school districts to develop innovative truancy prevention programs of the kind described in the guidebook.

Encouraging Schools to Adopt School Uniform Policies. School uniforms have been found to be a promising strategy to reduce violence while promoting discipline and respect in school. Because of this, the Clinton Administration has encouraged schools to consider adopting school uniform policies by sharing with every school district a school uniforms manual prepared by the Department of Education in consultation with local communities and the Department of Justice. Since the President highlighted school uniforms, a growing number of schools have adopted these policies including: New York City, Dade County, San Antonio, Houston, Chicago and Boston.

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▶ Roger V. Salazar

10/14/98 11:19:19 AM

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Record Type: Record

To: Toby C. Graff/WHO/EOP, Julie E. Mason/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: Advisory -- WH Conference on School Safety

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY

Contact: 202/456-7150

October 13, 1998

THE PRESIDENT AND FIRST LADY TO HOST WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON SCHOOL SAFETY

Washington, D.C. -- President Clinton and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will host the *White House Conference on School Safety: Causes and Prevention of Youth Violence* on October 15, 1998. The Conference will be a day-long event held in the White House Conference Center and in the East Room of the White House and will include participation by Attorney General Janet Reno, Education Secretary Richard Riley, Members of Congress, and state and local elected officials. More than 100 individuals from around the country, including teachers, principals, schools superintendents, members of law enforcement, experts from medical and psychological fields, clergy and religious leaders and other community representatives will attend the conference. The conference will be broadcast via satellite to over 600 locations nationwide and cybercast on the Internet.

WHAT: The President and First Lady host the White House Conference on School Safety

WHERE: The White House

WHEN: All Day. Thursday, October 15, 1998

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

8:30 am Morning Workshop Sessions

White House Conference Center, Jackson Place

POOL PRESS ONLY (FOR OPENING REMARKS ONLY)

1) **Education and Safety** -- Chair, Secretary of Education Richard Riley

2) **Early Warning Signs, Mental Health Interventions and Crisis**

Response -- Chair, Margaret Hamburg, Assistant Secretary of Health

and

Human Services for Planning and Evaluation

3) School, Community and Law Enforcement

Partnerships -- *Chair, Associate Attorney General Raymond Fisher*

4) Causes of Youth Violence in Early Childhood Development --

Chair, Attorney General Janet Reno

NOTE: Four separate pools will be formed for the morning workshop sessions. Media interested in serving as pool for these workshops should contact the White House Press Office at (202) 456-7150. These workshops will **not** be available via satellite or cybercast.

- MORE -

-2-

10:30 am Morning Plenary Session
East Room, The White House
OPEN PRESS

Opening Session and Conference Overview

The First Lady, Attorney General Janet Reno,

Secretary of Education Richard Riley, and panel participants

12:45 pm Afternoon Panel I
East Room, The White House
OPEN PRESS

**Discussion of the Causes and Prevention of Youth Violence that Affect
our Schools and Communities**

The President, Vice President, First Lady, and panel participants

2:45 pm Afternoon Panel II
East Room, The White House
OPEN PRESS

**Discussion of Initiatives and Strategies that Work to Reduce Youth
Violence**

*The First Lady, Attorney General Janet Reno, Secretary of Education
Richard Riley, and panel participants*

NOTE: Panel participants will be available for interviews on the White House North Lawn following Afternoon Panel I and Afternoon Panel II. Media without White House credentials or needing clearance should contact the White House Press Office at 202/456-7150. Media wishing to pre-set should gather in the briefing room at 9:00 am for escort to the East Room. Final escort for the morning session will be at 10:15 am.

Satellite Information:

All East Room sessions of the White House Conference on School Safety will be broadcast via satellite. Over 600 communities across the country will be hosting events around this live national satellite broadcast. Contact the White House Press Office for locations in your communities. In addition, media can downlink the satellite broadcast from the following coordinates:

C-BAND COORDINATES

Satellite: GE 2
Transponder: 1
Channel: 1
Frequency: 3720 MHZ Vertical

Ku-BAND COORDINATES

Satellite: Galaxy 3
Transponder: 17
Channel: 17
Frequency: 12043 MHZ Vertical

- MORE - - 3-

Cybercast Information:

The White House Conference on School Safety Cybercast can be accessed at the following world wide web address: www.whitehouse.gov/WH/New/Safety/

Panel Participants:

The following are some of the individuals who will participate in panel discussions during the White House Conference on School Safety.

Paul Kingery, Ph.D., Director, Hamilton Fish National Institute on School and Community Violence, Rosslyn, VA
Marlene Wong, Director, L.A. School of Mental Health, Valley Branch, CA
Suzanne Wilson, Parent, Jonesboro, AR
Mayor Deedee Corradini, Salt Lake City, UT
Tony Earles, Professor, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
U.S. Representative Bobby Etheridge (D-NC)
Paul Evans, Commissioner, Boston Police Department, Boston, MA
Liberty Franklin, Everett Boys and Girls Club, Everett, WA
Jamon Kent, Superintendent, Springfield Public Schools, Springfield, OR
Joanna Quintano, Teacher, Coral Way Elementary School, Miami, FL
Thomas C. Frazier, Police Commissioner, Baltimore Police Department, Baltimore, MD
Lt. Gary French, Boston's Operation Ceasefire, Roslindale, MA
Mariana Gaston, Director, Resolving Conflict Creatively Program, New York, NY
Lynn McDonald, Ph.D., Founder, Families and Schools Together (FAST), Madison, WI
Irma Howard, FAST Graduate, New Orleans, LA
Sandy McBrayer, Executive Director, Children's Initiative, San Diego, CA

bc-SCHOOLSAFETY

White House conference to focus on causes, prevention of school violence

Eds: With sidebar SCHOOLVIOLENCE

By DENNIS CAMIRE

Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON - A new report on school violence, to be released Thursday as the White House has a national conference on school safety, shows an overall decline of school crime, a stable rate of serious violent crime and fewer students carrying weapons to school.

The report, compiled by the Education and Justice Departments, also details attacks in schools against both teachers and students, notes a growing gang presence in schools and shows more students today are fearful in schools than in the past.

"All of us must take the issue of school safety seriously," said Attorney General Janet Reno. "We cannot rest until every child is safe at school and in the community."

The report information sets the scene for the day-long conference that includes representatives from each of the communities - Pearl, Miss., Paducah, Ky., Jonesboro, Ark., and Springfield, Ore. - that saw students shooting other students in their schools. More than 100 people from around the country, including President Clinton, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, Attorney General Janet Reno and Education Secretary Richard Riley, are involved.

The conference will focus on causes and prevention of youth violence in its morning session. In the afternoon, it will center on initiatives and strategies that work to reduce violence.

Pearl, Miss., and its schools will be among the 600 schools and other locations nationwide that will be linked by satellite to the national conference while holding their own conference at the same time. Pearl officials said their conference will focus attention on local problems, learn from solutions found to problems in other areas and highlight their own successful initiatives.

The school crime report found that homicides in schools, such as those that occurred at Pearl in which one student was killed and seven others injured by a student with a deer rifle, are "extremely rare events."

While the number of multiple-victim homicides at schools increased from two with four victims in 1992 and 1993 to six with 16 victims in 1997 and 1998, "the overall number of violent deaths of students at schools has remained steady."

The report found that 10 percent of the schools reported at least one incident of serious violent crime, such as physical attacks or fights with a weapon, rape, robbery, murder or suicide. But 43 percent of the schools reported no incidents of crime, and 47 percent had at least one incident of less serious or nonviolent crime.

Riley said the report "proves that the vast majority of America's schools are still among the safest places for young people to be."

"We can also stake some satisfaction that the tough measures to keep guns out of schools are having a real impact," he said. "Even one incident of crime in a school is too many, and I especially worry about the increasing presence of gangs in school."

Parents, educators and communities are encouraged to use the report "as a tool to help them find solutions to address this important issue" in a way that meets their local needs, Riley said.

The report showed that the overall school crime rate declined between 1993 and 1996, from 164 to 128 school-related crimes for every 1,000 students between 12 and 18 years of age. Crime victimization outside of school declined from about 140 to 117 crimes for every 1,000 students during the same period.

Most school crime is theft, not serious violent crime, the report found. In 1996, theft made up 62 percent of crimes against students in school, and in the same year, about 26 of 1,000 students were victims of serious violent

crimes away from school compared to 10 of every 1,000 students at school or going to and from school.

But the report showed that from 1989 to 1995, students became more fearful of their safety at school. In 1989, about 6 percent of students aged 12 through 19 sometimes or most of the time feared they were going to be attacked or harmed at school. By 1995, that number had risen to 9 percent.

During the same period, the percentage of students fearing an attack while traveling to and from schools rose from 4 percent to 7 percent.

Raymond Fischer, an associate attorney general, said he rejected the notion of what some are calling a school crime epidemic, but only because of what has been learned through various conferences over time.

"I think that initial reaction generally has been dispelled," he said. "but the reason people were fearing for their safety in schools is what they were seeing on the nightly news every night. When that's drummed in, the kids begin to pick up on it, obviously, and that creates a climate."

Other report findings include:

- On average from 1992 to 1996, public and private school teachers reported about 30 violent crimes and 16 thefts for every 1,000 teachers.

- From 1993 to 1997, there was an overall decline from 12 percent to 9 percent among students in grades nine through 12 who reported carrying a weapon to school in the previous month. In 1996 and 1997, states and territories expelled 6,093 students from bringing firearms to school.

- Between 1989 and 1995, the percentage of students in urban, suburban and rural schools who reported street gangs in their schools increased from 15 percent to 28 percent.

- School security measures are increasing with 96 percent of public schools reporting some type in place.

The report also shows steps that schools, parents, businesses, communities and elected officials can take to develop their own school safety plan and lists resources that can be used to obtain more information.

**** filed by:GN-F(--) on 10/14/98 at 18:49EDT ****

**** printed by:WHPR(SCOH) on 10/15/98 at 12:43EDT ****



PRESS
RELEASE

MTV JOINS PRESIDENT CLINTON AT WHITE HOUSE SUMMIT ON SCHOOL VIOLENCE AND ANNOUNCES COMPREHENSIVE ANTI- VIOLENCE CAMPAIGN --

"FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHTS: TAKE A STAND AGAINST VIOLENCE"

YEAR-LONG CAMPAIGN AIMS AT PROVIDING SOLUTIONS TO VIOLENCE

Young Adults See Violence As Single Most Important Issue Affecting Their Lives

Washington, D.C./New York, NY, October 15, 1998 – MTV today announced a comprehensive, year-long campaign aimed at raising awareness and providing actionable solutions to youth violence. Today, President Clinton, at the White House Summit on School Violence, announced MTV's partnership with the US Departments of Justice and Education to help youth take a stand against violence and acknowledged the importance of MTV's campaign, which will begin in January 1999.

"Fight For Your Rights: Take A Stand Against Violence" will involve special programming, Public Service Announcements, grass roots events, and MTV News special reports all designed to give MTV's audience a voice in the national debate on violence and to provide them with tangible tactics to take a stand against violence.

Through partnerships with The Department of Justice, The Department of Education and the National Endowment of the Arts, MTV has developed a Youth Action Guide which will be distributed throughout the campaign. The guide will outline 5 different actions, aimed at engaging youth in solutions to violence, as well as providing alternative outlets to violence. MTV viewers will be able to receive the guide by calling a special 800 number that will be promoted throughout the year on MTV during programming and on-air promotion devoted specifically to the topic of youth violence. MTV will partner with cable distributors across the country on an extensive off-air campaign which will aim to reduce violence through local programs.

In addition, MTV is teaming up with the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) and Nimbus Manufacturing to produce up to one million enhanced CDs which will include recordings and comments on violence from some of today's hottest artists and a CD ROM focused on conflict resolution skills. The CD will be promoted on MTV and made available, free of charge, to any individual requesting a Youth Action Guide.

-more-



Violence is the number one concern of the 12-34 year old audience, according to a poll conducted by Penn and Schoen exclusively for MTV. In addition, 12-34 year olds are the demographic group that is most affected by violence -- both as the victims and the aggressors.

Both on air and off, MTV will focus it's campaign on three different types of violence which most affect its young audience: Violence in the Schools; Violence in the Streets (hate violence and gang violence) and; Sexual Violence. Through high profile programming events, coverage in MTV News, and thought-provoking on-air promos, the campaign will aim at providing ideas and solutions beyond curfews and school uniforms. For example, MTV will partner with the American Psychological Association to produce a news program on "Warning Signs" with an 800 number and a guide directed at helping youth recognize the signs of potential violent behavior. Focusing on solutions, such as peer mentoring, conflict resolution programs, artistic responses to violence and youth advocacy groups, the campaign will give young people the tools to take a stand against violence.

In announcing the campaign, Judy McGrath, President, MTV commented, "MTV is at its best when it gives our audience a voice to address their concerns. Clearly, violence affects their lives in a direct way, and it's incredibly timely and important for MTV to speak directly to these issues, and to offer some concrete action steps for viewers. If we can help one young person in trouble, this campaign will be a success."

MTV will work with the following partners to engage youth in solutions to violence: America's Promise, Creative Partnership for Prevention, Harvard School of Public Health, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, National Center for Conflict Resolution Education, National Institute for Dispute Resolution, National Institute for Dispute Resolution and Conflict Resolution Education, The National Mentoring Partnership, National Youth in Action Campaign, The National Youth Network, PAX and Rock the Vote.

Detailed programming and off-air plans for "Fight For Your Rights: Take A Stand Against Violence" will be announced later this year.

MTV Networks, a unit of Viacom Inc., owns and operates five cable television programming services -- MTV: Music Television, M2, VH1, Nickelodeon/Nick at Nite, and Nick at Nite's TV Land -- all of which are trademarks of MTV Networks. Information about MTV and M2 is available on MTV Online, on America Online (Keyword: MTV) and the World Wide Web (<http://mtv.com>).

For More Information Contact:

Tina Exarhos
Senior Vice President, Communications
(212)258-8727



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-more-



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Both on air and off, MTV will focus it's campaign on three different types of violence which most affect its young audience: Violence in the Schools; Violence in the Streets (hate violence and gang violence) and; Sexual Violence. Through high profile programming events, coverage in MTV News, and thought-provoking on-air promos, the campaign will aim at providing ideas and solutions beyond curfews and school uniforms. For example, MTV will partner with the American Psychological Association to produce a news program on "Warning Signs" with an 800 number and a guide directed at helping youth recognize the signs of potential violent behavior. Focusing on solutions, such as peer mentoring, conflict resolution programs, artistic responses to violence and youth advocacy groups, the campaign will give young people the tools to take a stand against violence.

In announcing the campaign, Judy McGrath, President, MTV commented, "MTV is at its best when it gives our audience a voice to address their concerns. Clearly, violence affects their lives in a direct way, and it's incredibly timely and important for MTV to speak directly to these issues, and to offer some concrete action steps for viewers. If we can help one young person in trouble, this campaign will be a success."

MTV will work with the following partners to engage youth in solutions to violence: America's Promise, Creative Partnership for Prevention, Harvard School of Public Health, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, National Center for Conflict Resolution Education, National Institute for Dispute Resolution, National Institute for Dispute Resolution and Conflict Resolution Education, The National Mentoring Partnership, National Youth in Action Campaign, The National Youth Network, PAX and Rock the Vote.

Detailed programming and off-air plans for "Fight For Your Rights: Take A Stand Against Violence" will be announced later this year.

MTV Networks, a unit of Viacom Inc., owns and operates five cable television programming services -- MTV: Music Television, M2, VH1, Nickelodeon/Nick at Nite, and Nick at Nite's TV Land -- all of which are trademarks of MTV Networks. Information about MTV and M2 is available on MTV Online, on America Online (Keyword: MTV) and the World Wide Web (<http://mtv.com>).

For More Information Contact:

Tina Exarhos
Senior Vice President, Communications
(212)258-8727



PRESS
RELEASE

MTV JOINS PRESIDENT CLINTON AT WHITE HOUSE SUMMIT ON SCHOOL VIOLENCE AND ANNOUNCES COMPREHENSIVE ANTI- VIOLENCE CAMPAIGN --

"FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHTS: TAKE A STAND AGAINST VIOLENCE"

YEAR-LONG CAMPAIGN AIMS AT PROVIDING SOLUTIONS TO VIOLENCE

Young Adults See Violence As Single Most Important Issue Affecting Their Lives

Washington, D.C./New York, NY, October 15, 1998 – MTV today announced a comprehensive, year-long campaign aimed at raising awareness and providing actionable solutions to youth violence. Today, President Clinton, at the White House Summit on School Violence, announced MTV's partnership with the US Departments of Justice and Education to help youth take a stand against violence and acknowledged the importance of MTV's campaign, which will begin in January 1999.

"Fight For Your Rights: Take A Stand Against Violence" will involve special programming, Public Service Announcements, grass roots events, and MTV News special reports all designed to give MTV's audience a voice in the national debate on violence and to provide them with tangible tactics to take a stand against violence.

Through partnerships with The Department of Justice, The Department of Education and the National Endowment of the Arts, MTV has developed a Youth Action Guide which will be distributed throughout the campaign. The guide will outline 5 different actions, aimed at engaging youth in solutions to violence, as well as providing alternative outlets to violence. MTV viewers will be able to receive the guide by calling a special 800 number that will be promoted throughout the year on MTV during programming and on-air promotion devoted specifically to the topic of youth violence. MTV will partner with cable distributors across the country on an extensive off-air campaign which will aim to reduce violence through local programs.

In addition, MTV is teaming up with the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) and Nimbus Manufacturing to produce up to one million enhanced CDs which will include recordings and comments on violence from some of today's hottest artists and a CD ROM focused on conflict resolution skills. The CD will be promoted on MTV and made available, free of charge, to any individual requesting a Youth Action Guide.

-more-



Violence is the number one concern of the 12-34 year old audience, according to a poll conducted by Penn and Schoen exclusively for MTV. In addition, 12-34 year olds are the demographic group that is most affected by violence -- both as the victims and the aggressors.

Both on air and off, MTV will focus it's campaign on three different types of violence which most affect its young audience: Violence in the Schools; Violence in the Streets (hate violence and gang violence) and; Sexual Violence. Through high profile programming events, coverage in MTV News, and thought-provoking on-air promos, the campaign will aim at providing ideas and solutions beyond curfews and school uniforms. For example, MTV will partner with the American Psychological Association to produce a news program on "Warning Signs" with an 800 number and a guide directed at helping youth recognize the signs of potential violent behavior. Focusing on solutions, such as peer mentoring, conflict resolution programs, artistic responses to violence and youth advocacy groups, the campaign will give young people the tools to take a stand against violence.

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For More Information Contact:

Tina Exarhos
Senior Vice President, Communications
(212)258-8727

WHSO LAYOUT Draft 3

a/o 10/7/98 L. Schwartz

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON SCHOOL SAFETY

Thursday, October 15, 1998

all tours canceled

Conference Start: 7:30 a.m. WH Conference Center - Registration and Break Out Sessions.

Gate Opens: 10:00 a.m.

POTUS/FL/VP/MEG	9:50 a.m.	Brief	Map Room	
	10:20 a.m.	Meet	Blue Room	
	10:30 a.m.	Session I	East Room	150/Open Press
	12:30 p.m.	Lunch	State Dining Room	140/Closed
		Press		
	1:50 p.m.	Meet	Blue Room	
	2:00 p.m.	Session II	East Room	150/Open Press

Approx. 150 guests/Open Press/Business Attire

8 Social Aides

4 Volunteers - NW gate and other areas tbd

Wednesday, October 14, 1998

3:00 p.m. Room, satellite and technical set-up for monitors etc.

Thursday, October 15, 1998

7:30 a.m. Participants register at 726 Jackson Place for the conference, and have preliminary sessions.

9:45 a.m. Participants proceed to the NW Gate from Jackson Place.

10:00 a.m. NW Gate Visitors Gate opens, guests proceed into East Room.
Panel I participants proceed to the Blue Room for to meet the Principals.

*Note extraneous "special guests" will proceed to Room 450 OEOB to watch the Conference. *Contact: Lynn Cutler, Mike (Richard's intern)*

9:50 a.m. **THE PRESIDENT, MRS. CLINTON, THE VICE PRESIDENT, and MRS. GORE**, proceed to the Map Room for briefing.
Contact: Richard Socarides, Neera Tanden

10:20 a.m. **THE PRESIDENT, MRS. CLINTON, THE VICE PRESIDENT, and MRS. GORE** meet Panel I participants in the Blue Room.

Blue Room Participants

Mrs. Liberty Franklin, Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year
 Hon. Deedee Corradini, Mayor Salt Lake City, Utah
 Mr. Tony Earles, Professor, Harvard University
 Mr. Paul Evans, Commissioner, Boston Police Department, MA
 Mr. Jamon Kent, Superintendent, Springfield, OR Public Schools
 Ms. Marlene Wong, Director, L.A. School of Mental health, Valley Branch, CA
 Rep. Bob Etheridge (D-NC)
 Joanna Quintero, Teacher, Miami, FL (tentative)
 Ms. Suzanne Wilson

10:30 a.m. **THE PRESIDENT, MRS. CLINTON, THE VICE PRESIDENT, MRS. GORE**, and Panel I participants are announced into East Room and take their seats at the table on stage.

10:30 a.m.- Session I (see separate sheet)
12:30 p.m.

12:30 p.m. Session I concludes, **THE PRESIDENT, THE VICE PRESIDENT** and **MRS. GORE** depart. **MRS. CLINTON** proceeds to the Residence or tbd to hold momentarily until guests have gone through the buffet and are seated in the State Dining Room.

Participants proceed to lunch in the State Dining Room via the Green Room into the Blue Room to pick up escort cards and into the Cross Hall for the buffet.

Approx. 1:00 p.m. **MRS. CLINTON** returns to the State Floor and begins lunch program by introducing Sen. Kennedy, Robert Chase and Sandy

Feldman.

1:30 p.m. Lunch and lunch program concludes.
MRS. CLINTON proceeds to the Map Room for briefing on Session II or private time in Residence prior to Session II.
Guests proceed to restrooms etc. and are seated by Social Aides in the East Room for Session II.

1:40 p.m. Panel II participants proceed to the Blue Room to meet **MRS. CLINTON**.

1:50 p.m. **MRS. CLINTON** proceeds to the Blue Room to greet Panel II participants.

Blue Room Participants

Attorney General Reno
Secretary Riley
Lt. Gary french
Sandy McBrayer
Dr. Paul Kingery
Dr. Lynn McDonald
Irma Howard
Mariana Gaston
Thomas Frazier

2:00 p.m. **MRS. CLINTON** and Panel II participants are announced into East Room and take their seats at the table on stage.

2:00 p.m. - Session II
3:45 p.m.

3:30 p.m. Busses arrive East Executive Avenue.
Contact: Bronson Frick

3:45 p.m. **MRS. CLINTON** makes closing remarks and departs.

Guests depart East Gate for reception off site via busses on East Exec.

STATE FLOOR NOTES: *Strings and piano in Grand Foyer - perhaps only piano*

EAST ROOM NOTES: 150 chairs in East Room, 10 x 32 stage at south end of East Room; 24ft. Table on stage; 8 gold chairs on stage; 4 comfortable - "good" chairs for the 4 Principals; 2 sided table tents for panelists; monitors placed in room;

LUNCH NOTES: escort card table set in Blue Room for seating cards at lunch; Lunch buffet outside Red Room; tables/chairs in State Dining Room; strings and piano in Grand Foyer to play until lunch program begins; stand up microphone for lunch program; Social Aides direct guests to State Dining Room/Ground Floor restrooms.

October 14, 1998

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON SCHOOL SAFETY

DATE:	October 15, 1998
LOCATION:	The East Room
BRIEFING TIME:	12:15 pm - 12:35 pm
EVENT TIME:	12:45 pm - 2:30 pm
FROM:	Bruce Reed Richard Socarides

I. PURPOSE

To bring together a broad coalition of youth violence experts and advocates, educators, elected officials, law enforcement, and prevention and intervention practitioners -- as well as communities across the country through 600 satellite sites -- to discuss and learn more about what we do to make our schools and communities safer.

II. BACKGROUND

Although schools are generally safer today than they were just a few years ago -- and statistics show that students are safer sitting in a classroom than walking down the street -- there is still much more that can be done to improve school safety and security. In particular, the multiple shootings that took place in schools in Pearl, MS, Paducah, KY, Jonesboro, AK, and Springfield, OR, serve as painful reminders that no community is immune from senseless violence -- and that all communities must do their best to prevent such tragedies from ever occurring.

At the conference, you will unveil the first Annual Report on School Safety, prepared by the Departments of Justice and Education in response to a directive by you after the Paducah shooting last December. The report is intended to give parents, principals and policy makers a yearly snapshot of school crime, as well as to provide information on what practical steps they can take to make their schools safer. [*Key findings of the report are attached.]

In your opening remarks you will announce the following new initiatives that address many of the problems identified in the Annual Report:

(1) A New Federal Response for Violent Deaths in Schools. You will propose a \$12 million School Emergency Response to Violence -- or Project SERV -- to help schools and local communities respond to school-related violent deaths, such as those that occurred last year in Jonesboro, Arkansas; Paducah, Kentucky; Pearl, Mississippi; and Springfield, Oregon. Developed with input from local officials and educators in these and other communities, Project SERV will enable the federal government to assist local communities in much the same way FEMA assists in response to natural disasters.

(2) Targeted Resources for Schools with Serious Crime Problems. To help give the estimated 10% of schools with serious crime problems the tools they need to put the security of our children first, you will announce a new \$65 million initiative to hire up to 2,000 community police and School Resource Officers to work in schools -- and to train police, educators and other members of the community to help recognize the early warning signs of violence.

(3) Reforms to Help Make All Schools Safe, Disciplined and Drug-Free. You will outline a plan to overhaul the nearly \$600 million Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Program. Under this new proposal, schools will be required to adopt rigorous, comprehensive school safety plans that include: tough, but fair, discipline policies; safe passage to and from schools; effective drug and violence policies and programs; annual school safety and drug use report cards; links to after school programs; efforts to involve parents; and crisis management plans.

(4) A Community-Wide Response to School Safety and Youth Violence. To help communities throughout the country promote a coordinated, comprehensive response to school safety, you will also launch a new Safe Schools -- Safe Communities initiative designed to help 10 cities develop and implement community-wide school safety plans. A minimum of \$25 million in discretionary grants from the Departments of Education, Justice and Health and Human Services -- or \$1-3 million per site -- will be made available for this initiative.

Finally, you will announce a partnership between the federal government and MTV to engage youth in solutions to violence. Beginning in 1999, MTV will launch a year-long media campaign -- "Fight For Your Rights: Take A Stand Against Youth Violence" -- designed to give young adults a voice in the national debate on school and youth violence. Working with the Departments of Education and Justice, and the National Endowment for the Arts, MTV will distribute

a Youth Action Guide that aims to engage youth in mentoring and other positive solutions to violence. The guide will be made available through a 1-800 number at the Justice Department and through MTV. In an earlier panel, the First Lady will have introduced one of the MTV media campaign segments.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Briefing Participants:

Bruce Reed/Elena Kagan
Marsha Scott
Melanne Verveer
Ron Klain
Michael Cohen/Tanya Martin
Richard Socarides
Jose Cerda
Leanne Shimabukuro
Neera Tanden
Lynn Cutler

Presidential Panel Participants:

The Vice President
The First Lady
Jamon Kent, Superintendent of Springfield Public Schools, Springfield,
Oregon
Police Commissioner Paul Evans, Boston, Massachusetts
Mayor Deedee Corradini, Pres. of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, St. Lake
City, Utah
Liberty Franklin, National Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year, Everett,
Washington
Tony Earles, Professor Harvard School of Public Health
Joanna Quintana Barroso, Third Grade Teacher, Coral Way Elementary,
Miami, Florida
Representative Bobby Etheridge

IV. PRESS PLAN

Open Press.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- **YOU** will be announced into the room accompanied by the Vice President and the First Lady.
- The Vice President makes remarks and introduces **YOU**.

- **YOU** will make remarks.
 - **YOU** will make remarks and then take your seat at the table.
 - **YOU** will then moderate the discussion by calling on each individual.
 - **YOU**, the Vice President, and the First Lady will have the option of asking follow up questions to each speaker.
- [*Suggested speaking order and questions attached.]

VI. REMARKS

Provided by Speechwriting.

VII. ATTACHMENTS

- Summary of Key Findings.
- Suggested Sequence of Events.
- Conference Agenda

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

- **Students less likely to be victimized but more likely to feel unsafe.** Although the number of multiple homicide events at schools has increased since 1993 (from 2 to 6 -- and with 4 times as many victims), the overall school crime rate has actually dropped (from 164 crimes per 1,000 students in 1993 to about 128 such crimes in 1996). However, the percentage of students reporting that they felt unsafe at or on their way to school has increased.
- **Most schools safer than community at large.** While the overall level of school and non-school crime is about the same (about 3 million crimes in each setting), students are more than twice as likely to experience serious violent crime while out of school. And the very worst violent victimizations -- murders and suicides -- rarely occur in or near schools. Fewer than 1% of the 7,357 thousand children who were murdered in 1992-93 -- or 63 -- were killed at school.
- **Serious crime and violence concentrated in a small percentage of schools.** Only about 10% of public schools report serious or violent crimes to their local police departments. Nearly half -- or 47% -- of schools report less serious or non-violent crimes to police, and 43% report absolutely no crimes at all.
- **Violence more likely in larger, urban schools and with older students.** One third of large schools (1,000+ students) report serious violent crimes to police, compared with less than one tenth of small schools. Also urban schools are twice as likely as rural schools to report serious violent crimes, and middle and high schools are 4 times more likely than elementary schools to report such crimes.
- **Fist fights and theft the most common crimes.** Overall, physical attacks and fights without weapons are the crimes most often reported to police by middle and high schools. Theft is the most common school crime overall. In 1996, less than 10% of crimes against students were of a serious or violent nature.
- **Fewer weapons in schools.** About 6% of high school seniors -- less than in recent years -- are carrying firearms and other weapons to schools. Also, the percentage of seniors intentionally injured -- with or without weapons -- has not changed significantly over the past 20 years.
- **Gang presence nearly doubled.** Between 1989 and 1995, the percentage of students reporting the presence of street gangs in their schools increased from 15% to 28% -- including large increases at urban, suburban and rural

schools.

- **Violence and drugs linked.** Students who reported being the victims of violent crimes at schools were more likely to report the availability of drugs at school. The presence of gangs and guns is also related to school crime and the victimization of students.
- **Teachers often crime victims.** On average, 3% of teachers are the victims of violent crimes, and nearly 5% are the victims of theft at school.

The White House Conference on School Safety

October 15, 1998

Questions and Answers (Internal)

GENERAL CONFERENCE QUESTIONS

Question: Why are you hosting a White House Conference on School Safety?

Answer: Although schools are among the safest places for America's young people, we know that violent crime continues to plague a number of our schools. The recent school shooting tragedies are a stark reminder of this. We know that the problems children face in school often reflect the problems of their communities: drugs, gangs, and guns. Fortunately, we also know a lot about the causes of youth violence and school violence, as well as what works to prevent it. The President is convening the White House Conference on School Safety so that we can share with people around the country the wealth of information we have. Well over 600 satellite sites will be participating in this Conference; they will listen to, and learn from, students, parents, teachers, law enforcement and other experts about why school violence happens and what works to prevent it.

Question: What is happening at the Conference?

Answer: The White House Conference on School Safety will work toward finding solutions to this challenge: *How do schools, families and communities work together to make sure that every child is safe in every school and community in America?* The President, Vice President and First Lady will explore solutions to this challenge with the Attorney General, the Secretary of Education, elected officials, students, parents, teachers, law enforcement and other experts.

The day-long event in the East Room of the White House includes morning workshops and panel discussions. The opening panel will set-up the day by examining the problem and the causes of school and youth violence. The second panel will turn towards solutions, with the President making a number of policy announcements. The third and final panel will explore best practices and model safety strategies that have been shown to reduce school and youth violence.

Question: What has the President done on the issue of school safety?

Answer: Throughout his Presidency, President Clinton has worked to strengthen America's schools, communities and families, by giving Americans the tools they need to fulfill their responsibilities and giving children the ability to reach their full potential in a safe and healthy environment. To that end, President Clinton and this Administration have worked to promote school safety, prevent youth violence and encourage learning. The President is working to make our schools safer and drug-free with programs like School-Based Partnerships which helps to forge or strengthen partnerships between local law enforcement and schools to focus on school crime, drug use and discipline problem or the zero tolerance for guns in schools policy which requires the expulsion of students for bringing firearms to schools. Last month, the President released the *Early Warning, Timely Response: A Guide to Safe Schools*. This guide provides schools and communities with information on how to identify the early warning signs and take action steps to prevent and respond to school violence. And the President's comprehensive Anti-Gang and Youth Violence Strategy is a full-scale assault on juvenile crime in America. These are just a few examples.

Question: Are America's schools unsafe?

Answer: America's schools are quite safe. While we need to work to make them safer, we know that for the most part our schools are safer than the communities in which they are located. Data from the Annual Report on School Safety indicates that 43 percent of schools reported NO incidents of crime, and 90 percent of schools reported NO incidents of serious violent crime.

But even though schools are generally safe, no school or community is immune from senseless violence, as last school year's tragedies reminded us. And although students are safer sitting in a classroom than walking down the street, serious crime problems persist, gang presence in schools doubled between 1989 and 1995, thousands of kids bring guns to school, and discipline remains the #1 problem in the classroom. We will be addressing these issues in the Conference.

Question: If America's schools are, for the most part, so safe, why did these recent tragedies occur?

Answer: The recent tragedies in Pearl, Paducah, Jonesboro, Springfield, Oregon are extremely rare (less than one percent of homicides among this age group occurs in a school setting). Nevertheless, they are truly tragic incidents that we hope never happen again. We may never understand why a young man

would walk into a school and shoot his fellow students and teachers -- perhaps because of media influences, availability of guns, insufficient mental health counseling. While we need to better understand why these incidents occurred, it is more important that we ensure they don't happen again. Much of what is happening at this conference will help schools and communities in that regard.

Question: Whose responsibility is it to create safer schools and communities?

Answer: We cannot make schools truly safe unless we make the communities -- of which those schools are a part -- safe as well. And we cannot make schools and communities safe unless students, parents, teachers, law enforcement, government agencies, businesses and elected officials join together to develop community-wide and comprehensive responses to the unique issues that face every school and community. Fundamentally, creating safe schools and communities is a local issue; but we at the Federal level stand ready to offer our assistance and partnership.

Question: How did you select these individuals who are panelists?

Answer: We received many recommendations and worked to make sure that the panels represent a good cross-section of America, as well as perspectives from individuals who have a lot of firsthand experience with school safety and youth violence in general. The panelists include noted experts in their fields, participants from communities affected by the recent school shootings, a student, educators and other stakeholders. We are looking forward to thoughtful discussions which focus not only on the problems and challenges with respect to school safety -- but primarily on the solutions.

Question: The panels do not appear to be very bipartisan. Why not?

Answer: School and youth safety aren't partisan issues. Our panelists are a good cross-section of America -- actually, of the 16 or so panelists (excluding principals), only two are elected officials, one is a member of Congress and the other is a mayor. And this Administration encourages participation from both sides of the aisle on these important issues.

Question: What is the First Lady's role at this Conference? Why is the First Lady playing such a large role in this conference? What does she know about this issue?

Answer: The First Lady will chair the opening panel which will set-up the day by examining the problem and the causes of school and youth violence and she will participate in the second panel which will turn towards solutions. Lastly, the First Lady will chair the third and final panel which will explore best practices and model safety strategies that have been shown to reduce school and youth violence.

Throughout her career, the First Lady has worked on issues affecting children and families. And one of the very first projects she worked on as a young attorney at the Children's Defense Fund 25 years ago was a study of what happens to juveniles incarcerated with adults. She found that children placed in adult prisons experience unspeakable horrors, and in fact, as a result of this research, Congress acted in 1974 to separate juveniles from adults in prison. Since then Mrs. Clinton has worked on a number of initiatives, including home visitation, mentoring programs, and early education programs, that reduce juvenile delinquency, crime rates, teen birth rates, and other signs that children are at risk.

Question: What is the purpose of the morning breakout sessions? Who is participating in these sessions?

Answer: The morning break-out sessions are critical opportunities for the Conference's participants to brainstorm, to share ideas with Attorney General Reno, Education Secretary Riley, other senior members of the Administration and with each other. Each of the break-out sessions will focus on a different element of creating safe learning environments. We will examine (i) education and safety, (ii) school, community and law enforcement partnerships, (iii) root causes of youth violence, and (iv) early warning signs, mental health interventions and crisis response.

QUESTIONS ON NEW PROPOSALS

Question: What did the President announce today?

Answer: The President will announce a series of new initiatives that address many of the problems identified in the Annual Report on School Crime and Safety. Specifically, he will propose:

(1) A New Federal Response for Violent Deaths in Schools. President Clinton will propose a \$12 million School Emergency Response to

Violence -- or Project SERV -- to help schools and local communities respond to school-related violent deaths, such as those that occurred last year in Jonesboro, Arkansas; Paducah, Kentucky; Pearl, Mississippi; and Springfield, Oregon. Developed with input from local officials and educators in these and other communities, Project SERV will enable the federal government to assist local communities in much the same way FEMA assists in response to natural disasters.

(2) Targeted Resources for Schools with Serious Crime Problems. To help give the estimated 10% of schools with serious crime problems the tools they need to put the security of our children first, the President will announce a new \$65 million initiative to hire up to 2,000 community police and School Resource Officers to work in schools -- and to train police, educators and other members of the community to help recognize the early warning signs of violence.

(3) Reforms to Help Make All Schools Safe, Disciplined and Drug-Free. President Clinton will announce his plan for a significant overhaul of the nearly \$600 million Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Program. Under the President's proposal, schools will be required to adopt rigorous, comprehensive school safety plans that include: tough, but fair, discipline policies; safe passage to and from schools; effective drug and violence policies and programs; annual school safety and drug use report cards; links to after school programs; efforts to involve parents; and crisis management plans.

(4) A Community-Wide Response to School Safety and Youth Violence. To help communities throughout the country promote a coordinated, comprehensive response to school safety, the President will launch a new Safe Schools -- Safe Communities initiative designed to help 10 cities develop and implement community-wide school safety plans. A minimum of \$25 million in discretionary grants from the Departments of Education, Justice and Health and Human Services -- or \$1-3 million per site -- will be made available for this initiative.

The President will announce a partnership with MTV to engage youth in solutions to violence. He will announce that MTV, beginning in 1999, will launch a year-long media campaign -- "Fight For Your Rights: Take A Stand Against Youth Violence" -- designed to give young adults a voice in the national debate on school and youth violence. Working with the Departments of Education and Justice, and the National Endowment for the Arts, MTV will distribute a Youth Action Guide that aims to engage youth in mentoring and other positive solutions to violence. The guide will be made available

through a 1-800 number at the Justice Department and through MTV.

Question: Are you announcing any new funding for these programs?

Answer: The \$65 million for the community police in schools initiative and \$25 million for the Safe Schools-Safe Communities demonstration project would be funded through our FY 99 appropriations. We have identified funds that we could use within those appropriations bills -- none of which have been at issue during budget discussions. So, once Congress finally enacts these spending measures, we can begin to fund our initiatives. We expect to transmit legislation to Congress for our proposal to create a new emergency federal response to violent school deaths (Project SERV), and will include the \$12 million to pay for it in our FY 2000 budget.

Community Police Officers for Schools

Question: What does your community police for schools initiative accomplish?

Answer: To help give the estimated 10% of schools with serious crime problems the tools they need to put the security of our children first, the President will announce a new \$65 million initiative to hire approximately 2,000 community police and School Resource Officers to work in schools -- and to train police, educators and other members of the community to help recognize the early warning signs of violence.

The initiative, administered through the Justice Department's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), offers \$60 million to help communities hire school resource officers to combat school violence. This initiative offers an incentive for local law enforcement agencies -- in the form of waiving a local matching requirement -- to build working relationships with schools to use community policing efforts to prevent and combat school violence. In addition, the President's Initiative will dedicate \$5 million through the Regional Community Policing Institutes to communities to help train school resource officers, and to train educators and other members of the community to recognize the early warning signs of school violence.

Question: Who is eligible to participate in the COPS initiative?

Answer: Any local law enforcement agency utilizing officers as part of a comprehensive community policing strategy to combat crime in and around schools may apply for the program through the COPS Office.

Question: What is a school resource officer?

Answer: School resource officers are sworn, fully trained officers assigned to work in a school. The presence of a school resource officer helps provide a school with a sense of security and order, as well as strong link to their local police department. From teaching substance abuse prevention, to mentoring troubled kids, to intervening with potentially violent situations between students, school resource officers across the country are combine the functions of law enforcement and education, and helping to improve school environments.

Question: What is the need for the COPS initiative?

Answer: School related crime and disorder is a serious concern in communities of all sizes across the nation. Many communities are discovering that school resource officers are making a difference in the battle to provide our children with a safe learning environment. The President's initiative will help even more communities that are interested to use these officers in creating their own solutions to school safety and violence.

Safe and Drug-Free Schools Reform

Question: Are you proposing increased funding for the Safe and Drug-Free schools program?

Answer: This proposal outlines the broad framework and requirements for federal support of state and local drug and/or violence prevention and reduction efforts. While this plan does anticipate some level of increased funding, it also will provide more targeting of resources to provide stronger support to school districts for comprehensive approaches for the reduction of drugs and violence in schools. Discussions are currently underway to establish budget proposals for all programs in the President's FY 2000 budget.

Question: This program has been criticized for wasting funds because school districts have have spent them on programs that would not appear to have any impact on reducing drug use and violence. How is this proposal going to prevent the misuse of funds?

Answer: A key element of our proposal to overhaul the Safe and Drug-Free Schools program is to strengthen accountability for school districts receiving federal funds. These districts will have to develop a plan based on their actual crime, drug and discipline problems -- and spend funds on activities that have shown to be effective in creating drug-free and safe school environments. These plans must also provide for the publication of an annual report card to the public on school-related crime and drug incidents. Moreover, this proposal will strengthen the capacity of states to provide technical assistance and training to local districts to ensure that their drug and violence prevention and reduction approaches are effective.

Comprehensive Safe School-Safe Communities Initiative

Question: Where will funds for the Coordinated Grants Program come from?

Answer: Funds for the Coordinated Grants Program will come from three agencies: Department of Justice, Education Department and the Department of Health and Human Services. Various programs within these three agencies will contribute funds for this effort. For example, the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention will contribute a portion of funds from their Juvenile Mentoring Program and its Gang Free Schools and Communities - Community Based Gang Intervention Program for this effort; the Justice Department will contribute funds from its COPS Initiative; the Department of Education will contribute a portion of their Safe and Drug Free Schools National Program funds; and the Department of Health and Human Services will contribute funds from its Family Strengthening Program. Further, a portion of the funds appropriated for expansion of Boys and Girls Clubs will be linked to this effort.

A minimum of \$25 million in discretionary grants from FY1999 will be made available for this initiative, and more funding may ultimately be dedicated to it dependent upon final FY 99 appropriations outcomes.

New Federal Response to Violent Deaths in Schools

Question: What types of incidents will this initiative respond to?

Answer: While details concerning the types of incidents which the Federal Government will respond to have not yet been decided, it has been determined that the Federal Government will at a minimum respond to incidents such as those experienced last school year in Paducah, Kentucky; Pearl, Mississippi; Jonesboro, Arkansas; and Springfield, Oregon. Prior to making a final determination as to other types of incidents that will be

responded to, the Federal Government will seek the advice of educators, victims, law enforcement officials, victim service advocates, parents, mental health workers and emergency service personnel.

QUESTIONS ON RELATED LEGISLATION

Question: Why hasn't this Administration pushed harder for juvenile crime legislation?

Answer: This Administration has pushed aggressively for powerful juvenile crime legislation -- legislation which strikes the right balance between accountability and prevention for America's youth. All the way back in February 1997, this Administration submitted to the Congress the "Anti-Gang and Youth Violence Act of 1997"--a vital part of the Administration's strategy to mount a full-scale assault on juvenile crime in America. While we have sought to work with Congress to pass meaningful legislation, we don't believe we should accept bad juvenile crime legislation which lacks resources for prosecutors and courts and provisions to crack down on kids and guns -- simply for the sake of claiming success. We are disappointed that the Congress has been unable to pass legislation that could help to stem juvenile crime and improve the safety of our communities.

SHOOTING-RELATED QUESTIONS

Question: The kids involved in the Jonesboro case were only 11 and 13 years-old-- neither of whom could be charged as adults for this horrible tragedy. Doesn't this seem to suggest that we should have a national age floor to be able to prosecute juveniles as adults?

Answer: Current federal law generally allows for the prosecution of 15 year-old juveniles as adults for certain drug and gun crimes, and in limited cases, even 13 year-olds can be tried as adults in federal court. We passed these lower ages as part of the 1994 Crime Bill. In addition, our juvenile crime legislation would give greater flexibility for federal prosecutors to prosecute juveniles as adults, and would expand the list of crimes which allow for such prosecution to include certain violent felonies and drug offenses. We believe that these are sufficiently tough provisions.

Question: Guns played a tragic role in these shootings. Is this Administration doing enough to keep guns out of the hands of children? What more can be done to avoid these tragedies?

Answer: Our first priority, must be to do everything we can to help communities save young lives and prevent juvenile crime and violence from happening in the first place. And the truth is: we already know that tough, targeted deterrence and better prevention will do this. For example, in Boston, Federal, state and local law enforcement --and the entire criminal justice system, police, prosecutors, probation officers and courts --worked together to deliver a tough, targeted message on gun violence. The result: the gangs were literally disarmed, and no juvenile was killed with a firearm for a 2 ½ year period. The President's juvenile crime legislation combines this type of tough, targeted enforcement --with schools that are open later and on weekends, when most violent youth crime occurs --so we can prevent youth crime and violence before it happens.

But we can also do more to make sure that we help keep illegal guns out of the hands of children. We should raise penalties for juveniles who possess handguns, and for adults who illegally transfer handguns to juveniles. We should extend the Brady Law, so that young people who commit serious and violent offenses can't purchase handguns as soon as they become adults. And we should continue to crack down on illegal gun markets, by increasing penalties for straw purchases and for gang-related firearms offenses.

Question: Can we stop these senseless acts from happening? Do they just happen?

Answer: We can create safer environments for learning and we can prevent many crimes from occurring. This is not an easy task but it is one that can be done. One of the cornerstones of any strategy to create safer schools and safer communities is getting the entire community --including parents, students, teachers, mental health service providers, clergy, law enforcement--involved in designing programs and policies that meet the need of the school and the community.

In August, the President released a booklet called, "Early Warning Timely Response-- A Guide to Safe Schools", which provides teachers, principals, and parents with information on how to identify the early warning signs of violence, and actions steps to prevent and respond to school violence. The Annual Report on School Safety, released yesterday, also provides some tips for parents, students, businesses, etc. on what they can do to create safer schools and communities and provides examples of proven strategies and models.

Question: In most of these instances, including in Springfield with Kip Kinkel, the mental health of these boys seems to be in question. If mental illness is the root cause, can we prevent these random acts from happening?

Answer: The Administration has been working very hard to help schools -- and others who interact with children -- to identify those students who are in need of assistance to improve the linkages between mental health services and schools. The President recently released a guide on the early warning signs of violence which provides teachers, administrators, and parents with guidance on how to identify students who are in need of mental health services. We believe the guide will help schools identify those students who are in need of mental health services earlier, so they can receive the help they need.

But there's another answer, too, and it goes to the heart of why a child's cry for help often goes unheeded. The simple fact is that mental illness is still a very scary idea that many believe shouldn't be talked about or acted upon. Through the work of Mrs. Gore and HHS' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), we have been working to educate the Nation to the realities of mental health problems and to break through the stigma that, for too long, has stood between a person in need of care and the impetus to seek that care.

Question: Most people feel that mental health services are not adequately funded. Are these services being funded at appropriate levels both locally and at the Federal level? If not, why not?

Answer: Funding -- whether at the federal or state level -- is but one of the issues that has affected the range and availability of mental health services. Since the late 1960s, when large numbers of people were released from state institutions, community mental health systems have been called upon to provide the bulk of mental health services. Until recently, the stigma of mental illnesses has separated mental health care not only from other types health care, but also from the capacity to link with schools, social service agencies, employment programs, and other supportive services. Today, the health of these collaborations is increasingly robust -- but variably so, across the country. The challenge that we are meeting today has been to both leverage our resources and to build partnerships with the broad range of mental health constituencies at the national, state, and local levels to improve their systems of care for people of all ages with mental health problems.

October 14, 1998

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON SCHOOL SAFETY

DATE: October 15, 1998
LOCATION: The East Room
BRIEFING TIME: 12:15 pm - 12:35 pm
EVENT TIME: 12:45 pm - 2:30 pm
FROM: Bruce Reed
Richard Socarides

I. PURPOSE

To bring together a broad coalition of youth violence experts and advocates, educators, elected officials, law enforcement, and prevention and intervention practitioners -- as well as communities across the country through 600 satellite sites -- to discuss and learn more about what we do to make our schools and communities safer.

II. BACKGROUND

Although schools are generally safer today than they were just a few years ago -- and statistics show that students are safer sitting in a classroom than walking down the street -- there is still much more that can be done to improve school safety and security. In particular, the multiple shootings that took place in schools in Pearl, MS, Paducah, KY, Jonesboro, AK, and Springfield, OR, serve as painful reminders that no community is immune from senseless violence -- and that all communities must do their best to prevent such tragedies from ever occurring.

At the conference, you will unveil the first Annual Report on School Safety, prepared by the Departments of Justice and Education in response to a directive by you after the Paducah shooting last December. The report is intended to give parents, principals and policy makers a yearly snapshot of school crime, as well as to provide information on what practical steps they can take to make their schools safer. [*Key findings of the report are attached.]

In your opening remarks you will announce the following new initiatives that address many of the problems identified in the Annual Report:

(1) A New Federal Response for Violent Deaths in Schools. You will propose a \$12 million School Emergency Response to Violence -- or Project SERV -- to help schools and local communities respond to school-related violent deaths, such as those that occurred last year in Jonesboro, Arkansas; Paducah, Kentucky; Pearl, Mississippi; and Springfield, Oregon. Developed with input from local officials and educators in these and other communities, Project SERV will enable the federal government to assist local communities in much the same way FEMA assists in response to natural disasters.

(2) Targeted Resources for Schools with Serious Crime Problems. To help give the estimated 10% of schools with serious crime problems the tools they need to put the security of our children first, you will announce a new \$65 million initiative to hire up to 2,000 community police and School Resource Officers to work in schools -- and to train police, educators and other members of the community to help recognize the early warning signs of violence.

(3) Reforms to Help Make All Schools Safe, Disciplined and Drug-Free. You will outline a plan to overhaul the nearly \$600 million Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Program. Under this new proposal, schools will be required to adopt rigorous, comprehensive school safety plans that include: tough, but fair, discipline policies; safe passage to and from schools; effective drug and violence policies and programs; annual school safety and drug use report cards; links to after school programs; efforts to involve parents; and crisis management plans.

(4) A Community-Wide Response to School Safety and Youth Violence. To help communities throughout the country promote a coordinated, comprehensive response to school safety, you will also launch a new Safe Schools -- Safe Communities initiative designed to help 10 cities develop and implement community-wide school safety plans. A minimum of \$25 million in discretionary grants from the Departments of Education, Justice and Health and Human Services -- or \$1-3 million per site -- will be made available for this initiative.

Finally, you will announce a partnership between the federal government and MTV to engage youth in solutions to violence. Beginning in 1999, MTV will launch a year-long media campaign -- "Fight For Your Rights: Take A Stand Against Youth Violence" -- designed to give young adults a voice in the national debate on school and youth violence. Working with the Departments of Education and Justice, and the National Endowment for the Arts, MTV will distribute

a Youth Action Guide that aims to engage youth in mentoring and other positive solutions to violence. The guide will be made available through a 1-800 number at the Justice Department and through MTV. In an earlier panel, the First Lady will have introduced one of the MTV media campaign segments.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Briefing Participants:

Bruce Reed/Elena Kagan
Marsha Scott
Melanne Verveer
Ron Klain
Michael Cohen/Tanya Martin
Richard Socarides
Jose Cerda
Leanne Shimabukuro
Neera Tanden
Lynn Cutler

Presidential Panel Participants:

The Vice President
The First Lady
Jamon Kent, Superintendent of Springfield Public Schools, Springfield,
Oregon
Police Commissioner Paul Evans, Boston, Massachusetts
Mayor Deedee Corradini, Pres. of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, St. Lake
City, Utah
Liberty Franklin, National Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year, Everett,
Washington
Tony Earles, Professor Harvard School of Public Health
Joanna Quintana Barroso, Third Grade Teacher, Coral Way Elementary,
Miami, Florida
Representative Bobby Etheridge

IV. PRESS PLAN

Open Press.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- **YOU** will be announced into the room accompanied by the Vice President and the First Lady.
- The Vice President makes remarks and introduces **YOU**.

- **YOU** will make remarks.
 - **YOU** will make remarks and then take your seat at the table.
 - **YOU** will then moderate the discussion by calling on each individual.
 - **YOU**, the Vice President, and the First Lady will have the option of asking follow up questions to each speaker.
- [*Suggested speaking order and questions attached.]

VI. REMARKS

Provided by Speechwriting.

VII. ATTACHMENTS

- Summary of Key Findings.
- Suggested Sequence of Events.
- Conference Agenda

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

- **Students less likely to be victimized but more likely to feel unsafe.** Although the number of multiple homicide events at schools has increased since 1993 (from 2 to 6 -- and with 4 times as many victims), the overall school crime rate has actually dropped (from 164 crimes per 1,000 students in 1993 to about 128 such crimes in 1996). However, the percentage of students reporting that they felt unsafe at or on their way to school has increased.
- **Most schools safer than community at large.** While the overall level of school and non-school crime is about the same (about 3 million crimes in each setting), students are more than twice as likely to experience serious violent crime while out of school. And the very worst violent victimizations -- murders and suicides -- rarely occur in or near schools. Fewer than 1% of the 7,357 thousand children who were murdered in 1992-93 -- or 63 -- were killed at school.
- **Serious crime and violence concentrated in a small percentage of schools.** Only about 10% of public schools report serious or violent crimes to their local police departments. Nearly half -- or 47% -- of schools report less serious or non-violent crimes to police, and 43% report absolutely no crimes at all.
- **Violence more likely in larger, urban schools and with older students.** One third of large schools (1,000+ students) report serious violent crimes to police, compared with less than one tenth of small schools. Also urban schools are twice as likely as rural schools to report serious violent crimes, and middle and high schools are 4 times more likely than elementary schools to report such crimes.
- **Fist fights and theft the most common crimes.** Overall, physical attacks and fights without weapons are the crimes most often reported to police by middle and high schools. Theft is the most common school crime overall. In 1996, less than 10% of crimes against students were of a serious or violent nature.
- **Fewer weapons in schools.** About 6% of high school seniors -- less than in recent years -- are carrying firearms and other weapons to schools. Also, the percentage of seniors intentionally injured -- with or without weapons -- has not changed significantly over the past 20 years.
- **Gang presence nearly doubled.** Between 1989 and 1995, the percentage of students reporting the presence of street gangs in their schools increased from 15% to 28% -- including large increases at urban, suburban and rural

schools.

- **Violence and drugs linked.** Students who reported being the victims of violent crimes at schools were more likely to report the availability of drugs at school. The presence of gangs and guns is also related to school crime and the victimization of students.
- **Teachers often crime victims.** On average, 3% of teachers are the victims of violent crimes, and nearly 5% are the victims of theft at school.

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- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
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- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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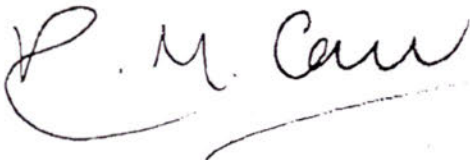
Toby Graff,
First Lady's Press Office,
The White House

14th October, 1998.

BY FAX: 001 202 456 7805

This is to confirm that Russell Miller is an accredited correspondent of Night & Day, the magazine of The Mail on Sunday, and is working on a major profile of the First Lady. His date of birth is (b)(6) and he does not have a social security [001] number as he is a British Citizen. Mr Miller is anxious to attend the two panels at the White House tomorrow and would be grateful for any facilities you can supply. Could you please fax details to him at the Watergate Hotel (fax no: 337 7915) where he will be arriving late tonight.

Yours sincerely,



KATE CARR
Deputy Editor

FVI

Just a draft... we'll get
final tomorrow.

DRAFT

THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON SCHOOL SAFETY
October 15, 1998

- **The White House Conference on School Safety.** Although schools are generally safer today than they were just a few years ago -- and statistics show that students are safer sitting in a classroom than walking down a street -- there is still much more that we can do to improve school safety and security. In particular, the multiple shootings that took place in schools in Pearl, MS, Paducah, KY, Jonesboro, AK, and Springfield, OR, serve as painful reminders that no community is immune from senseless violence -- and that all communities must do their best to prevent such tragedies from ever occurring. The White House Conference on School Safety provides an opportunity for Americans to learn more about how they can make their own schools and communities safer.
- **Unveiling the First Annual Report on School Safety.** At the conference, the President will unveil the first Annual Report on School Safety -- a report intended to give parents, principals and policy makers an accurate, yearly snapshot of the school crime, as well as to provide information on what practical steps they can take to make their schools safer.

Major Findings of the Report:

Students less likely to be victimized but more likely to feel unsafe.

Although the number of multiple homicide events at schools has increased since 1993 (from 2 to 6 -- and with 4 times as many victims), the overall school crime rate has actually dropped (from 164 crimes per 1,000 students in 1993 to about 128 such crimes in 1996). However, the percentage of students reporting that they felt unsafe at or on their way to school has increased.

Most schools safer than community at large. While the overall level of school and non-school crime is about the same (about 3 million crimes in each setting), students are more than twice as likely to experience serious violent crime while out of school. And the very worst violent victimizations -- murders and suicides -- rarely occur in or near schools. Fewer than 1% of the 7,357 thousand children who were murdered in 1992-93 -- or 63 -- were killed at school.

Serious crime and violence concentrated in a small percentage of schools. Only about 10% of public schools report serious or violent crimes to their local police departments. Nearly half -- or 47% -- of schools report less serious or non-violent crimes to police, and 43%

report absolutely no crimes at all.

Violence more likely in larger, urban schools and with older students.

One third of large schools (1,000+ students) report serious violent crimes to police, compared with less than one tenth of small schools. Also urban schools are twice as likely as rural schools to report serious violent crimes, and middle and high schools are 4 times more likely than elementary schools to report such crimes.

Fist fights and theft the most common crimes. Overall, physical attacks and fights without weapons are the crimes most often reported to police by middle and high schools. Theft is the most common school crime overall. In 1996, less than 10% of crimes against students were of a serious or violent nature.

Other Important Findings:

Fewer weapons in schools. About 6% of high school seniors -- less than in recent years -- are carrying firearms and other weapons to schools. Also, the percentage of seniors intentionally injured -- with or without weapons -- has not changed significantly over the past 20 years.

Gang presence nearly doubled. Between 1989 and 1995, the percentage of students reporting the presence of street gangs in their schools increased from 15% to 28% -- including large increases at urban, suburban and rural schools.

Violence and drugs linked. Students who reported being the victims of violent crimes at schools were more likely to report the availability of drugs at school. The presence of gangs and guns is also related to school crime and the victimization of students.

Teachers often crime victims. On average, 3% of teachers are the victims of violent crimes, and nearly 5% are the victims of theft at school.

- **The President's Call to Action.** During a panel discussion with a group of recognized school safety advocates and youth violence experts, the President will announce a series of new initiatives that address many of the problems identified in the Annual Report on School Safety. Specifically, he will propose:

(1) **A New Federal Response for Violent Deaths in Schools.** President

Clinton will propose a \$12 million School Emergency Response to Violence -- or Project SERV -- to help schools and local communities respond to school-related violent deaths, such as those that occurred last year in Jonesboro, Arkansas; Paducah, Kentucky; Pearl, Mississippi; and Springfield, Oregon. Developed with input from local officials and educators in these and other communities, Project SERV will enable the federal government to assist local communities in much the same way FEMA assists in response to natural disasters.

(2) Targeted Resources for Schools with Serious Crime Problems. To help give the estimated 10% of schools with serious crime problems the tools they need to put the security of our children first, the President will announce a new \$65 million initiative to hire 2,000 community police and School Resource Officers to work in schools -- and to train police, educators and other members of the community to help recognize the early warning signs of violence.

(3) Reforms to Help Make All Schools Safe, Disciplined and Drug-Free. President Clinton will announce his plan for a significant overhaul of the nearly \$600 million Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Program. Under the President's proposal, schools will be required to adopt rigorous, comprehensive school safety plans that include: tough, but fair, discipline policies; safe passage to and from schools; effective drug and violence policies; annual school safety report cards; links to after school programs; efforts to involve parents; and crisis management plans.

(4) A Community-Wide Response to School Safety and Youth Violence. To help communities throughout the country promote a coordinated, comprehensive response to school safety, the President will launch a new Safe Schools -- Safe Communities initiative designed to help 10 cities develop and implement community-wide school safety plans. A minimum of \$25 million in discretionary grants from the Departments of Education, Justice and Health and Human Services -- or \$1-3 million per site -- will be made available for this initiative.

The President will announce a partnership with MTV to engage youth in solutions to violence. He will announce that MTV, beginning in 1999, will launch a year-long media campaign -- "Fight For Your Rights: Take A Stand Against Youth Violence" -- designed to give young adults a voice in the national debate on school and youth violence. Working with the Departments of Education and Justice, and the National Endowment for the Arts, MTV will distribute a Youth Action Guide that aims to engage youth in mentoring and other

positive solutions to violence. The guide will be made available through a 1-800 number at the Justice Department and through MTV.

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON SCHOOL SAFETY:

Causes and Prevention of Youth Violence

October 15, 1998

"...[L]earning cannot occur unless our schools are safe and orderly places where teachers can teach and children can learn. Wherever there is chaos where there should be calm, wherever there is disorder where there should be discipline, make no mistake about it, it's not just a threat to our classrooms..., it is a threat to the strength and vitality of America.... We have to do more... I will host the first ever White House Conference on School Safety... to find new solutions to this profound challenge."

-- President Clinton, July 20, 1998

White House Conference on School Safety

On October 15, 1998, the President will host the White House Conference on School Safety: Causes and Prevention of Youth Violence. The Conference will be a day-long event in the East Room of the White House that will include participation by the President, Vice President, First Lady and Mrs. Gore; workshops; a morning panel discussion; and an afternoon session that will explore best practices and model safety strategies. The Conference will include communities recently affected by school shootings and will be linked by satellite to communities and schools across the country.

Although schools remain among the safest places for America's young people, even one incident of violent crime in a school is too many. The Conference's goals include: building on the existing body of knowledge about young people and aggressive or violent behavior; listening and learning from students, parents, teachers, law enforcement and other experts about the safety of our children both in and out of school; sharing best practices and exploring new solutions; and developing strategies to put these safety models in place in schools and communities across the nation. The White House Conference on School Safety will work toward finding solutions to this challenge: *How do schools, families and communities work together to make sure that every child is safe in every school in America?*

The President Will Issue the First Annual Report on School Safety

At the Conference, the President will issue the first Annual Report on School Safety, which will include: an analysis of all existing national school crime data and an overview of state and local school crime data; examples of schools and strategies that are successfully reducing school violence, drug use, and class disruption; actions that parents can take locally to combat school crime; and resources available to schools and communities to help create safe, disciplined and drug-free schools. In addition, the President will announce a number of new initiatives to help schools and communities prevent and respond to violence.

Conference Participants

The President, Vice President, First Lady, and Mrs. Gore will be joined by the Attorney General, the Secretary of Education, Members of Congress, a number of state and local elected officials, including mayors, and approximately 100 other Conference participants. These participants will include: students, parents, teachers, principals, school superintendents, members of law enforcement, experts from the medical and psychological fields, clergy and religious leaders and other community representatives.

► **Roger V. Salazar**
10/14/98 11:19:19 AM
.....

Record Type: Record

To: Toby C. Graff/WHO/EOP, Julie E. Mason/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: Advisory -- WH Conference on School Safety

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY

Contact: 202/456-7150

October 13, 1998

THE PRESIDENT AND FIRST LADY TO HOST WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON SCHOOL SAFETY

Washington, D.C. -- President Clinton and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will host the *White House Conference on School Safety: Causes and Prevention of Youth Violence* on October 15, 1998. The Conference will be a day-long event held in the White House Conference Center and in the East Room of the White House and will include participation by Attorney General Janet Reno, Education Secretary Richard Riley, Members of Congress, and state and local elected officials. More than 100 individuals from around the country, including teachers, principals, schools superintendents, members of law enforcement, experts from medical and psychological fields, clergy and religious leaders and other community representatives will attend the conference. The conference will be broadcast via satellite to over 600 locations nationwide and cybercast on the Internet.

WHAT: The President and First Lady host the White House Conference on School Safety

WHERE: The White House

WHEN: All Day. Thursday, October 15, 1998

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

8:30 am Morning Workshop Sessions

White House Conference Center, Jackson Place

POOL PRESS ONLY (FOR OPENING REMARKS ONLY)

1) **Education and Safety** -- *Chair, Secretary of Education Richard Riley*

2) **Early Warning Signs, Mental Health Interventions and Crisis**

Response -- *Chair, Margaret Hamburg, Assistant Secretary of Health*

and

Human Services for Planning and Evaluation

3) School, Community and Law Enforcement

Partnerships -- *Chair, Associate Attorney General Raymond Fisher*

4) Causes of Youth Violence in Early Childhood Development --

Chair, Attorney General Janet Reno

NOTE: Four separate pools will be formed for the morning workshop sessions. Media interested in serving as pool for these workshops should contact the White House Press Office at (202) 456-7150. These workshops will **not** be available via satellite or cybercast.

- MORE -

-2-

10:30 am Morning Plenary Session
East Room, The White House
OPEN PRESS

Opening Session and Conference Overview

The First Lady, Attorney General Janet Reno,

Secretary of Education Richard Riley, and panel participants

12:45 pm Afternoon Panel I
East Room, The White House
OPEN PRESS

**Discussion of the Causes and Prevention of Youth Violence that Affect
our Schools and Communities**

The President, Vice President, First Lady, and panel participants

2:45 pm Afternoon Panel II
East Room, The White House
OPEN PRESS

**Discussion of Initiatives and Strategies that Work to Reduce Youth
Violence**

*The First Lady, Attorney General Janet Reno, Secretary of Education
Richard Riley, and panel participants*

NOTE: Panel participants will be available for interviews on the White House North Lawn following Afternoon Panel I and Afternoon Panel II. Media without White House credentials or needing clearance should contact the White House Press Office at 202/456-7150. Media wishing to pre-set should gather in the briefing room at 9:00 am for escort to the East Room. Final escort for the morning session will be at 10:15 am.

Satellite Information:

All East Room sessions of the White House Conference on School Safety will be broadcast via satellite. Over 600 communities across the country will be hosting events around this live national satellite broadcast. Contact the White House Press Office for locations in your communities. In addition, media can downlink the satellite broadcast from the following coordinates:

C-BAND COORDINATES

Satellite: GE 2
Transponder: 1
Channel: 1
Frequency: 3720 MHZ Vertical

Ku-BAND COORDINATES

Satellite: Galaxy 3
Transponder: 17
Channel: 17
Frequency: 12043 MHZ Vertical

- MORE - - 3-

Cybercast Information:

The White House Conference on School Safety Cybercast can be accessed at the following world wide web address: www.whitehouse.gov/WH/New/Safety/

Panel Participants:

The following are some of the individuals who will participate in panel discussions during the White House Conference on School Safety.

Paul Kingery, Ph.D., Director, Hamilton Fish National Institute on School and Community Violence, Rosslyn, VA
Marlene Wong, Director, L.A. School of Mental Health, Valley Branch, CA
Suzanne Wilson, Parent, Jonesboro, AR
Mayor Deedee Corradini, Salt Lake City, UT
Tony Earles, Professor, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
U.S. Representative Bobby Etheridge (D-NC)
Paul Evans, Commissioner, Boston Police Department, Boston, MA
Liberty Franklin, Everett Boys and Girls Club, Everett, WA
Jamon Kent, Superintendent, Springfield Public Schools, Springfield, OR
Joanna Quintano, Teacher, Coral Way Elementary School, Miami, FL
Thomas C. Frazier, Police Commissioner, Baltimore Police Department, Baltimore, MD
Lt. Gary French, Boston's Operation Ceasefire, Roslindale, MA
Mariana Gaston, Director, Resolving Conflict Creatively Program, New York, NY
Lynn McDonald, Ph.D., Founder, Families and Schools Together (FAST), Madison, WI
Irma Howard, FAST Graduate, New Orleans, LA
Sandy McBrayer, Executive Director, Children's Initiative, San Diego, CA

-

White House Conference on School Safety:

Causes and Prevention of Youth Violence

Program Agenda

draft 10-13-98

October 15, 1998

7:30 am - 8:30 am

Registration - White House Conference Center

8:30 am - 9:45 am

Morning Workshop Sessions - White House Conference Center

Preliminary discussion groups with Senior Administration officials:

1) Education and Safety

Lincoln Room

Chaired by Secretary of Education Richard Riley with Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder

[includes participation by U.S. Representative Harold Ford, Jr. (D-TN)]

2) Early Warning Signs, Mental Health Interventions and Crisis Response

Truman Conference Room

Chaired by ???? with Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services Margaret "Peggy" Hamburg

[includes participation by U.S. Representative Donna Christian-Green (D-VI)]

3) School, Community and Law Enforcement Partnerships

Jackson Room

Chaired by Associate Attorney General Ray Fisher with Deputy Undersecretary of the Treasury Jim Johnson

[includes participation by U.S. Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR)]

4) Causes of Youth Violence in Early Childhood Development

Eisenhower Room

Chaired by Attorney General Janet Reno with Assistant Secretary of Education Gerald Tirozzi

[includes participation by U.S. Representative Mathew Martinez (D-CA)]

*Elementary
+ Secondary*

After these sessions, please follow directions to the North West Gate of the White House for the Morning Plenary

10:30 am - 11:15 pm

Morning Plenary Session - White House East Room

Conference Overview

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton - *Chaired*
Video by MTV

(Tentative) Vice President of the United States Albert Gore

Attorney General Janet Reno *2 min*

Secretary of Education Richard Riley *2 min* → *new Nat'l report*

Paul Kingery, Ph.D., Director, Hamilton Fish National Institute
on School and Community Violence, Rosslyn, VA

Marlene Wong, Director, L.A. School of Mental Health,
Valley Branch, CA

Suzanne Wilson, Parent, Jonesboro, AR

11:30 pm - 12:30 pm

Lunch - White House State Dinning Room

First Lady Hillary Rodham-Clinton

U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA)

Robert Chase, President of the National Education Association

Sandra Feldman, President of the American Federation of Teachers

12:45 pm - 2:30 pm

Afternoon Panel I

Discussion of the Causes and Prevention of Youth Violence that
Affect our Schools and Communities

- ③ President of the United States William Jefferson Clinton → *deliverable*
- ② Vice President of the United States Albert Gore
- ① First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton

Mayor Deedee Corradini, Salt Lake City, UT

Tony Earles, Professor, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

U.S. Representative Bobby Etheridge (D-NC)

Paul Evans, Commissioner, Boston Police Department,
Boston, MA

Liberty Franklin, Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year,

Jamon Kent, Superintendent, Springfield, OR Public Schools

Joanna Quintano, Teacher, Coral Way Elementary School,
Miami, FL

2:45 pm - 4:00 pm

Afternoon Panel II - White House East Room

Discussion of Initiatives and Strategies that work to Reduce Youth Violence

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton - *opening remarks (2 min)*
Attorney General Janet Reno - *moderator + introduce to videos*
Secretary of Education Richard Riley

Thomas C. Frazier, Police Commissioner, Baltimore Police
Department, Baltimore, MD

Lt. Gary French, Boston's Operation Ceasefire, Roslindale, MA

Mariana R. Gaston, Director, Resolving Conflict Creatively
Program, New York, NY

Irma Howard, FAST Graduate, New Orleans, LA

Sandy McBrayer, Executive Director, Children's Initiative, San
Diego, CA

Lynn McDonald, Ph.D., Founder, Families and Schools Together
(FAST), Madison, WI

regional press after

4:30 pm - 6:00 pm

Reception - Sponsored by the National Education Association and
the American Federation of Teachers at 1201 16th Street, NW,
Washington, DC 20036

(buses located at the East Visitors Gate on East Executive Avenue
beginning at 4:00 p.m. will take you to the NEA. NEA is providing
buses to bring people back to the White House)

Proclamation: Nat'l School Safety Day

3pm.

Proposed Program

White House Conference on School Safety:

Causes and Prevention of Youth Violence

October 15, 1998

140 participants

Registration 7:30am-8:30am WH Conference Center

Morning Breakout Sessions (4) 8:30am-9:45am WH Conference Center [open press]

- 1) Education and Safety
Chaired by Secretary Riley
Systemic Educational Approaches (ranging from quality of education issues, such as small class size, adequate screening for learning disabilities, etc. to traditional discipline approaches such as school uniform policies and truancy prevention)
Includes participation by Rep. Harold Ford, Jr.
? pool or availability afterward
- 2) Early Warning Signs/Mental Health Interventions/Crisis Response
Chaired by Mrs. Gore (w/ HHS Asst. Secretary Margaret "Peggy" Hamburg)
Includes participation by Rep. Donna Christian-Green
- 3) School, Community and Law Enforcement Partnerships
Chaired by DOJ (w/ McCaffrey)
Multi-Agency Community Approaches (will also include discussion of gun policy)
- 4) Root Causes/Early Childhood Development
Chaired by AG Reno
(will include discussion of family environments and parenting skills, early exposure to violence, etc.)
Includes participation by Rep. Martin Frost

NOTE: subcommittee working on developing break-out program will report on Tues, 10/6.

Morning Plenary 10:30am- 12:15pm WH East Room [open press] ?

Conference Intro: 3-4 minute MTV-produced video featuring youth perspective (subject to script review)

AG - GMA, Today
Wed, → CBS weekend

Welcoming Remarks by Mrs. Clinton (3-5 minutes)

Remarks by Mrs. Gore (3-5 minutes)

Remarks by the Vice President (and introduction of the President) (7 minutes)

Remarks by the President (15 minutes)

Possible Announcements:

Grants - consolidation of project grants and announce specific grants

Annual Report on School Safety → early release

Safe and Drug Free Schools Re authorization (may not be ready)

FEMA like response program ?

Uniforms (?)

Juvenile records announcement (unknown)

MTV partnership ✓

Bullying Manual

COPS Announcement

Anti harassment guide NO.

Panel (11:10am-12:20pm) [open press]

Panelists would include four principals and eight outside panelists:

(Note: Cabinet in front row. No audience participation. Down linked by satellite. No uplink sites.)

Hon. Deedee Corradini, Mayor, Salt Lake City, Utah

Mr. Tony Earles, Professor, Harvard University, MA

Mr. Paul Evans, Commissioner, Boston Police Department, MA

Ms. Liberty Franklin, Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year

Mr. Jamon Kent, Superintendent, Springfield, OR Public Schools

Ms. Suzanne Wilson, Parent of Student Killed in Jonesboro, AR

Ms. Marlene Wong, Director, L.A. School of Mental Health, Valley Branch, CA

HOLDING ONE SLOT -- Rep Bob Etheridge (D-NC) or

— NYC Teacher -- AFT, Hispanic

introduce → **LUNCH** WH State Dining Room 12:30pm-1:45pm *closed* [open press]

Featuring comments by Mrs Clinton, Robert Chase, Sandy Feldman and senator Robb and Rep. Martinez (D-CA)

AFTERNOON PANEL WH East Room 2:00pm-3:45pm [open press]

First Lady will lead conference participants in a wide-ranging discussion focused on solutions. Four videos of best practices Short videos (approx. 3 min. each) will introduce model school safety strategies that amplify the first Annual Report on School

*here: programs + initiatives that work
highlight 4 programs*

Safety. The four programs are:

1 expert

- Families and Schools Together, a family-strengthening program
- Resolving Conflict Creatively Program, a conflict-resolution program
- Baltimore Police Athletic League, an after-school program
- San Diego County's Comprehensive Strategy, a community-wide initiative to reduce juvenile crime and delinquency.

Qs → from audience from downlink sites

Off-site conference participants would receive satellite transmission. Panel composed of two research experts on each strategy will answer questions and respond to comments. Reno and Riley participate on panel. Pre-screened question from satellite sites and from live East Room audience.

Proposed participation by Rep Carolyn McCarthy *→ maybe at lunch*

RECEPTION National Education Association Headquarters, 16th Street 4:00pm-5:30pm

Remarks by Cabinet, WH Staff, Chase, Rep Peter DeFazio -- Need confirmations

Gender:

A List

Male 65

Female 42

Category By A:

Business 3

Congress 1 (This is the rec. from Rep. Barney Frank)

Education 18

Elected 11

Expert 11

Foundation 2

Law 15

Medical 4

National 17

Panel 9 (This includes Howard Spivak, who will not be a panelist)

Parent 3

Religious 2

Site 5

Youth 5

TOTAL 107

This total number does not include Congress, Cabinet, Sub-Cabinet, Staff, Reception

Race by A:

AA 20

AR 1

AS 4

H 7

NA 3

Per. 1

Viet. 1

G/L 4

D 2 (These are disability groups - does not include what might be grouped as mental health or possible panelists)

Site Registration Form

By completing this form, you are agreeing to coordinate a viewing site. PLEASE PRINT.

Name _____

Agency _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

E-mail _____

Viewing Site _____

Please respond by October 9, 1998 to:

Mail:

JJTAP

ATTN: Becky Ritchey
300 Stratton Building/EKU
521 Lancaster Avenue
Richmond, KY 40475-3102

Phone:

Fax:

E-mail:

(606) 622-6671 (606) 622-4397 beekytrc@iclub.org

Maximum number of participants expected at viewing site:

☐ 0 (broadcast will be videotaped only)

☐ 1-10 ☐ 51-75

☐ 11-25 ☐ 76-100

☐ 26-50 ☐ 101+

Please describe the occupational field(s) (e.g., law enforcement, juvenile justice, court worker, adult corrections, student, etc.) and other characteristics of the participants likely to attend your viewing site: _____

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Washington, DC 20531

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use \$300

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Permit No. G-91

Please Join Us For a

White House Conference on School Safety: Causes and Prevention of Youth Violence

*A Live National Satellite Broadcast Presented by the
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention*

Thursday, October 15, 1998



**Live Coverage of the
White House Conference on School Safety
11:00 AM-1:00 PM EDT***

**rebroadcast from
1:15-2:30 PM EDT***

**Satellite Broadcast with the First Lady (Live)
2:30-4:30 PM EDT***

*All times are listed as Eastern Daylight Time and are subject to change.
Produced by the Juvenile Justice Telecommunications Assistance Project
(Grant #95-JN-MU-0001)

White House Conference on School Safety: Causes and Prevention of Youth Violence

Satellite Broadcast

Program Overview

On October 15, 1998, President Clinton will host the White House Conference on School Safety. He will be joined by the Vice President, Mrs. Clinton, and Mrs. Gore. The conference will be a day-long event at the White House that will include an important policy address by the President and panel discussions that will explore best practices and model school safety strategies. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), in partnership with the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program of the Department of Education, is pleased to sponsor satellite coverage of the event.

Although schools remain among the safest places for America's youth, even one incident of violent crime in a school is too many. The goals of the conference include building on the existing body of knowledge about young people and aggressive or violent behavior; learning more from experts about safety in schools and communities; sharing best practices and exploring new solutions; and developing strategies to put these safety models in place in our Nation's schools and in our communities as a whole.

Satellite coverage of the event is as follows:

Live coverage will be from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM EDT and will cover the President's remarks and expert panel discussions. At 1:15 PM EDT, this segment will be rebroadcast. At 2:30 PM EDT, the broadcast coverage will go live again for panel and audience discussion of strategies and programs that are family, community, and school focused and which lead to both safer communities and safer schools. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will moderate this broadcast, which will also include video presentations of model approaches and programs.

Broadcast Objectives

Bring community members together to:

- Promote and provide information concerning school safety and youth crime prevention issues.
- Review model approaches and programs.
- Discuss steps to comprehensive school safety planning.
- Explore ways of linking safe schools to broader community and family-based efforts.

Audience

This important broadcast is designed for a cross section of the community including teachers, school leaders, parents, judges, prosecutors, State and local juvenile justice agency representatives, drug prevention specialists, law enforcement officials, youth service providers, juvenile probation officers, and community leaders who are committed to ensuring that our communities are safer and that the Nation's schools remain a safe haven for children.

Registration

Registration is free! If you are interested in coordinating and facilitating a downlink site in your community, please complete the registration form and submit it by October 9, 1998. **You must register to receive broadcast coordinates.** If you are unable to facilitate a site but would like to view the video-conference, please contact us after October 9 for registered sites in your area.

To view the program, you should identify a facility that can receive the satellite coordinates. This means the facility must have a steerable satellite dish. The broadcast will be available on **C-Band**. Agencies to contact in your community to schedule a viewing site are cooperative extension offices, community colleges, local school systems, universities, and local cable television companies.

Site Facilitation

Local sites are encouraged to stage a mini-conference on this topic in the community. When you register to be a site coordinator/facilitator, we will send you all of the relevant information (i.e., Participant Packet, Facilitator Guide, and Technical Information Guide) approximately one week before the broadcast. The Facilitator Guide will include information on how to stage an event at your local site around the satellite coverage. You are requested to copy the Participant Packet and provide one to each of your site's participants on the day of the broadcast.

Video Rights

You are encouraged to videotape the broadcast for use as a future resource. No rights are reserved by OJJDP or its contractor, the Juvenile Justice Telecommunications Assistance Project (JJTAP). This broadcast will be closed-captioned for the hearing impaired.



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Publications have not been scanned in their entirety for the purpose of digitization. To see the full publication please search online or visit the Clinton Presidential Library's Research Room.

School Safety: Protecting Children in
Your Community

A Guide to COPS School Safety
Initiatives



School Safety: Protecting Children in Your Community

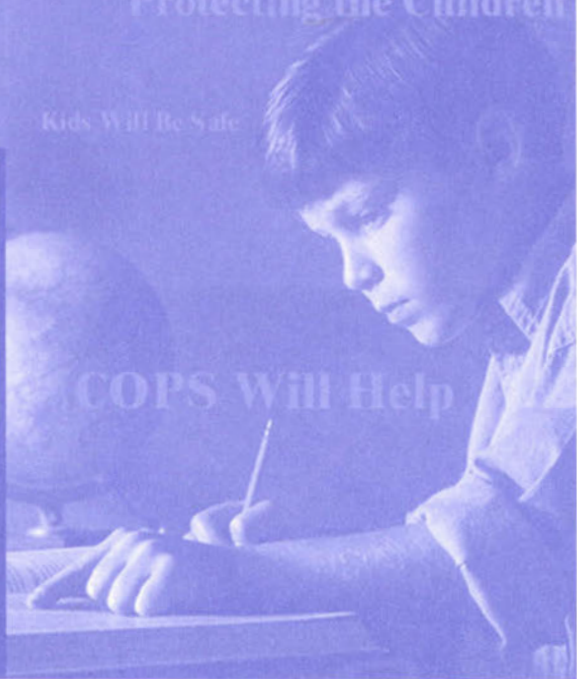
*A Guide to COPS
School Safety Initiatives*

Safety Initiatives

Protecting the Children

Kids Will Be Safe

COPS Will Help

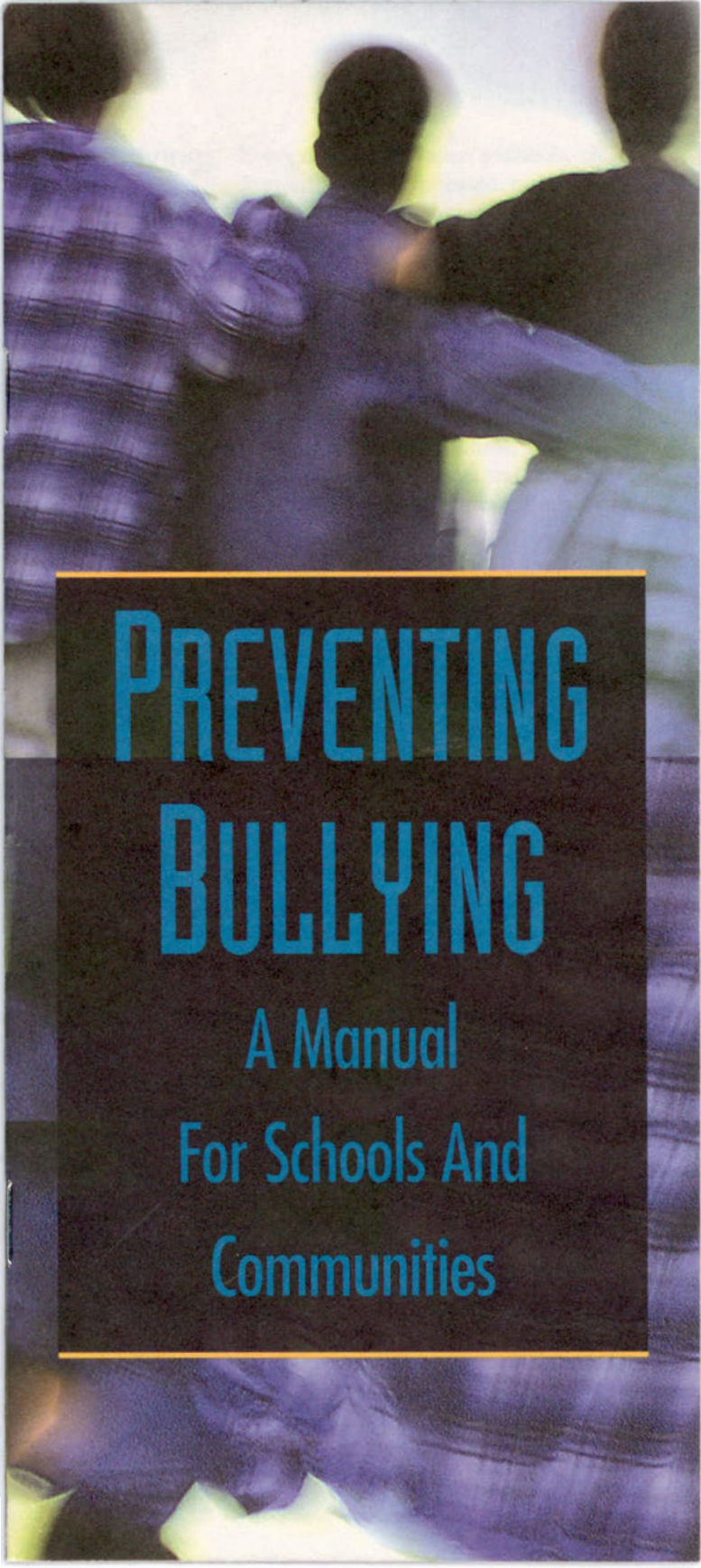


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A background image showing the backs of three people hugging each other. The person on the left is wearing a plaid shirt, the person in the middle is wearing a dark shirt, and the person on the right is wearing a dark shirt. The image is slightly blurred and has a warm, yellowish tint.

PREVENTING BULLYING

A Manual
For Schools And
Communities