

TRANSCRIPT IN PROGRESS-NEEDS EDITING

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton

Ellis Island, New York

8 May 1999

Thank you! Thank you very much! Thank you Charlie. Thank you Bill. Thank you all for this evening of celebration and commemoration. As I was listening to the remarks of the previous speakers and the introductions of all the honorees and looking out into the audience, I thought to myself how Ellis Island is not only a place, but a state of mind. It is a place with all of these memories and all of these stories. I imagine that we could hear hundreds more from all of you in the audience as well. It is a place through which so many passed and now, so many return to walk the halls, walk down the stairs and imagine what it must have felt like to arrive here, alone—penniless, but with hope. So, it is a place and it is one that we cherish and are committed to preserving. And, I would like to join with Bill, and I hope all of you, in ensuring that the entire island is preserved—that we continue the work that was so well done before. I hope that in the next several years, as the Medal of Honor Ceremony is celebrated, we will be able to see progress on the south side of the island and be able to really make our commitment to this place. But, I also hope that the state-of-mind, which Ellis Island represents, is one that not only lives in our memory, but animates us in the present and the future.

I too went to Fort Dix to welcome the Kosovar Refugees. I shook the hands of men and women and bent down to look in the eyes of children. I was accompanied by the General who has been put in charge of what we are calling Operation Open Arms. In the military and civilian briefing, that I received before meeting the refugees, General Zay (phonetic?) said to me, "You know, when I saw them coming down the steps of the plane, my first thought was a picture that I have of my old grandmother from Ukraine with the handkerchief on her head." The General said, "And then I saw all of these old women with scarves on their heads and I thought to myself that this is their Ellis Island." You know that the General was not being literal, but in a much more important way he was telling me and all of us a more profound truth about who we are as Americans. So it is this state of mind, as well as this place that we celebrate.

And it is my great hope, that in the years to come, that state of mind will guide us here at home, as we fight against hate crimes, as we stand up for individual rights and freedoms and show respect for fellow citizens and that it will also be a clear part of who we show our faces to as Americans around the world—that we show a face of respect, of tolerance, of leadership. That is what I think that we are doing in Kosova, and that is what we are trying to do here at home. And a large part of the reason that we are is because the state of mind that was planted here in the hearts of so many Americans is still what America is all about. Thank you all very much.

306TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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Federal News Service

AUGUST 11, 1999, WEDNESDAY

SECTION: WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING

LENGTH: 3969 words

HEADLINE: REMARKS BY PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON AND FIRST LADY HILLARY CLINTON
AT PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM AWARDS CEREMONY
INCLUDES: REMARKS REGARDING SHOOTINGS AT
LOS ANGELES JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER
EAST ROOM, THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

BODY:

MRS. CLINTON: Please be seated, and welcome to the White House. The president and I are delighted to have you join us as we pay tribute to the men and women who have earned not only our nation's highest civilian honor, but the deepest gratitude of the American people.

But before we begin, I would like to express my deep sadness and outrage about yesterday's shootings in Los Angeles at the Jewish Community Center. I know that all of us here and all Americans join in offering our prayers for the children and other victims, their families and the entire community. Especially when children are the victims of gun violence, it shocks the conscience of our nation. And I hope our outrage will strengthen our resolve to address the scourges of gun violence and hate crimes in America today. There is no place for violence or intolerance in our country, and it is urgent that we address these issues now.

And we are gathered here to welcome the best of America to the East Room of the White House, the recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom and their families. I'm also delighted that we have so many distinguished guests with us today. We have members of Congress, Senator Robb, Congressman Scott, Congressman Sisisky, and we have members of our Cabinet. I want to especially thank Secretary Albright, Secretary Summers, Secretary Daley and Herman, Secretary Shalala and Cuomo, Slater and Richardson, and Secretary and Mrs. West. It is a great pleasure for all of us to join here in honoring so many who have contributed to the betterment of our nation and our world. We also have a number of friends of the recipients, including ambassadors and distinguished leaders, I believe the governor of Puerto Rico, former Secretary Bob Rubin, and many others who are here to join with us.

This is a ceremony that the president and I look forward to with great anticipation every year because it is on this day that we particularly celebrate our nation's democratic ideals and honor individuals who have helped keep those ideals alive through lifetimes of service and achievement. A former recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Barbara Jordan, once said, "What the

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FDCH Political Transcripts

August 17, 1999, Tuesday

TYPE: NEWS EVENT

LENGTH: 1652 words

HEADLINE: HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON DELIVERS REMARKS ON CHILDREN AND VIOLENCE;
WASHINGTON, D.C.

SPEAKER:
HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, FIRST LADY

BODY:

(CORRECTED COPY)

THE FIRST LADY DELIVERS REMARKS ON ANTI-VIOLENCE PUBLIC

SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

AUGUST 17, 1999

*** Elapsed Time 00:00, Eastern Time 10:55 ***

SPEAKER: HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, FIRST LADY

*

CLINTON: Good morning, and please be seated. Welcome to the White House.

We are very excited about this joint effort that will be seen today, a joint effort led by the Ad Council, the Kaiser Family Foundation and Children Now. It couldn't have happened without the advice and participation of many, many other advocacy groups and experts, the entertainment industry, association leaders and network executives.

I'd like to acknowledge Jack Valenti, the president of the Motion Picture Association of America, Richard Masur, the president of the Screen Actors Guild, and Eddie Fritts, the president and CEO of the National Association of Broadcasters, who are all here with us this morning.

In addition, you can look around this room and see many other television and entertainment executives who have supported these public service announcements. And I'd like to ask everyone from the entertainment industry who has worked on this to please stand so that we can express our appreciation.

(APPLAUSE)

Yesterday the students and teachers of Columbine High School returned to class just 17 weeks after the tragic shooting that killed 12 classmates and a beloved teacher. One month later, on the very day that the president and I traveled to Colorado to meet with members of the Littleton community, a 15-year-old opened fire at his high school in Conyers, Georgia. And last week the nation was stunned yet again when a man murdered a Post Office employee and then apparently wielding a submachine gun, turned his hatred on three children, a teenage camp counselor and a receptionist at a Jewish community center in Los Angeles.

Each time a child is the victim of gun violence, it shocks our national conscience and shakes our national confidence. For we have no more profound responsibility and no more important challenge than the safety of our children.

CLINTON: I can only hope that our outrage will strengthen our resolve to address the twin scourges of gun violence and hate crimes for there is no place for either in this country.

As I have traveled across our nation in the weeks since the Littleton tragedy talking with students and their parents, it's not helplessness or hopelessness that I've heard in their voices, but a clear and forceful determination to move passed finger-pointing to take concrete steps to end the violence not only in our schools but in our broader community

I met a young girl in Buffalo, a seventh grader, Regina Johnson (ph), who gave me a letter just a week after the Littleton shootings which read, "Violence is all around me. There are gangs in my neighborhood. Because of this I am not free to ride my bike around the block. My mother fears for my life every time I leave the house. I have gotten used to it because violence has been a part of my life since I was a child. After the shooting I decided to speak my mind and stop holding back my thoughts."

Anyone who listens to children like Regina has to wonder what will it take for our country to say enough? What will it take for Congress to pass common sense gun laws to keep handguns and assault weapons out of the hands of juveniles and criminals?

After the shootings in Littleton, many members of Congress did say enough and the Senate passed tough, new provisions proposed by the president that would have strengthened our country's gun safety laws. But even these most common sense of measures that in no way would have restricted the activities of honest and legitimate gun owners were blocked by a majority in the House who apparently were and are more interested in the approval of the National Rifle Association than in the safety of our children.

CLINTON: When we think about the challenges confronting us, we know, of course, that guns alone are not the only problem. That is why this administration has worked tirelessly and on many fronts to meet the challenges of keeping our children safe by giving parents the tools and the time they need, tools like the V-chip and a new agreement that requires movie theater owners to

request photo IDs from young people who want to see R-rated movies, by giving schools the resources they need, and by hosting the first-ever White House conference on school safety, and, of course, by passing the Brady law and the assault weapons ban.

No two people have been more in the forefront of that struggle than our attorney general, Janet Reno, and our secretary of education, Dick Riley. And they have been tireless in advocating what people can do at all levels of society.

This past May, less than a month after Columbine, the president and I welcomed a distinguished and diverse group of Americans to the White House, where at the end of the day we united behind the simple idea of a national campaign against youth violence. Much has happened since then, but a lot of work remains to be done. And each of us should be asking ourselves what do we have to do in our own lives, in our own homes, in our own workplaces, in our own communities, to do whatever we can to help keep our children safe.

Just as we know that children are impressed by the negative images they see on television, in movies and on their computer screens, we know that these same media offer many positive and educational lessons to our children as well. The public services announcements you will see in a few minutes sends just the kind of message we want our children to hear, and it provides even stronger evidence of just how far we can go when we work together to take responsibility for keeping our children safe.

CLINTON: I want to thank some other people who have worked hard to make this ad a reality. Former Colorado Governor Roy Romer, who was a member of Ad Council's board; Drew Altman, the president of the Kaiser Family Foundation; Lois Salisbury, the president of Children Know; and I'd like now to introduce to you the new president and chief executive officer of the Advertising Council, Peggy Conlin.

(APPLAUSE)

END

NOTES:

Unknown - Indicates Speaker Unknown

Inaudible - Could not make out what was being said.

off mike - Indicates could not make out what was being said.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PERSON: HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON (96%); JACK JOSEPH VALENTI (55%);

LOAD-DATE: August 17, 1999

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
TALKING POINTS FOR JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER
LOS ANGELES
November 5, 1999**

- I want to thank, Mr. Ileto, for that introduction and for having the courage to speak out so that no other family ever has to say goodbye to a brother or sister, a child or parent, because of an act of hatred.
- We know that the terrible acts of violence committed against Joseph Ileto and the people of the Jewish Community Center were the worst kinds of inhumanity. But, the way you have come together has shown the very best of our humanity. And so, I want to thank Reverend Jackson, Reverend Frost, Sheriff Baca, Nancy Parris Moskowitz, Mr. Ileto and all of you here for what you are doing to stand up to the hate crimes that undermine not only our sense of security, but the values that lie at the heart of this country.
- And I especially want to thank our hosts at the Jewish Community Center for your extraordinary courage and commitment. Even in the face of unspeakable tragedy, this community has refused to give in to bitterness or hopelessness. You have refused to allow the forces of hatred to win. And, in doing so, you have been a great inspiration to us all in our efforts to promote the kind of tolerance and respect that this Center has always taught its children.
- Tragically, we know that what happened here in Los Angeles was not an isolated incident. Across this country, from Texas to Wyoming, from Illinois to Alabama, we have seen far too many acts of hatred. This week, there was another verdict in the Matthew Shepard case. And while these sentences will never bring Mathew back, I hope that they will bring some comfort to Dennis and Judy Shepard...and the community and country that has prayed with them and stood by them.

- Because, it is not enough for us to look deep into our own hearts – and find no hatred there. It is not enough for us to vow to never raise a hand or use a weapon in anger. Each of us must do our part – individually and collectively -- to stop this kind of senseless and outrageous violence – just as you have done here.
- You have shown that it will take religious leaders, helping us draw lessons and strength from our faiths. It will take parents, teaching their children to respect one another and express their feelings with words, not weapons. It will take local law enforcement officers making sure that hate crimes do not go unpunished. It will take each of refusing to let a racial or religious slur go unanswered.
- And, yes, it will take leaders in Congress. Too many criminals have easy access to the guns and bullets that can, in a matter of seconds, turn hatred into violence. Before Congress goes home, it should act to protect America's homes and communities by passing common sense legislation to keep guns out of the wrong hands. [What are we waiting for? It is time to close the gun show loophole, require child safety locks for handguns, and prohibit violent juveniles from ever owning guns.]
- And, before Congress goes home, it should pass hate crimes legislation once and for all. There are people who try to distort this issue. But, this legislation is about one thing: Making it easier to prosecute all hate crimes – and bring their perpetrators to justice. These are, first and foremost, crimes against human beings that must, like all crimes, be punished. But, they are also crimes against our society. They are crimes against who we are as country -- and who we want to be. They are crimes against our fundamental values of justice, freedom and equality.

- Recently, we hosted a Millennium Evening at the White House to talk about how revolutions in genetics and information are transforming how we will live in the next century. And I heard a remarkable statistic: that all of us, regardless of the color of our skin, our place of birth, our gender, etc. -- are made of 99.9 percent of the same genetic material. Think about it: All of the hatred, all of the violence that has characterized this often tumultuous century is based on one tenth of one percent.
- I will think about that statistic when I visit the Middle East next week...and all the other places around the world that are working to overcome generations of hatred to rewrite a future of peace for their children. But, we must also think about it here at home as we work to stop this kind of violence. Because while we celebrate and appreciate our country's rich diversity – that one tenth of one percent -- we need to always remember that those differences – be they race or religion, gender or sexual orientation – will never be stronger than the common humanity that unites us all.
- That is what we have seen here today – that is what should guide us in the future. We shouldn't have to wait for another tragedy to strike a different community. It is my hope that the collective sadness and anger that we all feel as a result of these crimes will motivate us to address the plague of gun violence and hate crimes all across America. And when we do, it will be because you continued to stand together – just as you are doing today.
- Thank you.

172ND STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1999 Times Mirror Company
Los Angeles Times

November 6, 1999, Saturday, Home Edition

SECTION: Metro; Part B; Page 7; Metro Desk

LENGTH: 638 words

HEADLINE: AT SITE OF ATTACK, FIRST LADY URGES CURBS ON GUNS, HATE CRIMES;
POLITICS: SHE VISITS JEWISH CENTER, WHERE SHE MEETS SHOOTING VICTIMS AND CALLS
FOR TOUGHER LAWS.

BYLINE: JEFFREY GETTLEMAN, TIMES STAFF WRITER

BODY:

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton visited the North Valley Jewish Community Center on Friday to praise, to soothe and to drum up support for tougher gun control and hate crimes laws.

Speaking in the same Granada Hills center where five people, three of them young children, were wounded during an allegedly hate-inspired attack in August, Clinton said the country could learn a lot from the families of the shooting victims.

She especially applauded the family of Joseph Iletto, the 39-year-old postal worker who was shot to death in Chatsworth, allegedly by the same man who attacked the community center.

Locking her eyes on Iletto's brother, Clinton said: "I hope the message of courage of this family and this center will serve as a hallmark, a beacon, a guiding light of how to navigate the years to come and how we can all stand up for dignity."

The first lady also stressed the need for tougher gun control and hate crime laws, measures the Clinton administration is pushing despite Republican resistance.

"Only members of Congress can keep guns out of the hands of those who would be violent and protect those who would be victims of hate crimes," Clinton said.

Her two-hour visit became a reunion of sorts for the victims of the Aug. 10 attack and their families, many of whom had not seen one another since the days after the shooting.

There was 6-year-old Ben Kadish getting wheeled down the same hallway where he almost lost his life, his father's hands firmly on the back of his

Los Angeles Times November 6, 1999, Saturday,

wheelchair.

Mindy Finkelstein, a 16-year-old camp counselor, and Joshua Stepakoff, a 6-year-old camper, got to meet the first lady before her speech and hear her read from a book.

The three children, along with another boy and the center's receptionist, were allegedly shot by Buford O. Furrow, an avowed racist from Olympia, Wash. Furrow burst into the community center entryway spraying bullets because he hated Jews, police said.

After he left the center, he shot and killed Iletto while the Filipino American was delivering mail, police said.

Furrow is facing federal murder and gun charges and probably state attempted murder charges.

The most vocal of the victims and their families was Ismael Iletto, brother of the slain mailman, who used Clinton's visit as an opportunity to promote his own campaign for tougher hate crime laws.

He has formed a group named after the letters of his brother's name: Join Our Struggle to Educate and Prevent Hate and Instill Love, Equality and Tolerance for Others. He speaks at schools and community events.

"I don't want my brother to have died for nothing," he said. "That's why I'm working for stronger laws."

The White House is backing a measure that would expand the groups protected under federal hate crime laws and make it easier for federal authorities to investigate hate crimes. Currently, federal law enhances penalties for crimes committed against people based on their race, religion or ethnicity. The proposed legislation would also cover violence based on sexual orientation, gender and disability.

This summer the Senate passed the proposed Hate Crimes Prevention Act. But during House-Senate budget negotiations, Republican leaders cut the measure out, saying existing state laws made it redundant.

Last week, Clinton vetoed the Justice Department spending bill, citing the absence of expanded hate crime legislation. The administration is negotiating with congressional leaders over the hate crime measure and tougher gun control laws that would require trigger locks and prevent juveniles from purchasing arms.

The first lady said Friday that law enforcement needs more tools to fight hate groups.

"We need to make it easier to prosecute these people," she said. "We can't permit the virus of hate crimes to infect our society."

GRAPHIC: PHOTO: Hillary Rodham Clinton tells audience: "We can't permit the virus of hate crimes to infect our society." ID NUMBER: 19991106fkr6qike
PHOTOGRAPHER: MYUNG J. CHUN / Los Angeles Times PHOTO: (B1) Campaigning Against

Los Angeles Times November 6, 1999, Saturday,

Hate: First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton visits with people gathered Friday at the North Valley Jewish Community Center, where she called on Congress to toughen gun control and hate crime laws. Among those on hand were victims of the August shooting rampage. B7 ID NUMBER: 19991106fkr4bcke PHOTOGRAPHER: MYUNG J. CHUN / Los Angeles Times
LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: November 6, 1999

15TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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The New York Times

March 9, 2000, Thursday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section B; Page 5; Column 1; Metropolitan Desk

LENGTH: 487 words

HEADLINE: Mrs. Clinton Criticizes City For Missing Gun Safety Talks

BYLINE: By ERIC LIPTON

BODY:

Hillary Rodham Clinton criticized New York City yesterday for failing to join more than two dozen cities, counties and states that are trying to force gun manufacturers to improve gun safety and tighten controls over gun sales through legal action.

"Changes in the way guns are designed and manufactured, marketed and distributed could save many lives in the future," Mrs. Clinton said in an appearance at a Lower Manhattan office building yesterday with State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, who is negotiating with the gun manufacturers.

Mr. Spitzer, along with representatives from San Francisco, New Orleans and other states and cities, has met several times since last summer with gun manufacturers, asking them to add trigger locks or other devices to guns they produce to prevent them from being fired accidentally, a spokesman for the attorney general said. And the attorney general has asked the manufacturers to stop distributing guns to dealers who have a history of selling to criminals, said Scott R. Brown, Mr. Spitzer's spokesman.

"There has been a lost opportunity because New York City has not joined in this effort," Mrs. Clinton said. "Probably the people in New York City have as much or more to gain from such a code of conduct and changes in the way that the gun manufacturers do business as any people anywhere in our country."

Mrs. Clinton, a Democratic candidate for the United States Senate in New York, did not mention her probable Republican opponent, Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani. But Howard Wolfson, her campaign spokesman, said after her remarks that Mr. Giuliani is to blame for the city's failure to participate in the negotiations.

Sunny Mindel, Mr. Giuliani's press secretary, later rejected the criticism. "If Mrs. Clinton lived in New York City, she would know that it is the corporation counsel that analyzes these issues" and would decide whether the city should join in such an effort, she said.

Lorna B. Goodman, a spokeswoman for Michael D. Hess, the corporation counsel,

said the city has not sued gun manufacturers because it is still trying to assess the likelihood of winning such a case. She said the city is prepared to participate with Mr. Spitzer, a Democrat, in negotiations with the gun manufacturers, but it has not been invited to do so.

Mrs. Clinton, in a separate appearance yesterday before The Gay and Lesbian Independent Democrats, a group in the West Village, detailed her positions on a number of gay-related issues. She said she supports extending health and other benefits associated with marriage to domestic partners, allowing people to join the military regardless of their sexual orientation and national legislation that would outlaw so-called hate crimes, Mr. Wolfson said. He added that Mrs. Clinton said she would back national legislation that would bar an employer from discriminating against a person based on sexual orientation.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

GRAPHIC: Photo: Hillary Rodham Clinton hugged Richard Socarides, the former White House liaison on gay issues, yesterday after a West Village speech. (Ozier Muhammad/The New York Times)

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: March 9, 2000

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The Ethnic NewsWatch
AsianWeek

November 17, 1999

SECTION: Vol. 21; No. 12; Pg. 8

LENGTH: 273 words

HEADLINE: Briefs: First Lady Promotes Hate-Crimes Law

BODY:

Briefs: First Lady Promotes Hate-Crimes Law

LOS ANGELES--Using an appearance at the site of the Jewish Community Center shooting to pitch a new hate-crime measure, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton urged people to pressure Congress to pass the expanded legislation.

"We must equip our law enforcement with the laws necessary to stand against such violence," Clinton said Friday. The "virus of hate crime must not be allowed to infect our society."

The measure would add crimes motivated by sexual orientation, gender and disability to the list of hate crimes already covered by federal law--those motivated by race, religion, color or national origin.

Clinton's speech came as President Bill Clinton, who has been pushing the measure for two years, steps up pressure on Congress to pass it. However, it apparently would have little effect on the case against the alleged gunman in the center shooting, who was charged under existing hate-crime laws.

Hillary Clinton urged some 100 people gathered at the North Valley Jewish Community Center in Granada Hills to call on their lawmakers to pass the legislation. An admitted white supremacist allegedly shot five people Aug. 10 at the center.

Ileto's brother, Ismael, also spoke Friday in support of the bill.

"I am a UPS driver, but I look at people differently now," Ileto said. "They used to be able to come up to me to say hello' or ask for directions. But now I'm more cautious and I'm anxious. ... We need to stop these hate groups at their sources."

Article copyright AsianWeek/Pan Asia Venture Capital Corp.

ETHNIC-GROUP: Asian/Pacific Island

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: February 24, 2000

161ST STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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The Ethnic NewsWatch
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

November 9, 1999

SECTION: Pg. 13

LENGTH: 475 words

HEADLINE: First lady stumps for hate crimes law, meets with survivors of L.A. shooting

BYLINE: Tugend, Tom

BODY:

First lady stumps for hate crimes law, meets with survivors of L.A. shooting

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 8 (JTA) -- In a visit to the Jewish community center where five people were shot earlier this year, Hillary Rodham Clinton has praised survivors of a shooting spree and their families for refusing "to allow the forces of hatred to win."

During a two-hour visit to the North Valley Jewish Community Center last Friday, the first lady also said she supports tougher federal gun-control and hate crimes laws.

White supremacist Buford O'Neal Furrow Jr., has been charged in connection with the August incident in which three children, a teen-ager and an adult receptionist were wounded.

Clinton made her remarks just days before she was expected to fly to Israel, where she is scheduled to be the guest of honor at a dinner at Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak's residence and attend a coffee house, sponsored by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, that is a forum for Israeli teen-agers to discuss their concerns.

Clinton and her daughter, Chelsea, will fly to Israel on Wednesday and participate in a Tel Aviv University conference on preventing violence. After two days in Israel, the Clintons are scheduled to meet with Queen Noor in Jordan.

Speaking against a backdrop of American and Israeli flags, and a large sign, "Welcome First Lady," Clinton said that "In the face of unspeakable tragedy, you have shown the importance of going on, not giving in to bitterness or hopelessness.

"Our best weapon" is "gathering and speaking out and making clear that we will never give in to violence."

She also urged voters to pressure Congress to pass a tough Hate Crimes Prevention Act. "We need to make it easier to prosecute these people," she said. "We can't permit the virus of hate crimes to infect our society."

President Clinton recently vetoed the bill after congressional Republicans stripped the bill of its toughest provisions.

Lionell Bell, chairman of the Los Angeles Jewish Federation, applauded the first lady's stand.

"We all know what can happen to our children now," he said. "I don't see how anybody can be against tougher laws that fight hate."

Earlier in her visit, Clinton read the children's story "The Rainbow Fish" to a classroom. She also met privately with the shooting victims and their families, including 6-year-old Benjamin Kadish, who was the most gravely wounded and is still confined to a wheelchair.

Clinton did not discuss her political plans, but got a warm round of applause from an audience of 75 when Ismael Ilete, brother of the mail carrier allegedly slain by Furrow after the community center shootings, jokingly introduced her as the next senator from New York.

Article copyright the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

ETHNIC-GROUP: Jewish

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: February 24, 2000

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AUGUST 17, 1999, TUESDAY

SECTION: WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING

LENGTH: 3994 words

HEADLINE: NEWS BRIEFING WITH PRESIDENT AND MRS. CLINTON,
INCLUDING REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT ON LAST
NIGHT'S EARTHQUAKE IN TURKEY

SUBJECT: TO INTRODUCE NEW PUBLIC SERVICE
ANNOUNCEMENTS TO ENCOURAGE PARENTS TO TALK
WITH THEIR CHILDREN ABOUT VIOLENCE

OTHER SPEAKER:

DREW ALTMAN, PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
THE KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION
450 OEOB
THE WHITE HOUSE

BODY:

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: (Applause.) Good morning. Good morning, and please be seated. Welcome to the White House.

We are very excited about this joint effort that will be seen today, a joint effort led by the Ad Council, the Kaiser Family Foundation and Children Now. It couldn't have happened without the advice and participation of many, many other advocacy groups and experts, the entertainment industry, association leaders and network executives.

I'd like to acknowledge Jack Valenti, the president of the Motion Picture Association of America; Richard Masur, the president of the Screen Actors Guild; and Eddie Fritz (sp), the president and CEO of the National Association of Broadcasters, who are all here with us this morning.

In addition, you can look around this room and see many other television and entertainment executives, who have supported these public service announcements.

And I'd like to ask everyone from the entertainment industry who has worked on this, to please stand so that we can express our appreciation. (Applause.)

Yesterday, the students and teachers of Columbine High School returned to class, just 17 weeks after the tragic shooting that killed 12 classmates and a beloved teacher. One month later, on the very day that the president and I traveled to Colorado to meet with members of the Littleton community, a 15-year-old opened fire at his high school in Conyers, Georgia.

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Federal News Service, AUGUST 17, 1999

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I met a young girl in Buffalo, a seventh-grader, Regina Johnson (sp), who gave me a letter just a week after the Littleton shootings, which read: "Violence is all around me. There are gangs in my neighborhood. Because of this, I am not free to ride my bike around the block.

"My mother fears for my life every time I leave the house. I have gotten used to it because violence has been a part of my life since I was a child. After the shooting, I decided to speak my mind and stop holding back my thoughts."

Anyone who listens to children like Regina (sp) has to wonder, what will it take for our country say enough? What will it take for Congress to pass common-sense gun laws to keep handguns and assault weapons out of the hands of juveniles and criminals?

After the shootings in Littleton, many members of Congress did say enough, and the Senate passed tough new provisions, proposed by the president, that would have strengthened our country's gun safety laws. But even these most common sense of measures, that in no way would have restricted the activities of honest and legitimate gun owners, were blocked by a majority in the House who apparently were and are more interested in the approval of the National Rifle Association than in the safety of our children.

When we think about the challenges confronting us, we know, of course, that guns alone are not the only problem. That is why this administration has worked tirelessly and on many fronts to meet the challenges of keeping our children safe: by giving parents the tools and the time they need, tools like the V chip, and a new agreement that requires movie theater owners to request photo IDs from young people who want to see R-rated movies; by giving schools the resources they need; and by hosting the first-ever White House conference on school safety; and, of course, by passing the Brady law and the assault weapons ban.

No two people have been more in the forefront of that struggle than our Attorney General, Janet Reno, and our Secretary of Education, Dick Riley; and they have been tireless in advocating what people can do at all levels of society.

This past May, less than a month after Columbine, the president and I welcomed a distinguished and diverse group of Americans to the White House, where, at the end of the day, we united behind the simple idea of a national campaign against youth violence. Much has happened since then, but a lot of work remains to be done. And each of us should be asking ourselves, "What do we have to do in our own lives, in our own homes, in our own workplaces, in our own communities to do whatever we can to help keep our children safe?"

Just as we know that children are impressed by the negative images they see on television, in movies, and on their computer screens, we know that these same media offer many positive and educational messages to our children as well. The Public Service Announcements you will see in a few minutes sends just the kind of message we want our children to hear.

And it provides even stronger evidence of just how far we can go when we work together to take responsibility for keeping our children safe.

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I want to thank some other people who have worked hard to make this ad a reality. Former Colorado Governor Roy Romer, who is a member of the Ad Council's board; Drew Altman, the president of Kaiser Family Foundation; Lois Salisbury, the president of Children Now; and I'd like now to introduce to you the new president and chief executive officer of the Advertising Council, Peggy Conlon. (Applause.)

MS. CONLON: Thank you. I'd like to thank the first lady, President Clinton and his Cabinet, notably Attorney General Janet Reno and Secretary Riley, for their tremendous commitment to reducing youth violence in America. You have inspired the Ad Council, the media, and countless others to unite and mobilize toward a common goal: keeping our kids safe.

The campaign is a landmark in terms of creativity, ingenuity and collaboration. The creativity is thanks to advertising agency J. Walter Thompson. To make "Talk With Your Kids About Violence" a success, we needed the support of the media. As I look out in the audience today, I see so many familiar faces and friends of the Ad Council. I want to thank each of you that are here today.

Quite honestly, I am in awe of the media's commitment to this initiative. Bottom lines have been set aside to help our nation's kids and families.

This list of over two dozen participating media organizations that have donated the time to air this PSA is very impressive, and they include ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox, WB, UPN and UniVision, ANE, the History Channel, CNN, CNN Headline News, CNN Airport News, TBS Superstation, TNT, Discovery Channel, TLC, Animal Planet, Travel Channel, Discovery Digital Networks, BET, Comedy Central, Country Music Television, the Nashville Network, Fox Family Channel, Lifetime, MTV, VH1, Nickelodeon, Nick at Night, and TV Land. And Fast TV.COM will also provide the spot on demand. In addition, the National Association of Broadcasters and Showtime networks will distribute the PSAs through their satellite feed.

This is a very amazing event. The industry's support will help increase awareness of the campaign and get important conversations started. As an industry, we must stand together to respond to these senseless tragedies and you have done just that, and we thank you.

Again, I would like to thank President Clinton and the first lady for their continued support of the Ad Council and our mission. Your support, coupled with the media's unsurpassed commitment, has and will continue to make this country a safer place for our children.

Now it is my pleasure to introduce Drew Altman, president and CEO of the Kaiser Family Foundation. (Applause.)

MR. ALTMAN: Good morning. Thank you very much, Peggy.

Usually when I'm in Washington, it's talk about some heavy-duty, complicated health-policy issue. But what I'd like to say this morning isn't complicated. First of all, it's thank you, most especially to the president and the first lady, who really made this happen. It's thank you to the attorney general and to my friend Secretary Riley, for supporting this effort, and certainly to the media organizations who have made an unprecedented commitment to this campaign. The main point of this campaign isn't complicated either. It's simply to encourage parents to talk with their kids about violence and about their fears, and, at a time when parents tell us that they're feeling more than a little bit under siege, to give them some encouragement, to give them some practical help, like the tips contained in this booklet -- this is my job today, to hold up this booklet -- (laughter) -- like the tips contained in this booklet, which, amazingly enough, is called "Talk with Your Kid About Violence," which will be distributed nationwide through the campaign.

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We started the "Talking with Kids" campaign two years ago now, with our partners Children Now -- whose president, Lois Salisbury (sp), is here today, as you've heard -- the Ad Council, and Jay Walter Thompson (sp).

But you need to understand that we would not be here today, were it not for the White House summit, which is where the idea came from, where the planning began, and where the momentum for this effort was first established. And we would have little -- indeed, we would have no chance -- for real success, were it not for the extraordinary commitment being made by the media organizations who are here today, because we are health care people, and so we can develop ads and websites and 800 numbers, and we certainly know how to write booklets -- (laughter) -- but it only that commitment which can take this campaign to prime time and to another level, so that parents talk with their kids, not just when there's another tragedy, but every day, all the time, as part of normal life. That's the goal of this campaign.

Yesterday my 13-year-old son, Daniel, told me -- who likes to pretend that he's always tough -- told me that he was afraid to go to the high school in Menlo Park in a couple of weeks to take a math course. I don't think he's the only kid in the country having those feelings. So, on behalf of all the kids, thank you all very much for being part of this campaign.

And now it's my special privilege and other major job this morning to introduce a star from Hollywood -- not that kind of star, and not exactly that Hollywood -- but Leilani Tisilio (sp) is an 11-year-old sixth grader -- just about to be a sixth grader -- and she is one of the real kids who you will see starring in the ad that President Clinton will show you in a few minutes. So, Leilani (sp), you can take control. (Applause.)

LEILANI TISILIO (11-year-old; featured in Public Service Announcement): Hi. I'm really happy to be here today at the White House. (Pause followed by laughter and applause.) I wasn't really sure what to think when I heard about all of the school shootings and other violence. I was confused and a little scared. But luckily, I talked to two people in my family -- my mom and my dad. They told me -- (pause) -- they told me it was okay to feel scared, and they helped me understand that some bad things happen in the world, but that most things -- most people were good.

Now I would like to introduce the president and say thank you, Mr. President and Mrs. Clinton, for showing us how much you care and for helping all kids know that it's good to talk to your parents when you're scared.

Ladies and gentlemen, I want to introduce President William Jefferson Clinton. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Thank you. Leilani (sp), most people twice your age couldn't do that! (Laughter.)

Ladies and gentlemen, because this is my first chance of the week to speak to the press before we get on to showing the spot, I have to say just a couple of words about the awful earthquake that occurred in Turkey, which I'm sure a lot of you have heard about. It has claimed hundreds of lives and many injuries. So let me begin by saying, on behalf of all Americans, our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families. Most of you know that Turkey has been our friend and ally for a long time now. We must stand with them and do whatever we can to help them get through this terrible crisis. We've already released aid for the Turkish Red Crescent.

We are sending a team to Turkey to help with search and rescue today. Our Energy Secretary Bill Richardson and General Hugh Shelton, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, are actually in Turkey, and they have personally

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conveyed our willingness to provide additional assistance. General Shelton has met with his Turkish counterpart to offer the military's help with disaster relief. And we will continue to determine what further help is needed. But you can only imagine how difficult this is for them. And we will do what we can to help.

Now, let me thank Leilani (sp) again and Wyatt Kusch (sp) and Harrison Boatright (sp), who are the young people here with us, who are also in the PSA. I want to thank Secretary Riley and Attorney General Reno, who have really done a wonderful job of trying to have a coordinated and balanced approach to keeping our children safe.

Governor Romer, thank you.

I want to thank all the people here from the entertainment industry, Jack and Richard and Eddie (sp), Sheila and all the others who stood up. Thank you so much for your generosity and your farsightedness.

Thank you, Peggy Conlon. You are a great spokesperson for the people you represent, and you have been great in helping us to get this far. And I want to thank my longtime friend Drew Altman and the Kaiser Foundation for their support in this endeavor.

I'd also like to thank the young AmeriCorps members, who are here today, who spent a lot of time working with our young people in trying to help them stay safe.

This is a very important issue to Hillary, to me, to our entire administration. In two weeks, Leilani (sp) is going to start at a brand-new school. That's probably more scary than introducing the president to a bunch of strangers. (Laughter.)

And you know, there are always a lot of worries associated with going to a new school: "All these strange people, are they going to like me? Am I going to like them?"; you have got to get to know the teachers; you have just got to find your way around, got to remember the combination to a new locker. (Laughter.) Those are the things that our kids ought to be worried about.

They shouldn't be worried about whether what they saw in Littleton or Conyers, or with that young madman in Illinois and Indiana, or at the Jewish Community Center in L.A. could possibly happen to them. That's what they shouldn't worry about. But they do because they have seen the press reports, and so has our entire nation.

We are still grieving for the young children, the teacher, the counselor, the receptionist at the Jewish Community Center, or the family of that young Filipino American Joseph Iletto, who was killed only because he was an Asian American who worked for his country's government.

Secretary Riley has gone across the country trying to make sure that all of us can put this in some kind of context. The attorney general has, as well.

The crime rate in this country is at a 26-year low; juvenile crime is going down. The Center for Disease Control and the Department of Education show that overall violence has actually decreased in our schools.

It's important to tell these children here with us today, and others, that the chances of a tragedy happening are small, less than they used to be, less than one in a million.

But that's not good enough when you see how horrible it is when it occurs. Schools ought to be right next to our houses of worship as sanctuaries in America. They ought to be places where young people are completely safe and absolutely certain that they are. And each of us bears a responsibility. If Hillary's right, that it takes a village to raise a child, it will take our whole national village to keep the nation's children safe in their schools.

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A big part of that responsibility lies with parents, and giving parents and their children the capacity to communicate with one another. And that's a big part of why we're here to launch this Public Service campaign. As you will see in a moment, the PSA sponsored by the Kaiser Family Foundation, by Children Now, and the Ad Council, sends out a powerful call to action. If you're a child and you see someone committing violence or even just talking about it -- that's very important, given the evidence we know have about the situation in Colorado and others -- if you see someone just talking about it, the best thing you can do is to first tell your parents. And if you're a parent, you have to take it seriously; you have to sit down and talk to listen, to draw your children out, to give them a chance to express their fears, to give you early warning, and then to share that early warning with your children's teachers and principal. This is an important message, so I'd like to, again, with thanks to all concerned, turn the lights out and watch the ad.

(Public Service Announcement is shown, followed by applause.)

Thanks to the commitment of America's broadcast and cable networks and cable channels, this ad and others like it will be seen by just about every single person in America who turns on the television tomorrow night during the family hour of prime time. This so-called "television roadblock" is really unprecedented. The networks are donating a million and a half dollars of free air time in one night alone. That's more blanket coverage than I get for the State of the Union. (Laughter.) Many of the networks have already pledged to continue airing these PSAs during different time slots for the remainder of this year.

So let me say once again, I am very, very grateful to all the people involved who have fulfilled the commitment that they made at our Youth Violence Summit in May to use the power of your medium to send out positive messages to our children. This is the kind of thing we can do when we work together, and we need to continue to do so and to include all parts of our society.

You remember that when we had the national summit, the first lady and I said we wanted to organize a national campaign against youth violence, to have the same sort of galvanizing impact on our people that Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Students Against -- I think it's now called "Destructive Decisions," the campaign to promote seatbelt use; these grassroots campaigns can have a profound effect on the way Americans think and the way they behave. It will be much, much easier now, because of the work that all of you involved in the media have done to bring these public service spots to the people of the United States. But we also need our organized campaign, so today I have the honor of announcing and introducing the person who will be the executive director of this campaign. His name is Jeff Bleich and he's here with us on stage. He's been recognized by the American Bar Association as one of our country's leading young attorneys; he's also one of San Francisco's leading civic-minded citizens. He is the father of three beautiful children he desperately wants to have a safe childhood. He has received several prestigious awards for his pro bono legal service.

He's built strong connections in Silicon Valley and in Hollywood, both of whom can be of immense help to us in this endeavor. And perhaps most important, he has written a very fine book on youth violence. So I'd like to ask Jeff to stand up and to thank him for his service. (Applause.) Thank you. We thank you for taking on this challenge to protect our children.

Today the Department of Justice is also releasing \$15 million to fund innovative partnerships between local police and school and community groups, something the

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attorney general has been pushing since the first day she came here. These partnerships will help schools do everything from training students in conflict resolution techniques to combatting drug dealing and use on school grounds. But as every police officer in America knows, we're kidding ourselves if we think we can conquer youth violence without addressing one of its undeniable catalysts: the appalling ease with which young people gain access to guns. Hillary has already said -- and you know that I strongly agree -- it is long past time for Congress to step up to its responsibility and restore some common sense, sanity, and strength to our nation's gun laws.

Today I ask the Republican majority: When you come back to work, our children will be going back to school. Think about them. Let's not wait until the next senseless tragedy to pass common-sense gun- safety measures to protect them. Now I know, in a country of 270 million people and tens of millions of guns, no law can stop every disturbed person from committing a violent act with a gun. But we would never do anything as a people if we gave in to the objection that all of our actions would have less than 100 percent impact. The Brady bill has kept over 400,000 guns sales which should not have occurred from happening. It has saved countless lives. Closing the gun show loophole will have the same impact. Closing the loopholes in the assault weapons ban will have the same impact -- doing these other things. Will they solve every problem? No. Will they stop every act of violence? No. Will they prevent every madman? No. If we used that kind of excuse, we would all stay in bed every day; we would never get out of bed. (Applause.) We would never get out of bed. We would never hit a lick. So we need all the tools at our disposal.

Look what these media people have done. Will this Public Service ad get every parent in America and every child to talk about every dangerous thing that happens at every school? No, but it will have a huge impact. No, and -- (interrupted by applause).

So if the media people are doing their part, and the school people are doing their part, and the law enforcement people are doing their part, it is time to pass the reasonable and entirely modest measures before the Congress. For those who want to do more, I say, so do I, but that is no reason not to do this. This will make a difference. And it is certainly not an argument not to do it that it won't solve every problem. It will save some lives, and we ought to do it. We have got to work together. That's what our national campaign is about; that is the message that the Ad Council is putting out in these ads; and down deep inside, that's what all of us know we need to do, so that when we see children like Leilani (sp), don't you wish all you ever had to worry about was that the kid you're pulling for can get through the speech in front of the strangers -- (light laughter); can make it through the athletic event, can play the solo or sing the song that is so excruciatingly difficult the first time you did it? These are the things that our children ought to be worried about. We ought to give our kids back their childhood, and we can do it, if we do it together. Thank you, and God bless you. (Applause.) Thank you.

END

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: August 18, 1999