

NLWJC - Kagan

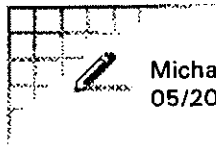
DPC - Box 011 - Folder 021

Crime - Mayor Conference Event

5/21/97

Crime: Mayors Conference Event

TO: RAHMU / BRUCE / EGENA
FR: JOSE



Michael Waldman
05/20/97 08:24:08 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: (from Laura) Please review----

5/20/97

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
ONDCP/ U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS
NATIONAL FORUM ON DRUG CONTROL
Wednesday, May 21, 1997**

Acknowledgments: Vice President, General McCaffrey, Mayor Daley.

Thank you for joining us here to discuss what I believe must be the nation's top law enforcement priority over the next four years: how to keep our young people away from drugs and the gangs and guns they bring in their wake. The Mayors National Action plan underscores the national drug strategy that General McCaffrey has just told you about. I want to briefly talk about why this is so important, before I hear from you in detail.

You and I know that when we work together -- local communities, prosecutors, police, educators, and the national government -- we can begin to take back our streets and reclaim the lives of our children. Our strategy to fight crime has been tough and smart: more police, more punishment, more prevention. And thanks to these anti-crime strategies pioneered in communities across America, serious crime has dropped five years in a row. Last year saw the fewest law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty in over 35 years.

We have also had ~~some~~ success in the fight against illegal drugs. Monthly drug use today is roughly half of what it was 10 years ago in America. But we know that the tide of juvenile violence and drugs threatens to rise -- and that if we do not act now to steer our children from drugs, we may lose them to a life of dependency and despair.

We face the task of teaching a whole new generation this basic truth: drugs are illegal, drugs are wrong, drugs can kill you. We know that rising drug use among young people, in part, can only be addressed by a change in attitude. Too many of our children have gotten the idea that drug use is not dangerous to them.

One reason that our young people are not getting the message is that they are not

SEE "TOBACCO/HEROIN"
INSERT. TOO FAR
OUT THERE? IT'S
THE CLOSEST THING
TO A "BITE" I
COULD COME UP
WITH...

getting a clear and consistent and unwavering message from adults. One of the most disturbing trends we have seen is the increasing allure for young people of heroin. We all grew up knowing that heroin was addictive and deadly. The images of burned out junkies were burned into our consciousness. But alarmingly, ~~in some parts of the country~~, heroin use among young people has been on the rise. On too many college campuses, in too many neighborhoods, heroin has become the drug of choice -- trapping the users in a fog of addiction and decline, leading to death.

OUR KIDS ARE BEING FED DIFFERENT IMAGES TODAY, AND

IN SOME PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

We know that children are susceptible to the images that bombard them. And as has been reported in the press in recent days, many of our fashion leaders now admit that the images they project in advertising in recent years has made heroin addiction seem glamorous, sexy, cool.

IF IT IS WRONG FOR BIG TOBACCO TO TELL OUR KIDS THAT SMOKING IS COOL, THAN ITS DEAD WRONG FOR

Let's be clear: You don't need to glamorize addiction to sell blue jeans. This is not about advertising and art; this is about attitudes and acceptability. Heroin is not chic; heroin is death. I call on the fashion industry to stop selling clothes by marketing addiction.

HIGH FASHION TO TELL THEM ADDICTION IS GLAMOROUS

And just as we put in place a national strategy to fight crime that was rooted in the lessons of local success, that is what we must do to fight drug use among young people.

The national government will continue to do everything it can to send that same message -- and to crack down on those who peddle drugs to our children. As you heard from General McCaffrey, our national strategy plan makes preventing youth drug use our number one priority. It calls for a \$175 million advertising campaign, leveraged with private sector resources, to give our kids the hard facts about drugs.

Let me ^{ALSO} mention ~~just~~ two new elements of our anti-drug strategy.

First, we have good news to report in our progress against methamphetamine. Last year, we targeted this increasingly popular drug as a special focus for this effort. Meth has devastating effects on those who use it. And it is produced in clandestine labs which carry an enormously high risk of fire and explosion. The Congress supported our efforts by enacting the Comprehensive Methamphetamine Control Act, which established new controls over the chemicals used to make meth, and strengthened penalties for trafficking.

Now, ^{IN} a year after we began targeting meth, we are releasing a one-year progress report on our National Methamphetamine Strategy. First, seizures of the dangerous drug labs used to manufacture meth are up 170% in one year alone. Second, the use of methamphetamine is down key western cities. In 8 of the cities where meth use had been skyrocketing, it has dropped from 7 - 52%.

A second focus of our efforts is a vigorous crackdown on money launderers. We all

know that without a steady stream of laundered cash, the drug trade will wither at its roots. Today, the Treasury Department will take three steps to cut off the cash. We will require currency exchanges, check cashers and other money services to register with the Treasury Department. We will require more businesses to report suspicious activity, under penalty of law. And we will require any transfer of funds overseas above \$750 to be reported to ~~federal law enforcement~~. We know this will cut back on money laundering.

THE TREASURY
DEPARTMENT

Finally, let me ask your help as we seek to persuade the Congress to pass a comprehensive juvenile crime bill. Organized gangs, armed to the teeth, prowl too many mean streets and threaten too many communities. I have proposed comprehensive legislation -- modeled on what works in Boston and around the country -- to protect our children from violence and steer them away from a life of crime. Our approach does more than talk tough. It will add prosecutors and probation officers, keep schools open longer to keep kids off the streets, and protect our children from guns by requiring child safety locks. We protect kids from aspirin bottles better than we do from guns.

AND DRUGS (?)

I am very concerned that the legislation that has passed the House of Representatives does not meet these tests. Let me say before all of you -- who know what works in our communities -- what I have said repeatedly: A juvenile crime bill that doesn't crack down on guns ~~and~~ gangs, that does not guarantee more prosecutors, probation officers and after school hours, is a juvenile crime bill in name only. We must have a real juvenile crime bill, this year.

These are just a few steps we must take if we are to take back our streets and give our young people the chance to reach their highest potential. I look forward to working with all those here -- mayors, prosecutors, police -- to get this done.

Message Sent To:

Leanne A. Shimabukuro/OPD/EOP
Jose Cerda III/OPD/EOP
Francis X. Kinney/ONDCCP/EOP
Emily Bromberg/WHO/EOP
Michelle Crisci/WHO/EOP