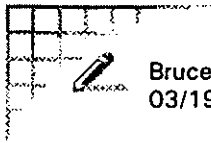


NLWJC - Kagan

DPC - Box 011 - Folder 033

Crime - Republican (Hatch) Bill 99



Bruce N. Reed
03/19/99 01:46:16 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP, Jose Cerda III/OPD/EOP
cc: Leanne A. Shimabukuro/OPD/EOP
Subject: gop bill

You may want to call this reporter and explain to her that the GOP budget cuts COPS

\$17.5B GOP Anti-Crime Bill Unveiled

By Laurie Kellman
Associated Press Writer
Friday, March 19, 1999; 1:36 p.m. EST

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Senate Republicans unveiled a \$17.5 billion anti-crime agenda today that would protect programs the Clinton administration wants to eliminate and impose harsher sentences on illegal drug users.

“It is based on what we know reduces crime,” said Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

Hatch clashed with Attorney General Janet Reno last week on her proposal to cut several anti-crime grants from her budget. Reno said crime was down significantly nationwide, and she wanted to shift money to other priorities.

But Hatch said today that crime in the United States is still “significantly high by historical standards,” and violent crime rates here remain the highest of any industrialized nation.

Senate GOP leadership sources who demanded anonymity said the GOP bill marks a new willingness among some senior Republicans to take on legislative initiatives that approach the gun-control issue. Republicans, many of whom have opposed such legislation in recent years, feared they would lose such a battle after nationally publicized firearms tragedies at schools and elsewhere.

Hatch's agenda, however, faces little risk of igniting a gun battle, GOP sources said. It would expand a Richmond, Va., program in which the U.S. attorney prosecutes as many local gun-related crimes in federal court as possible and seeks federal mandatory minimum sentences. Hatch said homicides in Richmond dropped 50 percent in that city after that program took effect. It also includes a media campaign to spread the message that “an illegal gun will get you five years in federal prison.”

Aides close to Hatch said they anticipate the bill moving through the committee this spring and to the Senate floor during the summer.

Much of the bill's funding has already been set aside for federal grants Reno proposes cutting, but which Hatch would protect:

--A grant used for equipment and technology for state and local law enforcement crime-fighting.

--Federal assistance to states for prison-building and incarceration of violent and repeat offenders for at least 85 percent of their sentences.

--Juvenile crime block grants for youth detention centers, drug testing and improved record-keeping.

Hatch and other Republican senators also are proposing increasing penalties for the most serious drugs, including powder cocaine and methamphetamines.

The GOP senators also are calling for the ratification of a constitutional amendment that would improve restitution laws and steer federal money toward efforts to fight violence against women and children.

**Senate Republican Crime Bill
Questions and Answers
March 20, 1999**

Q: Yesterday, Senate Hatch and other Republicans unveiled an omnibus crime bill, the 21st Century Justice Act, and accused the Administration of cutting funds to law enforcement. What is your reaction to it?

A: While we have not had a chance to review Senator Hatch's bill in detail, we already know that we have one very serious concern: like the Republican budget resolution, the Hatch Bill proposes cutting the President's community policing program (COPS) by about \$1 billion. As you know, COPS has provided funds to over 11,000 communities to hire more than 92,000 police officers. It has helped spread community policing methods to thousands of police departments across the country, and it has been credited by countless law enforcement officials as one of the key reasons for the significant reduction in the crime rate over the past 6 years. We simply won't go along with Senator Hatch's attempt to dismantle this program. Indeed, the President's crime bill will propose extending the COPS program by: putting up to 50,000 more police on the street; funding new crime fighting technologies for police departments; hiring more local prosecutors to work with police; and helping to engage the entire community -- including principals, pastors, and parents -- in the fight against crime.

In other respects, most of the Hatch bill is not new. It reauthorizes a series of state and local crime programs, many of which we support. And it includes a number of old proposals on juvenile crime and drugs, which we will continue to discuss and debate on the merits.

As for the recent criticisms by Senator Hatch and other Republicans on the President's law enforcement budget, we will let the record speak for itself. Since 1993, the Justice Department's budget has essentially doubled, and funding for state and local law enforcement has increased by more than 500%. There can be no question that this Administration has provided unprecedented support for law enforcement at all levels -- state, local and federal. By contrast, this year's Republican budget proposal, on top of cutting the entire COPS program, would provide 12 percent less than the President's budget for Administration of Justice programs.



Jose Cerda III

03/18/99 06:35:41 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP, Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP, Leanne A. Shimabukuro/OPD/EOP, Paul J. Weinstein Jr./OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: Morning Meeting Update -- Hatch Bill

BR/EK:

Just got a copy of Hatch's press advisory for tomorrow. He's planning a press conference on his bill for 11:30 am in SROB 325, and will be joined by Senators Nickles, Ashcroft, DeWine, Thurmond, Abraham, and unnamed "law enforcement organizations." According to his advisory, the bill will;

- preserve the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant zeroed out by the Administration;
- continue violent offender/truth-in-sentencing grants eliminated by the Administration;
- increase drug penalties for meth, powder cocaine, and funding for drug interdiction and faith-based drug treatment (the Drug-Free Century Act, S.5);
- increase funding for the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant zeroed out by the Administration;
- expands Project Exile in an effort to reverse the Administration's dismal record on gun prosecutions (down nearly 50% between 1992 and 1997, from 7,045 to 3,765);
- reform Miranda to allow voluntary statements in evidence, add a "good-faith" exception, and further reform the death penalty appeals process;
- calls for ratification of a constitutional amendment on victims rights, reauthorizes VAWA, and makes improvements to mandatory restitution laws.

Stay tuned...jc3

Crime - Republican (Hatch)


bill 1999



Jose Cerda III

03/12/99 03:07:57 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP
cc: Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP, Leanne A. Shimabukuro/OPD/EOP
bcc:
Subject: Re: Hatch Crime Bill 

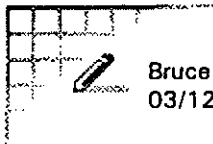
BR:

I'm inclined to think it won't get too much attention. They've moved it to the 18th now, and I understand they're working w/Feinstein and Toricelli, which could add to the news value. So far, though, none of the cop groups are planning to attend.

Perhaps we could leak a draft of the overall outline of our bill, and -- if Hatch gets any coverage -- the stories would include that we're doing even more, and that the R's either caved to the Administration on COPS...or didn't fully support COPS.


Jose'

Bruce N. Reed



Bruce N. Reed
03/12/99 02:50:45 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Jose Cerda III/OPD/EOP
cc: Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP, Leanne A. Shimabukuro/OPD/EOP
Subject: Re: Hatch Crime Bill 

Does this mean we should leak more stuff sooner, or will Hatch's bill be ignored?

Crime - Republican (Hatch)
proposal



Jose Cerda III

03/12/99 12:36:29 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP, Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP, Leanne A. Shimabukuro/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: Hatch Crime Bill

BR/EK:

Initial word on Hatch's draft crime bill is that it will include:

- an authorization for the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant;
- some version of COPS, but with greater accountability provisions; ??
- an expansion of the Dewine/Leahy technology grants program;
- Hatch's JJ bill;
- a new project "CUFF," which is modeled on EXILE;
- anti-gang provisions, though minus our RICO expansion;
- a ban on the sale of alcohol over the internet;
- VAWA reauthorization; and
- sense of the Senate on rights of crime victims.

He may drop it as early as next Tuesday. I'll try and get more specific info.

Jose'