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**Crime - Children, Violence, and
Responsibility Conference**

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 9, 1999

**WHITE HOUSE STRATEGY SESSION ON
CHILDREN, VIOLENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY**

DATE: Monday, May 10, 1999
LOCATION: East Room (Meeting)
Rose Garden (Statement)
BRIEFING TIME: 9:30am - 10:00am
MEET & GREET: 10:00am - 10:20am
MEETING: 10:30am - 12:45pm
STATEMENT: 1:00pm - 1:30pm
FROM: Bruce Reed

I. PURPOSE

To convene parents and children, teachers and religious leaders, law enforcement and government officials, gun manufacturers and sportsmen, and representatives of the entertainment industry, to discuss the problem of youth violence and develop a strategy for a national campaign to address this problem.

II. BACKGROUND

At today's strategy session, you will announce several initiatives to address the problem of youth violence including a Surgeon General's Report on Youth Violence, gun industry support for gun legislation in five important areas, and public and private commitments to ensure the effective implementation of the V-Chip.

SURGEON GENERAL'S REPORT ON YOUTH VIOLENCE

Today, you will announce that you are asking the nation's Surgeon General, Dr. David Satcher, to prepare a landmark report on youth violence -- the first such study on this subject in more than a decade. This report will bring together leading experts to review and evaluate existing research, and build on the findings of the 1972 Surgeon General Report on Television and Violence, as well as the 1985 Surgeon General's Workshop on Violence. Much is already known about how to reduce and prevent youth violence, but this report will add to the nation's understanding in this field. It also will address media that have emerged since previous reports, such as the Internet and video games.

GUN INDUSTRY SHOWS SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATION IN FIVE KEY AREAS

Today, leaders in the firearms industry announced their support for working out legislation in five areas. Specifically, the American Shooting Sports Council (ASSC), the gun industry's trade association in Washington, which represents 350 firearms manufacturers and distributors around the country, released a statement supporting legislation in five areas:

- **Closing the gun show loophole on Brady background checks.** The Treasury Department estimates that 25-50 percent of the sellers at gun shows are unlicensed and sell guns without the benefit of a background check. As a result, gun shows can provide a forum for illegal firearms sales and gun trafficking. You have proposed background checks, based on the existing Brady law, for firearms transferred at gun shows.
- **Extending the Brady Law to violent juveniles.** Although violent youth convicted in adult courts are barred from owning firearms as adults, the same is not true for youth convicted of serious violent crimes in juvenile court. You have proposed permanently banning all violent juveniles from buying guns -- so that they cannot purchase a gun on their 21st birthday.
- **Raising the age of the youth handgun ban to 21 years of age.** Federal law generally bans the possession of handguns by juveniles under the age of 18, and prohibits federal gun dealers from selling firearms to anyone under 21 years of age. However, it is perfectly legal for 18-20 year-olds to possess handguns or to buy them from unlicensed sellers -- even though law enforcement trace more crime guns to 18 and 19 year-olds than all other age groups. You have proposed raising the legal age of handgun ownership from 18 to 21 years, while maintaining current exemptions for employment, hunting, target shooting, ranching and military service.
- **Holding adults responsible for child access to guns.** Child Access Prevention (CAP) laws promote gun safety and responsibility by holding adults responsible if they allow children easy access to firearms and ammunition. You have proposed imposing felony penalties on adults who knowingly or recklessly allow a child to have access to a gun that is later used to cause death or injury.
- **Helping law enforcement to trace more firearms used in crimes.** Over the past 2 years, you have expanded comprehensive crime gun tracing to 37 cities -- helping them to trace all crime guns to their source, to identify illegal gun markets, and to crack down on gun traffickers. Last year, ATF initiated over 300 investigations in these cities, which involved over 3,300 illegally trafficked firearms. You have proposed expanding comprehensive tracing nationwide, starting by doubling the program to 75 cities.

MAKING THE V-CHIP WORK

The V-Chip is a device that allows parents to block television programming they consider inappropriate for their children. You and the Vice President led the successful fight for legislation that requires the V-Chip be installed in all new television sets sold beginning January 1, 2000. At today's strategy session you will announce two new initiatives to make sure the V-Chip becomes a useful tool for parents.

- **V-Chip Task Force.** To ensure that the V-Chip law is implemented effectively, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will establish a V-Chip Task Force. The Task Force will: (1) ensure the V-Chip requirement is enforced promptly and comprehensively; (2) promote parental awareness about the V-Chip and work closely with organizations sharing this goal; (3) encourage adoption of a standard label identifying television sets that contain the V-Chip and; (4) study the use of the V-Chip and evaluate the effectiveness of the industry's ratings system. FCC Chairman William Kennard has appointed Commissioner Gloria Tristani to chair the Task Force.
- **The V-Chip Survey and Education Project.** According to a survey released today by the Kaiser Foundation, while many parents (77%) say they want to use the V-Chip, less than four out of ten parents (39%) has ever seen information on how the system works. The Kaiser Foundation and the Center for Media Education announced today a major national effort to educate parents about the V-Chip TV ratings system. The educational campaign will include free booklets for parents on how the V-chip TV ratings system works. The free parent information will be available through a toll-free telephone number and will be promoted through partnerships with TV manufacturers, retailers, parents' organizations, newspapers, and television stations.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Briefing Participants:

John Podesta
Maria Echaveste
Bruce Reed
Loretta Ucelli
Larry Stein
Audrey Tayes-Haynes
Richard Socarides
Neera Tanden
Jeff Shesol
Trooper Sanders

Meeting Participants:

See attached list.

IV. PRESS PLAN

Meeting: Pool Press (at the top)
Statement: Open Press

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- YOU will greet meeting participants in the State Dining Room.
- YOU will proceed to the Blue Room for a brief hold.
- YOU will be announced, accompanied by the Vice President, the First Lady, and Mrs. Gore, into the East Room, and will proceed to your seat at the table.
- YOU will make a brief statement, after which the press will depart.
- YOU will begin the discussion.
- Upon conclusion of the discussion, YOU will proceed to the Map Room for a brief hold.
- YOU will be announced, accompanied by the Vice President, the First Lady, and Mrs. Gore, into the Rose Garden.
- YOU will make remarks and introduce the First Lady.
- The First Lady will make remarks and introduce Mrs. Gore.
- Mrs. Gore will make remarks and introduce the Vice President.
- The Vice President will make remarks.
- Upon conclusion of the Vice President's remarks, YOU will depart.

I. REMARKS

To be provided by speechwriting.

II. ATTACHMENTS

- Participants List
- Suggested Discussion Format
- Administration Accomplishments

White House Strategy Session on Children, Violence and Responsibility
May 10, 1999

Participants

Administration

Honorable Janet Reno, Attorney General
Honorable Donna Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services
Honorable Richard Riley, Secretary of Education
General Barry McCaffrey, Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy
Honorable John Podesta, Chief of Staff to the President
Honorable Bruce Reed, Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy and Director, Domestic Policy Council
Honorable William Kennard, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission

Students

Shane Cambroner, City Year Staff member and former Americorp member
Terrence Gray, Peer Mediator, T.C. Williams High
Eric Heydenberk, Conflict Resolution Program, Strayer Middle School
Maria Montiel, Peer Mediator, T.C. Williams High
Simonna Woodson, Peer Mediator, Arsenal Tech High School

Gun Manufacturers and Gun Owners

Honorable Bill Brewster, President, R. Duffy Wall & Associates; NRA Board Member
Paul Jannuzzo, VP & General Counsel, Glock Inc.
Georgia Nichols, Vice-President and General Counsel, O.F. Mossberg and Sons
Robert Ricker, Executive Director, American Shooting Sports Council
Ed Shultz, President and CEO, Smith and Wesson

Law Enforcement

Judge Alan Page, Associate Justice, Minnesota Supreme Court
Steve Young, National Vice-President, Fraternal Order of Police

Television/Motion Pictures

Leslie Moonves, President and CEO, CBS Television
Bob Iger, Chairman, ABC Group and President, Walt Disney International
Jack Valentl, President, Motion Picture Association of America
Decker Anstrom, President, National Cable Television Association
Edward Fritts, President, National Association of Broadcasters
Andrew Shue, Actor, Founder, Do Something Foundation

Internet/Video Games

Steve Case, Chairman and CEO, America On-Line
Doug Lowenstein, President, Interactive Digital Software Association

Music

Gloria Estefan, Recording Artist
Hilary Rosen, President and CEO, Recording Industry Association of America

Teachers/Parents/Mentors

Bob Chase, President, National Education Association
Pam Eakes, President and Founder, Mothers Against Violence
Sandra Feldman, President, American Federation of Teachers
Ginny Markell, President-Elect of the Parents-Teacher Association
Mary Ellen Maxwell, President, National School Board Association
Dr. Samuel Sava, Executive Director, National Association of Elementary School Principals
Roxanne Spillett, President, Boys & Girls Clubs of America

Faith-based Leaders

Abraham Foxman, National Director, Anti-Defamation League
Dr. Prema Mathal-Davis, CEO, YWCA of the USA
Monsignor Thomas McDade, Secretary of Education, US Catholic Conference
Reverend Eugene Rivers, Co-Chair, National Ten Point Leadership Foundation

Experts

Dr. Maya Angelou, Professor and Poet
Jonathan Barnett, Professor of City and Regional Planning, University of Pennsylvania
Carl Bell, M.D., President and CEO, The Community Health Council and Professor of Psychiatry, University of Illinois
James Garbarino, Ph.D., Co-Director, Family Life Development Center, Cornell University
Robert Pynoos, M.D., Director, UCLA Trauma Psychiatry Service, Professor of Psychiatry, Neuropsychiatric Institute

Foundations/Non-profits

Drew Altman, President and CEO, Kaiser Foundation
Sarah Brady, Handgun Control, Inc.
Nancy Dickey, President, American Medical Association
Governor Roy Romer, Chairman, Policy Advisory Committee, The Advertising Council, Inc.
Honorable Eli Segal, President and CEO, Welfare to Work Partnership

Elected Officials

Honorable Ken Salazar, Attorney General, Colorado
Honorable Sharon Sayles Belton, Mayor of Minneapolis

Members of Congress

Honorable (Rep.) Richard Gephardt, D-Missouri
Honorable (Senator) Harry Reid, D-Nevada
Honorable (Senator) Sam Brownback, R-Kansas
Honorable (Rep.) Jennifer Dunn, R-Washington

TOTAL (56)

SUGGESTED PROGRAM SEQUENCE

Opening:

YOU will be announced into the East Room, accompanied by the Vice President, The First Lady and Mrs. Gore.

YOU will be seated and will make brief opening remarks from your seat with the press present, after which the press will depart.

There will be a brief interval while the press depart.

Note: **YOU** will moderate the roundtable discussion. The Vice President, the First Lady and Mrs. Gore should participate in the discussion and questioning as appropriate. To organize the discussion and maximize involvement of the 56 other participants, we recommend dividing the discussion into the following categories.

Talking with Students (15-20 minutes):

YOU should begin by calling on the students present to describe the problem. **YOU** may call on one or both of the following:

Terrence Gray, Peer Mediator, T.C. Williams High (you met him at roundtable)

Simonna Woodson, Peer Mediator, Arsenal Tech High School, Indianapolis

Other students available for comment:

Shane Cambronero, City Year staffer, former Americorp member

Eric Heydenberk, Conflict Resolution Program, Strayer Middle School, Quakertown, PA

Maria Montiel, Peer Mediator, T.C. Williams High

At this point, **YOU** may want to call on **Colorado AG Ken Salazar** for comment.

YOU should ask **James Garbarino, Ph.D.**, Co-Director, Family Life Development Center, Cornell University and author of *Lost Boys*, to discuss briefly what we know about which factors contribute to youth violence.

Other experts available:

Carl Bell, M.D., President and CEO, The Community Health Council and Professor of Psychiatry, University of Illinois

Robert Pynoos, M.D., Director, UCLA Trauma Psychiatry Service, Professor of Psychiatry, Neuropsychiatric Institute

Jonathan Barnett, Professor of City and Regional Planning, Univ. of Pennsylvania

The Responsibility of Gun Manufacturers and Those Who Use Guns (15-20 minutes):

Next **YOU** should steer the discussion towards the responsibilities of gun manufacturers and those who use guns.

YOU should call on **Bob Ricker**, Executive Director, American Shooting Sports Council: ask him to discuss their agreement with elements of your latest gun proposals. He may ask **Georgia Nichols**, VP & General Counsel, O F Mossberg (largest shotgun manuf.) and **Ed Shultz**, President and CEO, Smith and Wesson to comment.

Sarah Brady: ask her to comment.

Others available to comment: Attorney General Janet Reno

Gun Industry:

Paul Jannuzzo, VP & General Counsel, Glock Inc.

Honorable Bill Brewster, President, R. Duffy Wall & Associates

Law Enforcement:

Steve Young, National Vice-President, Fraternal Order of Police (FOP)

Judge Alan Page, Associate Justice, Minnesota Supreme Court

Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton

The Responsibility of the Entertainment and Internet Communities (40 minutes):

Next **YOU** should steer the discussion towards the responsibilities of the entertainment and internet communities. **YOU** should call on each of the following:

Internet:

Steve Case, Chairman and CEO, America On-Line: ask him to describe AOL's new efforts to empower parents.

Eric Heydenberk, Conflict Resolution Program, Strayer Middle School, Quakertown, PA: Ask him to describe the conflict resolution web site he is building.

Television/V chip:

Leslie ("Les") Moonves, President, CBS Television: praise him and Iger for voluntary ratings system.

Bob Iger, Chairman, ABC Group and President, Walt Disney International

William Kennard, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission: ask him to describe the FCC's V-Chip project.

Drew Altman, President and CEO, Kaiser Foundation: ask him to describe their v-chip project.

YOU may also call on one or more of the following:

Motion Pictures:

Jack Valenti, President, Motion Picture Association of America

Andrew Shue, Actor, Founder, Do Something Foundation

Also available for comment:

Decker Anstrom, President, National Cable Television Association

Edward Fritts, President, National Association of Broadcasters

Video Games:

Doug Lowenstein, President, Interactive Digital Software Association

Music:

Gloria Estefan, Recording Artist

Also available for comment:

Hilary Rosen, President and CEO, Recording Industry Artists Association

At this point, you may want parents to respond: Call on either **Ginny Markell**, President-Elect of the Parents-Teacher Association or **Pam Eakes**, President and Founder, Mothers Against Violence

And a faith leader: **Monsignor Thomas McDade**, Secretary of Education, US Catholic Conference

Other faith-based leaders available:

Dr. Prema Mathai-Davis, CEO, YWCA of the USA

Abraham Foxman, Director, Anti-Defamation League

Reverend Eugene Rivers, Co-Chair, National Ten Point Leadership Foundation

Call on **Congressman Gephardt** and **Senator Brownback** to respond.

The National Campaign (with 30 minutes remaining):

YOU should ask **Eli Segal** to describe how the Welfare to Work Partnership was formed and how it has worked successfully.

YOU should ask participants for suggestion or ideas about how a national campaign against youth violence could work and what they might contribute. **YOU** may call on several of the following:

Roxanne Spillett, President, Boys & Girls Clubs of America
Sandra Feldman, President, American Federation of Teachers
Bob Chase, President, National Education Association
Mary Ellen Maxwell, President, National School Board Association
Nancy Dickey, President, American Medical Association
Sam Saba, Executive Director, National Assoc. of Elementary School Principals

Dr. Prema Mathai-Davis, CEO, YWCA of the USA
Abraham Foxman, Director, Anti-Defamation League
Reverend Eugene Rivers, Co-Chair, National Ten Point Leadership Foundation

You may at this point want to ask **Maya Angelou** for her views.

Governor Roy Romer, Chairman, Policy Advisory Comm., The Ad Council, Inc.: ask him about the Ad Council's new campaign on youth violence.

Closing:

YOU should thank participants and invite them to stand with you in the Rose Garden during your brief remarks to the press immediately following the discussion.

Rose Garden Statements:

YOU will be announced into the Rose Garden, accompanied by the Vice President, The First Lady and Mrs. Gore. Participants will be on stage behind you.

YOU will make brief remarks, followed by the First Lady, Mrs. Gore and last, the Vice President, who will close.

CHILDREN, VIOLENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY

--The Clinton-Gore Administration Record --

GIVING PARENTS THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO PROTECT THEIR CHILDREN

Giving Families A New Tool -- A Content-Based Television Ratings System. Striving to protect children from violence and adult content on television, the President and Vice President garnered a breakthrough agreement from the television industry to create a content-based voluntary ratings system. The new system went into effect October 1, 1997, giving parents the information they need to determine if TV shows are appropriate for viewing by their children and to identify which programs they may want to block from their homes through screening technology (the V-chip). The voluntary rating system includes age- and content-based ratings.

Helping Parents Control What Comes Into Their Living Room with the V-Chip. Four years ago, the President Clinton and the Vice President used the Family Policy Conference in Nashville to call for V-chip legislation -- to give parents new tools to help them screen out television programs that are not fit for their kids. Under strong leadership from the White House, the following year saw Congress enact the Telecommunications Act of 1996 which included V-chip legislation. Now, by January 2000, all new televisions are scheduled to include this screening technology.

Hosting the White House Conference on Children's Television. In July 1996, the President and Vice President convened the White House Conference on Children's Television to improve and expand educational television for children. Conference participants included parents, industry representatives, advocates, experts and advertisers. At the Conference, the television industry joined with the President and agreed to air more educational and instructional children's shows.

Encouraging More Educational Television. At the President's urging, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted clear and concrete rules to encourage the development and promotion of TV programming that would be both welcomed by parents and watched by children. The rules require three hours of regularly scheduled, half-hour weekly educational and instructional programming as a requirement for license renewal.

Promoting a "Family Friendly" Internet. The President and Vice President have worked to make cyberspace a safe place for children. The Administration has enlisted the assistance of numerous stakeholders, including industry leaders, teachers, parents, Internet users and librarians to work towards the creation of a "family friendly" Internet. The Administration's three part strategy includes: (1) industry commitments to provide blocking, filtering and labeling technology for use by parents and teachers using the 'Net; 2) effective enforcement of existing laws; and 3) increased parental awareness and involvement. This strategy is designed to give parents and teachers the tools they need to prevent children from getting access to inappropriate material on the Internet, and to guide them towards high-quality educational resources.

Keeping Children Safe on the Internet with the Parents' Protection Page. Recently, the Vice President announced the parents' protection page, an important new commitment by 15 of the country's premier Internet companies to give parents the resources they need to protect their children from inappropriate material on the Internet. The parents' protection page, which will be available for use by July 1999, will provide parents with the tools and knowledge to supervise and guide their children's online activities. In addition to giving parents blocking, filtering and monitoring tools, this page includes information for parents, teachers and children on how to report crime or other troubling activity online. The parents' protection page also can serve as a guide to finding the vast array of high quality educational materials online.

PROMOTING SCHOOL SAFETY

Creating a New Federal Response for Violent Deaths in Schools. President Clinton has proposed \$12 million in his FY 2000 budget for 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 school 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 that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assists in response to natural disasters.

Hiring School Resource Officers, Targeting Assistance to Schools with Serious Crime Problems. To help give schools with crime problems the tools they need to put the security of our children first, at the White House Conference on School Safety, the President announced 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. The President recently announced the first installment of the initiative; this funding will allow an additional 600 School Resource Officers to serve in 336 communities across the country.

Forging School-Based Partnerships Between Schools and Law Enforcement. Under the School-Based Partnerships grant program, the Clinton Administration released \$16.4 million in grants to 155 law enforcement agencies in September 1998. 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.

Launching 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 launched a new Safe Schools/Healthy Students initiative designed to help 50 cities develop and implement community-wide school safety plans. In April 1999, the Departments of Justice, Education, and Health and Human Services announced that they will provide over \$180 million this year, and a total of \$380 million over three years through the Initiative for communities to fund comprehensive school safety plans that include anti-truancy initiatives, mentoring, mental health services, conflict resolution programs, school resource officers, and more -- helping to promote healthy development and to prevent youth violence before it occurs. Communities will have until June 1, 1999 to apply for the funds.

Helping to Make All Schools Safe, Disciplined and Drug-Free. 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. Safe and Drug-Free Schools currently provides support for violence and drug prevention programs to 97 percent of the nation's school districts. At the White House Conference on School Safety, President Clinton announced his plan for a significant overhaul of this 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.

Responding 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. More than 200,000 copies of the guide have been distributed, and additional copies may be obtained through the websites of the Departments of Education and Justice.

Providing Safe After-School Opportunities for More than a Million Children a Year. Last year (FY98), the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program was expanded to \$200 million. This funding is already supporting hundreds of school-based after-school programs in rural and urban schools in 44 states and the District of Columbia, including weekend and summer programs. This year, the President proposed to triple this initiative -- to \$600 million -- to provide safe and educational after-school opportunities for up to 1.1 million school-age children in 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 Kid*. 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.

Targeting Young People with a National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign. In July 1998, President Clinton launched the national expansion of the Anti-Drug Media Campaign first proposed in the 1997 national drug control strategy. The 5-year, \$2 billion campaign (which includes private sector matching contributions) 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.

KEEPING GUNS AWAY FROM YOUTH

Won Passage of the Brady Bill. Since taking effect in 1994, the Brady Law has helped to prevent over a quarter of a million felons, fugitives, stalkers, and other prohibited purchasers from buying handguns. In November 1998, the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) took effect under the Brady Law, allowing access to a fuller set of records that law enforcement officials can use to conduct checks of all prospective gun purchases -- not just for handguns. To date, NICS has conducted over 3.4 million background checks on gun purchasers, and the FBI has stopped over 36,000 illegal gun sales.

Banned the Manufacture and Importation of 19 of the Deadliest Assault Weapons. The 1994 Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act banned 19 of the deadliest assault weapons and their copies, while specifically protecting more than 50 legitimate sporting weapons. Cop-killing assault weapons, like the Uzi, are the weapons of choice for drug dealers and gangs -- not hunters and sportsmen. A recent Justice Department study found that the 1994 assault weapon ban contributed to a decrease in criminal use of the banned guns and a reduction in the overall gun murder rate.

Cracking Down on Illegal Gun Trafficking with the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative. In 1996, President Clinton launched the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (YCGII) in 17 cities to help trace crime guns to their source, as well as identify and arrest the adults who traffic firearms to children. Over the past two years, the President has expanded the YCGII initiative to 37 cities ATF agents have conducted more than 200,000 crime gun traces for local law enforcement. Last year alone, ATF initiated over 300 investigations in these cities, which involved over 3,300 illegally trafficked firearms. Additionally, over the last two years the President has proposed hiring more than 280 new Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) agents and more than 40 new Federal prosecutors to arrest gun traffickers and violent criminals, and crack down on illegal gun sales.

Requiring Child Safety Locks for Handguns. Child safety locks and other safety devices can reduce the unauthorized use of handguns, by a child at play or a teen looking to commit a crime. Many youth have to look no further than their own home to get their hands on a gun: an estimated one-third of all privately-owned handguns are left both loaded and unlocked. In March 1997, the President signed a directive to every Federal agency, requiring child safety locking devices with all handguns issued to Federal law enforcement officers. And, in an historic agreement, eight major gun manufacturers followed the President's lead and have voluntarily agreed to provide child safety locking devices with all their handguns.

Signed into Law the Youth Handgun Safety Act. In 1994, President Clinton signed into law the Youth Handgun Safety Act, which generally banned the possession of handguns or handgun ammunition by juveniles under the age of 18, and made it a Federal offense for adults to transfer handguns to juveniles, with limited exceptions. In 1997, the President directed the Treasury Department to require that signs be posted on the premises of Federal firearms licensees and that written notification be issued with each handgun sold to non-licensees to help ensure compliance with the Youth Handgun Safety Act.

Enforcing Zero Tolerance for Guns and Other Weapons in Schools. In October 1994, President Clinton signed into law the Gun-Free Schools Act, requiring school districts to expel students who bring guns to school. The President issued a Presidential Directive later that month to enforce the "zero tolerance" policy for guns in schools, consistent with the Gun-Free Schools Act. 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.

Introduced the Youth Gun Crime Enforcement Act. The President recently announced new legislation to strengthen the Brady Law and the assault weapons ban, restrict access to guns by our youth and crack down on illegal gun traffickers. The President's proposed bill will: (1) raise the age of the youth handgun ban from 18 to 21 years of age; (2) ban youth possession of semi-automatic assault rifles; (3) prohibit violent juveniles from ever owning guns; (4) require child safety locking devices for guns; (5) reduce illegal gun running by limiting the purchase of handguns to no more than one per month; (6) halt the importation of large capacity ammunition magazines; (7) require Brady background checks for the purchase of explosives and at gun shows; and (8) help law enforcement trace more crime guns to their source.

5/99

**PRESIDENT AND MRS. CLINTON, VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. GORE
HOST STRATEGY SESSION ON
CHILDREN, VIOLENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY
Monday, May 10, 1999**

Today, the President led a strategy meeting to discuss the problem of youth violence and develop a strategy for a national campaign to address this problem. The meeting included a broad cross-section of Americans including parents and children, teachers and religious leaders, law enforcement and government officials, gun manufacturers and sportsmen, and representatives of the entertainment industry. The President announced several initiatives to address the problem of youth violence including a Surgeon General's Report on Youth Violence, gun industry support for gun legislation in five important areas, and public and private commitments to ensure the effective implementation of the V-Chip.

SURGEON GENERAL'S REPORT ON YOUTH VIOLENCE

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- **Extending the Brady Law to violent juveniles.** Although violent youth convicted in adult courts are barred from owning firearms as adults, the same is not true for youth convicted of serious violent crimes in juvenile court. The President has proposed permanently banning all violent juveniles from buying guns -- so that they cannot purchase a gun on their 21st birthday.
- **Raising the age of the youth handgun ban to 21 years of age.** Federal law generally bans the possession of handguns by juveniles under the age of 18, and prohibits federal

gun dealers from selling firearms to anyone under 21 years of age. However, it is perfectly legal for 18-20 year-olds to possess handguns or to buy them from unlicensed sellers -- even though law enforcement trace more crime guns to 18 and 19 year-olds than all other age groups. The President has proposed raising the legal age of handgun ownership from 18 to 21 years, while maintaining current exemptions for employment, hunting, target shooting, ranching and military service.

- **Holding adults responsible for child access to guns.** Child Access Prevention (CAP) laws promote gun safety and responsibility by holding adults responsible if they allow children easy access to firearms and ammunition. The President has proposed imposing felony penalties on adults who knowingly or recklessly allow a child to have access to a gun that is later used to cause death or injury.
- **Helping law enforcement to trace more firearms used in crimes.** Over the past 2 years, the President has expanded comprehensive crime gun tracing to 37 cities -- helping them to trace all crime guns to their source, to identify illegal gun markets, and to crack down on gun traffickers. Last year, ATF initiated over 300 investigations in these cities, which involved over 3,300 illegally trafficked firearms. The President has proposed expanding comprehensive tracing nationwide, starting by doubling the program to 75 cities.

MAKING THE V-CHIP WORK

The V-Chip is a device that allows parents to block television programming they consider inappropriate for their children. President Clinton and Vice President Gore led the successful fight for legislation that requires the V-Chip be installed in all new television sets sold beginning January 1, 2000. At today's strategy session the President announced two new initiatives to make sure the V-Chip becomes a useful tool for parents.

- **V-Chip Task Force.** To ensure that the V-Chip law is implemented effectively, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will establish a V-Chip Task Force. The Task Force will: (1) ensure the V-Chip requirement is enforced promptly and comprehensively; (2) promote parental awareness about the V-Chip and work closely with organizations sharing this goal; (3) encourage adoption of a standard label identifying television sets that contain the V-Chip and; (4) study the use of the V-Chip and evaluate the effectiveness of the industry's ratings system. FCC Chairman William Kennard has appointed Commissioner Gloria Tristani to chair the Task Force.
- **The V-Chip Survey and Education Project.** According to a survey released today by the Kaiser Foundation, while many parents (77%) say they want to use the V-Chip, less than four out of ten parents (39%) has ever seen information on how the system works. The Kaiser Foundation and the Center for Media Education announced today a major national effort to educate parents about the V-Chip TV ratings system. The educational campaign will include free booklets for parents on how the V-chip TV ratings system works. The free parent information will be available through a toll-free telephone number and will be promoted through partnerships with TV manufacturers, retailers, parents' organizations, newspapers, and television stations.

A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT YOUTH VIOLENCE

Recognizing that youth violence is a problem that government cannot solve alone, the President, the First Lady, the Vice President and Mrs. Gore called for a national campaign to reduce youth violence. This campaign will work with all sectors of our society – the media, education groups, parents, religious leaders, and young people – to focus on this problem, find what's working, spread it to new communities, while also helping to ensure that the media sends the right message to our children.

This campaign is modeled after two extremely successful efforts launched by the Clinton Administration. Four years ago, the President asked for a national campaign to reduce teen pregnancy. Today, under the leadership of Governor Tom Kean, former governor of New Jersey, and now the President of Drew University, that campaign is playing an important role in reducing teen pregnancy rates nationwide. Two years ago, the President called for a national effort by businesses to hire people off welfare, to make sure the welfare reform effort would work. Today, under the leadership of Eli Segal, the Welfare to Work Partnership has grown to 10,000 companies that have helped move more than 40,000 people from the welfare rolls to the job rolls.

**The White House Strategy Session on Children, Violence and Responsibility
Questions and Answers on the Gun Industry's Involvement
May 10, 1999**

NRA Involvement

Q: The NRA has complained that they were not invited to your meeting today. If you are trying to have an open and honest dialogue on violence -- and especially on the roles guns play -- why didn't you invite them?

A: I think it's very important to note that the gun industry is very well represented at today's meeting. In fact, representatives of the gun industry make up nearly 10 percent of the total participants (5 of 56), and include three major gun manufacturers (Smith and Wesson, O.F. Mossberg, and Glock U.S.A.), the trade association that represents the gun industry (the American Shooting Sports Council), and one of the NRA's current board members, former Rep. Bill Brewster, an old friend and hunting buddy of the President's. By comparison, we have invited only one gun control advocate to the meeting (Sarah Brady). So, it really is a stretch to say we have minimized participation by gun interests at today's meeting.

Q: What about Bob Delfay of the American Shooting Sport Foundation (ASSF), who decided not to attend because he claimed Senate Democrats introduced the Administration's bill before negotiations with the industry were complete?

A: Senate Democrats introduced their own comprehensive legislation on Thursday, much of it based on the President's package. From the outset of discussions with the industry, both sides have recognized that we would be able to agree on some positions and disagree on others. We will continue to work with the industry to seek agreement on the details of the 5 areas where we have common ground. As Bob Ricker of the American Shooting Sports Council (ASSC) said Sunday, legislation can always be adjusted if necessary, and talks should continue.

Federal Gun Prosecutions

Q: The NRA charges that under the Clinton Administration, federal gun prosecutions are significantly down and there is less of a focus on prosecuting street-level criminals who carry guns. They believe that more enforcement of existing laws is needed instead of new gun control laws. What is your response?

A: Although Republicans and the NRA like to say that so-called "Triggerlock" prosecutions are down under the Clinton Administration, that's simply not the full story on federal firearms prosecutions. The truth is that:

(1) Overall firearms prosecutions are up. More criminals are prosecuted today for all weapons offenses than in 1992. Although the number of federal prosecutions for persons serving sentences of 3 years or less is down, the number of persons sentenced to 5 or more years in federal prison is up by nearly 30 percent (from 1049 to 1345). And because we work more closely with our partners in state and local law enforcement -- who handle almost all gun crimes -- about 25 percent more criminals are sent to prison for state and federal weapons offenses than in 1992 (from 20,681 to 25,186). This means we do a better job of making sure gun criminals serve the longest prison sentences possible -- whether in the state or federal system.

(2) Crime -- and gun-related crime in particular-- are down dramatically. The previous Administration may have prosecuted more lower level gun cases in federal court, but gun and violent crime skyrocketed on their watch. During the Clinton Administration -- and with more police on the street and tougher gun laws on the books -- crime has dropped across the board. Since 1992, overall, violent and property crime are down by more than 20 percent each; the murder rate is down 28 percent -- to the lowest level in 30 years; and homicides, robberies, and aggravated assaults committed with guns are down by an average of 27 percent.

(3) Tough talk is cheap. Despite its rhetoric, the NRA has consistently opposed efforts to provide real money for state, local, and federal law enforcement agencies to investigate, arrest, and prosecute gun criminals and illegal gun traffickers. Over the past 2 years, this Administration has called for more resources to enforce our gun laws on every front -- requesting tens of millions of dollars to hire over 280 new ATF agents and over 40 new federal prosecutors, as well as more than a billion dollars to hire more local police and prosecutors. The NRA's newfound interest in strengthened enforcement will mean very little if we can't count on their support to secure the necessary resources.

Gun Bill proposals

Q: You plan to propose criminal liability for adults who “recklessly give access” to guns to children. Your proposal also refers to increased penalties for adults who “transfer” guns to juveniles. Can you explain the difference between these two proposals?

A: In one case, there is a knowing transfer of a gun to a juvenile and the adult knows that it would be used in a crime. Our bill would raise existing criminal penalties for such offenses. With respect to child access prevention, our proposal would create new criminal liability where adults recklessly give children access to guns (which could occur without the explicit knowledge of the adult) and the gun is later used to cause death or violent injury.

Q: What does “recklessly give access” mean? Can you give us an example?

A: Generally, the “reckless” standard in the President’s bill applies to behavior that is a gross deviation from a standard of care that any reasonable person would have exercised. For example, “reckless” behavior would cover someone who -- despite knowing that children would be home on a given day -- left a loaded weapon on the kitchen. On the other hand, it would not apply to someone who made every effort to safely store and lock a gun that was nonetheless stolen by a juvenile. Ultimately, however, what is and isn’t reckless behavior would need to be determined by a jury.

Q: Can you further explain the one-gun-a-month proposal?

A: The proposal would restrict individuals from selling or transferring more than one handgun per month to someone if the transferor knows that the individual receiving it has already received a handgun within the last 30 days. The law would also prohibit a person from receiving more than one handgun per month.

The proposal would rely on the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, which requires checks on individuals seeking to buy a firearm. If a person who seeks to buy a handgun has tried to purchase one within the last 30 days, the NICS would indicate that the person applied to buy a handgun, and the transfer of additional handguns would be prevented.

Q: Doesn’t this mean that you would be creating a federal gun registry?

A: The proposal will not create a gun registry. However, the system will require that information that an individual has purchased a handgun be kept for at least 30 days. The system will not contain any information about the handgun or any information about other firearms that the purchaser may own.

Q: Aren’t there some situations in which someone has a legitimate reason to obtain more than one handgun in a month’s time?

A: The proposal would recognize some limited exceptions where an individual has a legitimate need to obtain more than one handgun a month. Some of these situations would include, for instance, private security companies that need more than one handgun for their security operations, or where a person’s handgun has been lost or stolen.

Q: Isn't this Brady waiting period for handgun sales weaker than the waiting period that already sunsetted under the Brady Law?

A: No, in fact is much tougher than the original waiting period, which allowed a waiting period of **up to 5 days**. The new proposal mandates a **minimum** waiting period of 3 days for all handgun purchases -- for the first time ever -- and allows law enforcement to take up to a total of 5 days to complete a check for any gun (not just handguns) if they need additional time to clarify arrest or other records. So, our provision is similar to the old Brady waiting period in that it allows for a total waiting period of up to 5 days, but it is stronger in that it creates a new minimum waiting period of at least 3 days for handguns. This minimum wait was not previously required under the original Brady law.

Gun Sales on the Internet

Q: Senator Schumer has introduced legislation that would regulate the sale of guns on the Internet. Are you supportive of his legislation?

A: We are reviewing it. Currently, we don't have a great deal of law enforcement data on gun sales over the Internet. However, recognizing that an increasing amount of commerce is being handled via the Internet, we are concerned that Internet gun sales are likely to rise -- and that they may allow gun runners to avoid background checks. We have taken a strong position to expand background checks on gun purchases wherever possible, to help ensure that criminals, juveniles and other prohibited purchasers do not illegally gain access to guns. So, while we are still reviewing Senator Schumer's legislation, we agree that gun sales on the Internet should comply with all the provisions of our gun laws.

Gun Lawsuits

Q: Do you support the lawsuits being filed by New Orleans, Chicago, Atlanta and other cities against gun manufacturers? Are you planning to take a strong position on this issue as you did in the tobacco litigation?

A: We are watching closely all of the pending lawsuits against the gun industry. The President has previously expressed particular concern about allegations -- such as in Chicago -- that some gun dealers are selling guns illegally -- helping purchasers evade firearms laws and even selling guns to persons who say they intend to break the law. These are serious charges which, if proven true, would demonstrate that some in the gun industry are helping to promote an illegal market in firearms. Such disrespect for the law endangers our citizens, and if the evidence shows in any of these cases that federal

firearms laws have been violated, we will take vigorous enforcement action.

The President's new bill will further crack down on those gun dealers involved in the illegal gun trade, by allowing for more inspections of federal firearms licensees (from 1 to 3 per year), tougher penalties for serious violations that interfere with trafficking investigations, and suspension of a gun dealer's license for willful violations of the Gun Control Act.

In the meantime, we will continue to work closely with state and local law enforcement to trace crime guns back to their source, and to prevent illegal gun sales -- especially to criminals and juveniles.

Crime - Children + Violence Conf.

May 7, 1999

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
The White House

Dear Mr. President:

We want to formally thank you for agreeing to convene a summit meeting at the White House with leaders of the entertainment media, as well as representatives of the gun industry, parents, and educators, to address the nation's growing concerns about youth violence. As we said in our original letter, this is a conversation we desperately need to have, particularly with the entertainment industry, and we appreciate your willingness to elevate it to summit status.

In the days since we first suggested holding a summit, we have been asked repeatedly about what we hope to accomplish with this conversation -- what specifically would we like the entertainment industry to do to better protect children from the threat of media violence, and what can in fact be done given market realities. After consulting with a wide array of interested parties, we have come to the conclusion that there are several tangible and reasonable steps that the nation's cultural producers could quickly take to help us limit the exposure of children to potentially harmful images and messages, and thereby help us prevent more tragedies like Littleton, without hurting their business interests. What follows are a sampling of our ideas, which we would like to share with you as you prepare for the meeting on Monday, and which we would encourage you to raise directly with the media executives who attend.

First, in light of what happened in Littleton, we think it would be appropriate to call now for an immediate cease-fire in the virtual arms race. By that we mean a commitment on the part of the leading makers of movies, music, television shows, and video games to suspend the production of ultraviolet materials that glorify and romanticize killing. This would be a meaningful gesture to the nation's parents that the entertainment media are sensitive to the role that ultraviolet games such as "Doom" and movies such as "Natural Born Killers" may have played in the Littleton shooting and several of the school massacres that preceded it.

Second, looking more long term, we should call on the various entertainment industries to ban the marketing of violent products to children. Evidence presented this week at a Senate Commerce Committee hearing indicates that a growing number of leading companies are targeting adult-rated movies and video games with high dosages of murder and mayhem to young teenagers. This trend is making a mockery of the movie and video game rating systems, telling parents that these products are inappropriate for children but we're going to market them to your kids anyway. More simply, it is wrong to push harmful products to children for profit, and it should stop now.

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Third, for the rating systems to truly be effective tools for parents, they have to be consistently enforced. The movie studios have long worked with the theater owners to uphold their policy of prohibiting children under 17 from seeing "R"-rated movies without a parent accompanying them. But this policy has gradually been eroding in recent years, and it is readily apparent that many young teens are now having no problem getting into violent "R"-rated films -- in part because the studios are often actively trying to lure them. In the video game marketplace, there is no such uniform policy. While a few national retail and rental chains prevent children from getting access to heavily violent adult-rated games, most do not, meaning any child who walks in with the right amount of money can walk out with the most perverse and grotesquely violent games on the market. We need better cooperation on the part of both industries. A good place to start would be for all parties involved -- the distributors, the theater owners, and the retail and rental outlets - to abide by a uniform policy preventing children from buying or renting adult-rated products.

Fourth, another reform that would help parents would be to recalibrate the ratings for ultraviolet products. In the movie industry, films with significant amounts of sexually-explicit content are rated "NC-17," meaning no children allowed at all. But few if any films with comparable levels of graphic violence have ever to our knowledge received an NC-17. We should call on the Motion Picture Association Academy to rectify this imbalance, which would go a long way toward limiting the access of children to potentially harmful movies, particularly in rental outlets, where a lot of young teens get access to ultraviolet "R"-rated titles. Similarly, we should call on the Entertainment Software Ratings Board to reclassify ultraviolet video games, which are almost all rated "Mature" for players 17-and-up, as "Adults Only," which would ensure that harmful gore-filled games don't fall into the wrong hands.

Fifth, if the music industry is going to continue to mass market ultraviolet, obscenity-laced records, it should at least provide better warnings to parents. The Recording Industry Association of America currently employs a one-size-fits all labeling system that puts a "Explicit Lyrics" sticker on any album with questionable content. This in effect renders the labeling system useless, for it does little to allow the parent to distinguish between PG-rated lyrics with a few mild expletives and X-rated lyrics filled with hateful, sociopathic messages. At a minimum, we should call on the music industry to develop some kind of rating or label that is comparable to an "R" movie rating and similarly enforced at the retail level. There simply is no justifiable reason to allow young children to buy records from the likes of Marilyn Manson.

Sixth, if the entertainment media are serious about pursuing meaningful gun control, it should practice some itself. Not only are many movies and video games loaded with firearms, but so are their advertisements, which often are aired on television when millions of children are watching, and are published in magazines widely-read by young people. Some of the most offensive video game ads, in fact, go so far as to fetishize guns and reinforce the notion that killing is a form of recreation. We should call on the entire entertainment community to set strict standards for the depiction of guns in their mass marketing - for instance, many families would be thrilled if the TV networks stopped airing gunfire-filled movie promos during pro football and basketball games.

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Optimally, all of these standards and policies could and should be encompassed in comprehensive codes of conduct for each segment of the entertainment industry. Many of the different media already have their own codes for content and marketing, but they tend to be vague or ignored or too often both. If we really want to help parents protect their kids, and regain control over the influences shaping their world, then we should call on each industry to adopt a code that reflects the principles we have outlined above and sets firm and specific standards for responsible media conduct. A good model to start with would be the old NAB TV code, which the nation's broadcasters more or less faithfully abided by for three decades until they unwisely threw it out, and which explicitly acknowledged that television's powerful reach and influence could do real harm to children. A good industry to start with would be television itself, a wonderful medium that often does not do wonderful things, like airing the degrading and fight-filled "Jerry Springer Show" right after kids get out of school in the afternoon.

Lastly, if we are going to demand greater responsibility from the entertainment industry we should do the same for parents. It is extremely difficult to monitor our children's media diet in this digital world, and the glut of sex and violence served up by our cultural producers does not make it any easier. But too many parents in our judgment don't even try. They don't pay attention to what their kids are watching or listening or play, let alone to the ratings or warnings on those products. And many are unaware of the harm that can come from their inattention. That is why we have called for the commissioning of a new Surgeon's General report to better educate the American people about the enormous influence that the media can have on children, for good and for ill. And that is why we believe it would be constructive to mount a national public service campaign to encourage parents to monitor their children's media consumption, and to draw some lines to guide their children's conduct, just as we're asking of the media.

This list is not meant to be exhaustive by any means, but simply a starting point for your discussion. Whether you want to pursue these specific suggestions or not, though, we do hope you will push the entertainment industry leaders who attend the summit at least to commit to some concrete reforms to help us limit the access of children to harmful entertainment products. In the wake of the horror of Littleton, we have a tremendous opportunity to change the culture of violence in this country, and we urge you to seize it now. Thank you for your consideration, and we eagerly await the results of this historic conversation.

Sincerely,

John McCain

Joe Lieberman

Ed Markey

Dan Burton

**PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE:
KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE ON THE INTERNET**

May 5, 1999

"Today, I am proud to announce...a new parents' protection page...a series of protective tools to... help ensure that children aren't surfing into dangerous waters when they surf the Web."

Vice President Al Gore
May 5, 1999

Today, at the White House, Vice President Gore announced the parents' protection page, an important new commitment by Internet companies to give parents the resources to protect their children from inappropriate material on the Internet. The parents' protection page will provide parents with the tools and knowledge to supervise and guide their children's online activities.

Helping Parents Protect Their Children. Vice President Al Gore today announced the parents' protection page, a commitment by leading Internet companies that will enable parents to expose their children to the vast educational potential of the Internet while keeping them safe from inappropriate material. The page will feature a comprehensive guide containing tools, tips, and resources for safe surfing on the Internet. Slated to become available by July, the page will be accessible by a single click from virtually all major web sites.

Providing Tools for Families. The parents' protection page will provide instant access to as many as 80 tools representing the latest technologies that allow parents to take charge of their home computer. These tools will allow parents to:

- * deploy the latest blocking and filtering technologies to limit access to inappropriate content including violent game sites, hate groups, and other material parents believe are inappropriate for their children;
- * monitor which websites and chat rooms their children have visited;
- * restrict their children's e-mail contacts; and
- * set time limits on their children's online sessions.

Offering Valuable Information. In addition to helping parents filter out inappropriate material, the parents' protection page will also provide:

- * information on how to report crime or other troubling activity on line;
- * a guide to high quality online content that is educational and beneficial to kids; and
- * safety tips for parents, teens, and children which offer guidelines and suggestions for safe surfing.

Guiding Parents through the Web. The Vice President also announced that parents can receive a copy of the Department of Education's publication, "Parents' Guide to the Internet." This guide teaches parents the fundamentals of using the Internet and supervising their children's online activities. It can be



Kidsvio.WP

Children, Violence and Responsibility

--The Clinton-Gore Administration Record --

GIVING PARENTS THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO PROTECT THEIR CHILDREN

Giving Families A New Tool -- A Content-Based Television Ratings System. Striving to protect children from violence and adult content on television, the President and Vice President garnered a breakthrough agreement from the television industry to create a content-based voluntary ratings system. The new system went into effect October 1, 1997, giving parents the information they need to determine if TV shows are appropriate for viewing by their children and to identify which programs they may want to block from their homes through screening technology (the V-chip). The voluntary rating system includes age- and content-based ratings.

Helping Parents Control What Comes Into Their Living Room with the V-Chip. Four years ago, the President and the Vice President used the Family Policy Conference in Nashville to call for V-chip legislation -- to give parents new tools to help them screen out television programs that are not fit for their kids. Under strong leadership from the White House, the following year saw Congress enact the Telecommunications Act of 1996 which included V-chip legislation. Now, by January 2000, all new televisions are scheduled to include this screening technology.

Hosting the White House Conference on Children's Television. In July 1996, the President and Vice President convened the White House Conference on Children's Television to improve and expand educational television for children. Conference participants included parents, industry representatives, advocates, experts and advertisers. At the Conference, the television industry joined with the President and agreed to air more educational and instructional children's shows.

Encouraging More Educational Television. At the President's urging, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted clear and concrete rules to encourage the development and promotion of TV programming that would be both welcomed by parents and watched by children. The rules require three hours of regularly scheduled, half-hour weekly educational and instructional programming as a requirement for license renewal.

Promoting a "Family Friendly" Internet. The President and Vice President have worked to make cyberspace a safe place for children. The Administration has enlisted the assistance of numerous stakeholders, including industry leaders, teachers, parents, Internet users and librarians to work towards the creation of a "family friendly" Internet. The Administration's three part strategy includes: (1) industry commitments to provide blocking, filtering and labeling technology for use by parents and teachers using the 'Net; 2) effective enforcement of existing laws; and 3) increased parental awareness and involvement. This strategy is designed to give parents and teachers the tools they need to prevent children from getting access to inappropriate material on the Internet, and to guide them towards high-quality educational resources.

Keeping Children Safe on the Internet with the Parents' Protection Page. Recently, the Vice President announced the parents' protection page, an important new commitment by 15 of the country's premier Internet companies to give parents the resources they need to protect their children from inappropriate material on the Internet. The parents' protection page, which will be available for use by July 1999, will provide parents with

the tools and knowledge to supervise and guide their children's online activities. In addition to giving parents blocking, filtering and monitoring tools, this page includes information for parents, teachers and children on how to report crime or other troubling activity online. The parents' protection page also can serve as a guide to finding the vast array of high quality educational materials online.

PROMOTING SCHOOL SAFETY

Creating a New Federal Response for Violent Deaths in Schools. President Clinton has proposed \$12 million in his FY 2000 budget for 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 school 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 that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assists in response to natural disasters.

Hiring School Resource Officers, Targeting Assistance to Schools with Serious Crime Problems. To help give schools with crime problems the tools they need to put the security of our children first, at the White House Conference on School Safety, the President announced 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. The President recently announced the first installment of the initiative; this funding will allow an additional 600 School Resource Officers to serve in 336 communities across the country.

Forging School-Based Partnerships Between Schools and Law Enforcement. Under the School-Based Partnerships grant program, the Clinton Administration released \$16.4 million in grants to 155 law enforcement agencies in September 1998. 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.

Launching 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 launched a new Safe Schools/Healthy Students initiative designed to help 50 cities develop and implement community-wide school safety plans. In April 1999, the Departments of Justice, Education, and Health and Human Services announced that they will provide over \$180 million this year, and a total of \$380 million over three years through the Initiative for communities to fund comprehensive school safety plans that include anti-truancy initiatives, mentoring, mental health services, conflict resolution programs, school resource officers, and more -- helping to promote healthy development and to prevent youth violence before it occurs. Communities will have until June 1, 1999 to apply for the funds.

Helping to Make All Schools Safe, Disciplined and Drug-Free. 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. Safe and Drug-Free Schools currently provides support for violence and drug prevention programs to 97 percent of the nation's school districts. At the White House Conference on School Safety,

President Clinton announced his plan for a significant overhaul of this 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.

Responding 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. More than 200,000 copies of the guide have been distributed, and additional copies may be obtained through the websites of the Departments of Education and Justice.

Providing Safe After-School Opportunities for More than a Million Children a Year. Last year (FY98), the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program was expanded to \$200 million. This funding is already supporting hundreds of school-based after-school programs in rural and urban schools in 44 states and the District of Columbia, including weekend and summer programs. This year, the President proposed to triple this initiative -- to \$600 million -- to provide safe and educational after-school opportunities for up to 1.1 million school-age children in 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 Kid*. 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.

Targeting Young People with a National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign. In July 1998, President Clinton launched the national expansion of the Anti-Drug Media Campaign first proposed in the 1997 national drug control strategy. The 5-year, \$2 billion campaign (which includes private sector matching contributions) 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.

KEEPING GUNS AWAY FROM YOUTH

Won Passage of the Brady Bill. Since taking effect in 1994, the Brady Law has helped to prevent over a quarter of a million felons, fugitives, stalkers, and other prohibited purchasers from buying handguns. In November 1998, the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) took effect under the Brady Law, allowing access to a fuller set of records that law enforcement officials can use to conduct checks of all prospective gun purchases -- not just for handguns. To date, NICS has conducted over 3.4 million background checks on gun purchasers, and the FBI has stopped over 36,000 illegal gun sales.

Banned the Manufacture and Importation of 19 of the Deadliest Assault Weapons. The 1994 Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act banned 19 of the deadliest assault weapons and their copies, while specifically protecting more than 50 legitimate sporting weapons. Cop-killing assault weapons, like the Uzi, are the weapons of choice for drug dealers and gangs -- not hunters and sportsmen. A recent Justice Department study found that the 1994 assault weapon ban contributed to a decrease in criminal use of the banned guns and a reduction in the overall gun murder rate.

Cracking Down on Illegal Gun Trafficking with the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative. In 1996,

President Clinton launched the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (YCGII) in 17 cities to help trace crime guns to their source, as well as identify and arrest the adults who traffic firearms to children. Over the past two years, the President has expanded the YCGII initiative to 37 cities ATF agents have conducted more than 200,000 crime gun traces for local law enforcement. Last year alone, ATF initiated over 300 investigations in these cities, which involved over 3,300 illegally trafficked firearms. Additionally, over the last two years the President has proposed hiring more than 280 new Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) agents and more than 40 new Federal prosecutors to arrest gun traffickers and violent criminals, and crack down on illegal gun sales.

Requiring Child Safety Locks for Handguns. Child safety locks and other safety devices can reduce the unauthorized use of handguns, by a child at play or a teen looking to commit a crime. Many youth have to look no further than their own home to get their hands on a gun: an estimated one-third of all privately-owned handguns are left both loaded and unlocked. In March 1997, the President signed a directive to every Federal agency, requiring child safety locking devices with all handguns issued to Federal law enforcement officers. And, in an historic agreement, eight major gun manufacturers followed the President's lead and have voluntarily agreed to provide child safety locking devices with all their handguns.

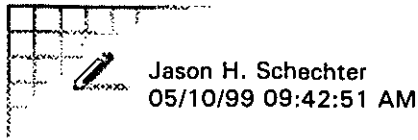
Signed into Law the Youth Handgun Safety Act. In 1994, President Clinton signed into law the Youth Handgun Safety Act, which generally banned the possession of handguns or handgun ammunition by juveniles under the age of 18, and made it a Federal offense for adults to transfer handguns to juveniles, with limited exceptions. In 1997, the President directed the Treasury Department to require that signs be posted on the premises of Federal firearms licensees and that written notification be issued with each handgun sold to non-licensees to help ensure compliance with the Youth Handgun Safety Act.

Enforcing Zero Tolerance for Guns and Other Weapons in Schools. In October 1994, President Clinton signed into law the Gun-Free Schools Act, requiring school districts to expel students who bring guns to school. The President issued a Presidential Directive later that month to enforce the "zero tolerance" policy for guns in schools, consistent with the Gun-Free Schools Act. 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.

Introduced the Youth Gun Crime Enforcement Act. The President recently announced new legislation to strengthen the Brady Law and the assault weapons ban, restrict access to guns by our youth and crack down on illegal gun traffickers. The President's proposed bill will: (1) raise the age of the youth handgun ban from 18 to 21 years of age; (2) ban youth possession of semi-automatic assault rifles; (3) prohibit violent juveniles from ever owning guns; (4) require child safety locking devices for guns; (5) reduce illegal gun running by limiting the purchase of handguns to no more than one per month; (6) halt the importation of large capacity ammunition magazines; (7) require Brady background checks for the purchase of explosives and at gun shows; and (8) help law enforcement trace more crime guns to their source.

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**PRESIDENT AND MRS. CLINTON, VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. GORE HOST
STRATEGY SESSION ON
CHILDREN, VIOLENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY
*Monday, May 10, 1999***

Today, President Clinton will lead a strategy meeting to discuss the problem of youth violence and develop a strategy for a national campaign to address this problem. The meeting will include a broad cross section of Americans, including parents and children, teachers and religious leaders, law enforcement and government officials, gun manufacturers and sportsmen, and representatives of the entertainment industry. The President will announce several initiatives to address the problem of youth violence, including a Surgeon General's Report on Youth Violence, gun industry support for gun legislation in five important areas, and public and private commitments to ensure the effective implementation of the V-Chip.

SURGEON GENERAL'S REPORT ON YOUTH VIOLENCE

Today, the President will announce that he is asking the nation's Surgeon General, Dr. David Satcher, to prepare a landmark report on youth violence -- the first such study on this subject in more than a decade. This report will bring together leading experts to review and evaluate existing research, and build on the findings of the 1972 Surgeon General Report on Television and Violence, as well as the 1985 Surgeon General's Workshop on Violence. Much is already known about how to reduce and prevent youth violence, but this report will add to the nation's understanding in this field. It also will address media that have emerged since previous reports, such as the Internet and video games.

GUN INDUSTRY SUPPORTS LEGISLATION IN FIVE KEY AREAS

Today, leaders in the firearms industry will announce their support for working out legislation in five areas. Specifically, the American Shooting Sports Council (ASSC), the gun industry's trade association in Washington, which represents 350 firearms manufacturers and distributors around the country, will release a statement supporting legislation in five areas:

- **Closing the gun show loophole on Brady background checks.** The Treasury Department estimates that 25-50 percent of the sellers at gun shows are unlicensed and

sell guns without the benefit of a background check purchasers. As a result, gun shows can provide a forum for illegal firearms sales and gun trafficking. The President has proposed background checks, based on the existing Brady law, for firearms transferred at gun shows.

- **Extending the Brady Law to violent juveniles.** Although violent youth convicted in adult courts are barred from owning firearms as adults, the same is not true for youth convicted of serious violent crimes in juvenile court. The President has proposed permanently banning all violent juveniles from buying guns -- so that they cannot purchase a gun on their 21st birthday.
- **Raising the age of the youth handgun ban to 21 years of age.** Federal law generally bans the possession of handguns by juveniles under the age of 18, and prohibits federal gun dealers from selling firearms to anyone under 21 years of age. However, it is perfectly legal for 18-20 year-olds to possess handguns or to buy them from unlicensed sellers -- even though law enforcement traces more crime guns to 18- and 19-year-olds than all other age groups. The President has proposed raising the legal age of handgun ownership from 18 to 21 years, while maintaining current exemptions for employment, hunting, target shooting, ranching, and military service.
- **Holding adults responsible for child access to guns.** Child Access Prevention (CAP) laws promote gun safety and responsibility by holding adults responsible if they allow children easy access to firearms and ammunition. The President has proposed imposing felony penalties on adults who knowingly or recklessly allow a child to have access to a gun that is later used to cause death or injury.
- **Helping law enforcement to trace more firearms used in crimes.** Over the past two years, the President has expanded comprehensive crime gun tracing to 37 cities -- helping them to trace all crime guns to their source, to identify illegal gun markets, and to crack down on gun traffickers. Last year, ATF initiated over 300 investigations in these cities, which involved over 3,300 illegally trafficked firearms. The President has proposed expanding comprehensive tracing nationwide, starting by doubling the program to 75 cities.

MAKING THE V-CHIP WORK

The V-Chip is a device that allows parents to block television programming they consider inappropriate for their children. President Clinton and Vice President Gore led the successful fight for legislation that requires that the V-Chip be installed in all new television sets sold beginning January 1, 2000. At today's strategy session, the President will announce two new initiatives to make sure the V-Chip becomes a useful tool for parents.

- **V-Chip Task Force.** To ensure that the V-Chip law is implemented effectively, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will establish a V-Chip Task Force. The Task Force will: (1) ensure that the V-Chip requirement is enforced promptly and comprehensively;

(2) promote parental awareness about the V-Chip and work closely with organizations sharing this goal; (3) encourage adoption of a standard label identifying television sets that contain the V-Chip and; (4) study the use of the V-Chip and evaluate the effectiveness of the industry's ratings system. FCC Chairman William Kennard has appointed Commissioner Gloria Tristani to chair the Task Force.

- **The V-Chip Survey and Education Project.** According to a survey released today by the Kaiser Foundation, while many parents (77%) say they want to use the V-Chip, fewer than four out of ten parents (39%) have ever seen information on how the system works. The Kaiser Foundation and the Center for Media Education announced today a major national effort to educate parents about the V-Chip TV ratings system. The educational campaign will include free booklets for parents on how the V-chip TV ratings system works. The free parent information will be available through a toll-free telephone number and will be promoted through partnerships with TV manufacturers, retailers, parents' organizations, newspapers, and television stations.

A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT YOUTH VIOLENCE

Recognizing that youth violence is a problem that government cannot solve alone, the President, the First Lady, the Vice President and Mrs. Gore will call for a national campaign to reduce youth violence. This campaign will work with all sectors of our society – the media, education groups, parents, religious leaders, and young people – to focus on this problem, find what is working, and spread it to new communities, while also helping to ensure that the media sends the right message to our children.

This campaign is modeled after two extremely successful efforts launched by the Clinton Administration. Four years ago, the President asked for a national campaign to reduce teen pregnancy. Today, under the leadership of Governor Tom Kean, former governor of New Jersey and now the President of Drew University, that campaign is playing an important role in reducing teen pregnancy rates nationwide. Two years ago, the President called for a national effort by businesses to hire people off welfare, to make sure the welfare reform effort would work. Today, under the leadership of Eli Segal, the Welfare to Work Partnership has grown to 10,000 companies that have helped move more than 40,000 people from the welfare rolls to the job rolls.

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